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[EXTERNAL] No oil & gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge

1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

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Greetings,

Please do NOT permit oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge. There are so many reasons, among them being:

1. **Oil spills and gas leaks are a when, not an if.** Once drilling starts, the day will come when there is a spill; when there is a disastrous leak. This will cause long-term environmental damage, the extent of which cannot be controlled. According to the US Fish & Wildlife 2015 study, this area is among the most sensitive and pristine places on the planet, home to >200 species of birds, denning habitat for polar bears, calving grounds for caribou and more. SAVE this wild and pristine environment for the generations to come. Protect biodiversity. Don't trade this pristine wilderness for short-term gimmicks.
2. **We don't need the oil or the gas.** We have plenty already. Presently, the oil and gas industry in the US has a massive surplus of oil and gas leases and permits. Less than half the acreage under federal lease is currently producing oil and gas. Only 7% of federal acreage offered for lease at auction last year received any bids. We have so much oil and gas in the continental US as a result of fracking that we have a glut of supply for a long time. Adding to that glut makes no sense at all.
3. **The US won't make much money on Arctic drilling.** Last year's sale of over 10,000,000 acres in Alaska brought in about \$1,000,000 from bids, but less than 1% of the acreage generated enough interest for bidding.
4. **The proposal to drill in the Arctic Refuge is nothing but a very dangerous power show.** There is no need to ignore decades of bipartisan Presidential and Congressional protection of this wilderness and rush through a leasing process. History is replete with conquerors and kings who ruined an environment to show off their power. The US has a president, NOT A KING. Thousands of citizens, scientists, and government researchers have concluded that the Arctic Refuge is a unique and special place -- a pristine wilderness that is rare and unique on our planet -- that will suffer significant and permanent harm if oil and gas drilling is permitted there. There is no long-term benefit to the US of any kind in allowing drilling there.

Wisdom is not using power; it's knowing when not to use it. This is one of those times. Protect our planet and protect our future.

No drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Rydberg
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