



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Project**

1 message

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**Charly Ray** <raycharly7@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 2:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been traveling to the Arctic on six trips since 1984 in Canada and Alaska, spending almost two years living and exploring the region. I was in the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge last year to experience the land in anticipation of proposed oil and gas developments. We traveled in the area south of Kaktovik, witnessing the vast wild countryside and visiting with indigenous residents of Kaktovik to understand their perspectives on oil and gas development.

I object to the proposed exploration of this area as a US citizen who sees no point in developing the resources in this area when we are awash with oil and gas supplies. Meanwhile the arctic is imperiled by a changing climate and indigenous people around the world are marginalized by loss of subsistence opportunities and the encroachment of industrial civilization. Our wilderness is more precious than oil today.

Technological considerations to mitigate this proposal include:

- Consider the technology of fracking and other systems which are presently generating a surplus of oil and gas already for the country, rendering this project unnecessary.
- Consider the data on climate change and calculated the potential carbon emissions resulting from this project. Make these data public.
- Consider the technologies for non-fossil fuel energy such as wind and solar which are generating more new power for the country than oil and gas are - rendering this project unnecessary.

As for specific ideas on mitigating the impacts of the proposed leases:

- Any leases should be on land. We hiked across the arctic sea ice IN JUNE to get to our camp last year - dealing with the complications of exploration and development on the ocean are not worth it in this difficult environment. And local impacts on the marine environment will be felt directly by the indigenous residents of the area.
- The 2,000 acre impact area should be strictly adhered to and include all roads, gravel pits, and any areas of compacted tundra (which loses its insulation and then melts permafrost causing permanent changes to surface hydrology.)

Maybe there will come a time when oil and gas are so precious, it is worth the risk to the wildlife and people of the region, but not now and probably never.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charly Ray  
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