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[EXTERNAL] ANWR Coastal Plain Development (1002 Area)

1 message

Ron Rasmussen <mckinleyview70@hotmail.com>

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To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

I am extremely opposed to opening up this wilderness area to oil and gas development. It is a refuge and any and all mucking around by oil companies will, I feel, reduce the wilderness there to just another patch of the earth's surface that has been trampled and spoiled by man, never to be the same again. There is precious little true wilderness like this anywhere in the world. We are so privileged to have an area like this in our Country, much less in our State, not to mention that it is the precise area that caribou migrate to annually to give birth. This natural process is totally endangered by oil and gas development in the area.

Our State and Federal leaders want to picture everyone in the State of Alaska as being in favor of oil and gas development. This is most certainly not true! I have lived in this State for 49 years. What will further development gain us? A few jobs that will benefit a small group of people for a relatively short time, some people will get wealthy, but 50 years from now when the oil and gas is all gone, what do we have in Area 1002? Lots of buried garbage and trash, rusted equipment and no more wilderness. Who would want to spend any money to travel to see that?

More specifically I feel that:

1. More oil is not needed. There is currently an excess of oil and gas on the market, prices are low. Save it in the ground until it is really needed. Right now our oil is just sold on the world market with minimal benefit us.
2. Oil and gas develop in this area may seriously disrupt the resident caribou population that returns annually. What are they going to do the first time they return to find seismic rigs running all over the tundra that previously was 100% natural? I suspect it will impact birth rates and could ultimately make our caribou another endangered species.
3. True wilderness is precious; it is slipping away slowly but surely; it is priceless and can never be replaced. It is worth far more than the relatively small amount of oil and gas that can be extracted from it.
4. This area should be left untouched and not developed. Industry has already trampled all over the rest of the North Slope; just leave this area alone and to the wildlife that has inhabited it for thousands of years.

Thank you,

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