



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge - AK**1 message

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**Eileen Skinner** <eskinne1@maine.rr.com>

Sun, Apr 29, 2018 at 10:58 AM

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

To the BLM:

My husband and I have heard through our friends in Alaska that there is discussion about opening the coastal plain of Alaska to oil and gas leasing. We cannot imagine anything more inappropriate than this idea. We have been on the coastal plain (canoeing and taking in the environment and the wildlife), and it is an extremely fragile ecosystem. Any drilling with the movement of equipment will damage the habitat of unique wildlife and will forever scar the landscape. We have seen similar problems on our travels in Alaska.

From a policy standpoint:

- This area belongs to all Americans.
- This is the only part of Alaska's vast north slope protected from development.
- Alternative areas are available in the National Petroleum Reserve for oil development.
- The 1002 area is the birthing ground of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
- Inadequate consideration was given to the overwhelming public support for protection of this area as wilderness.
- This proposed leasing goes against the values for which the Arctic Refuge was set aside.
- This proposed leasing does not follow the recommendations of the management plans for the Arctic Refuge.
- We do not need the oil. This won't balance the budget. It will aggravate global warming.

We trust that our comments and passion for preserving this area for our grandchildren will be seriously considered. Please do not hesitate to contact us for questions or more information.

Eileen and John Skinner

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