



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] I Oppose Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, especially the 1002 Area1 message

Kimberly Slone <kimberlyslone@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 1:49 AM

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

Attention Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program:

I attended the public hearing in Anchorage but I did not get to speak. My name is Kimberly Slone and I am an Alaskan resident and a citizen of the United States of America. I am also a registered nurse. And, most importantly, I oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, especially the coastal plain, now known as Area 1002.

I was at the BLM public hearing in Anchorage but I did not get to speak. When I asked about getting a number to speak, I was told to go inside and to the table on the right but, when I went inside, no one was there to assist me and to the left there was a sign that said "Do Not Enter" and so I stood and listened.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a pristine wilderness area and the Gwich'in people both in Alaska and Canada depend on the Porcupine Caribou Herd for subsistence. This matters to me. I appreciate diversity and I respect the Gwich'in culture. As an Alaska resident and nurse, I have met a couple Alaska Natives who have told me heartbreaking stories of being separated from their families as children and punished for speaking their language. Have we learned nothing from history? Because, honestly, I don't see how Gwich'in culture can survive if there is drilling in the 1002 Area. And what about polar bears? Are the Coke commercials going to show polar bears drinking a Coca-Cola next to an oil rig? An unbiased study found that Forty-two percent of maternal polar bear dens are located within the 1002 Area. Where will pregnant polar bears go to find a den?

And what about safety? I personally know a manager at ASRC, Tim McCormick, who showed the movie, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas, for his "safety meeting" on the north slope. If you allow drilling on the coastal plain, it will only be a matter of time before there is an oil spill.

And what about Alaska's economy? China and California are fast moving toward electric cars. I personally have over 100k in savings which is going toward either a hybrid or electric vehicle and I am planning to use renewable energy to power my home. Is more oil the answer to Alaska's economic problems? I don't think so. Florida brings in over 100 billion tourism dollars and I think Alaska could bring in more tourist dollars too. However, in order to do this, Alaska has to practice conservation beginning with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Because of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, people all around the world imagine Alaska to be a pristine wilderness where Caribou migrate and musk oxen roam and polar bear cubs toddle out of a den and slide down a snow bank. Some of those people come to Alaska as tourist and I think more would come if Alaska marketed itself. More oil is not the answer.

Another reason I oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is because of the already dwindling sea ice and climate change. Every study and article I've read states drilling on the coastal plain will have the effect of sea ice reduction.

I'm begging you, please don't destroy this area by allowing drilling. It's such a special place. Please, please protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, especially the 1002 Area from drilling.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Slone