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[EXTERNAL] EIS: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: drilling concerns1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

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Greetings:

It seems very problematic to consider opening one of the last remaining wild and untouched places in the United States, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to drilling. It is an incredibly important habitat for wildlife.

The Arctic Refuge is our country's largest wildlife refuge, at 19 million acres, and provides critical denning habitat for endangered polar bears. It is also the calving ground of the Porcupine Caribou Herd (about 200,000 animals), which are an essential part of the Gwich'in people's way of life and merit full protection in the EIS.

Oil and gas drilling would have devastating impacts on this pristine and fragile ecosystem, caused by the massive infrastructure needed to extract and transport oil. Drilling the Arctic would fragment vital habitat and chronic spills of oil and other toxic substances onto the fragile tundra would forever scar this now pristine landscape and disrupt its wildlife.

I strongly urge the Bureau of Land Management to drop the prospect of drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The area should be protected because of its precious wildlife habitat values alone and for the appreciation and enjoyment of future generations.

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