



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Refuse Immoral Directive to Lease Arctic Refuge**1 message

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**Jim Steitz** <jimsteitz@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 11:21 PM

Reply-To: jimsteitz@me.com

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

\*\*\*This latest gambit by the oil companies and their political assets in Congress to destroy the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a profane expression of unmitigated, undiluted greed and rejection of our sacred trust toward our Planet Earth, our children who are entitled to this birthright, and the Alaskan indigenous people who would be the receiving end of this gross violation of human rights.

This tapestry of land, water, and ice, and the vibrant populations of iconic wildlife that depend on it, is of infinitely greater intrinsic worth than any amount of oil that could be extracted from it. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the biological nexus for a large swath of the bird life of the Northern Hemisphere, a critical organ in a planetary wildlife migration wheel that knows nothing of the morally pathetic, narcissistic claims of oil companies upon this land.

Compounding this evil is the explicit object of such an enterprise of destruction, which is the temporary extension of a fossil fuel addiction that is already endangering our own climate and survival. I urge you to reject this recurring outbreak of greed, and to instead leave the Refuge's coastal plain in its infinitely more valuable condition as a high-latitude Eden, created by God for the brief summer reproduction of so many creatures. Our nation must never again flirt dangerously near the desecration of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.\*\*\*

I strongly oppose efforts to develop an oil and gas program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of the Interior must closely examine the science and fully evaluate the impacts at every stage of energy development on the Refuge's wildlife, water, subsistence, and other values for which it was created. The Trump administration has indicated an intent to expedite the review process and hold lease sales by next year. This rushed timeline will not allow for the full analysis required under the law and which is necessary to meet the Department's obligations to responsibly steward one of the crown jewels of the nation's National Wildlife Refuge System.

Energy development raises a suite of environmental issues that forecasts permanent harm to the Arctic Refuge's fragile environment. Scars on the tundra from heavy seismic equipment will remain visible decades later. Nesting birds will be vulnerable to numerous, inevitable industrial oil spills and increased predation. The Porcupine Caribou Herd will face potential population-level impacts from roads and pipelines displacing the herd from calving grounds on the narrow coastal plain. The long-term conservation of a holistic Arctic ecosystem in the U.S. will be significantly jeopardized by embarking on this oil and gas program in the Refuge.

These and other impacts must be evaluated for their effects that will extend far beyond the footprint of any physical development. The Refuge should remain a place in America's Arctic for birds and wildlife seeking refuge from the pressures of climate change and development. The Department must carefully collect the science and consider these issues, which clearly indicate why an oil and gas program does not belong in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

Jim Steitz

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