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[EXTERNAL] Comments on Leasing in the Arctic Refuge

1 message

Jan T <jantomsen@gmail.com>

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov

Please listen to Alaskans. Do not open the 1002 area to a hasty lease for development. This area is crucial to the Porcupine Caribou Herd, as well as numerous species of birds and other animals who are quickly losing habitat, especially large untracked stretches of land, as climate change changes habitats and leaves them vulnerable. The wildlife, cultural values, wilderness characteristics, and recreational opportunities in this landscape cannot be brushed aside. Oil and gas is the short game. A quick hit. But long term ecological values, cared about by any American who has ever visited a park will tell you, offer a longer term value to this nation and it's character. The Colorado river could have been dammed up to benefit a few cities for power, leaving us no Grand Canyon. The redwoods could have been chopped down for \$ in the pockets of a few, leaving us no Sequoias. The Everglades could have been drained for money for a few sugar production jobs, leaving us no alligators and egrets. But now those places generate hundreds of BILLIONS of dollars to the American economy, create countless jobs, and keep intact our national heritage. A press release this year found that " A new National Park Service report shows that 2.786 million visitors to national parks in Alaska spent nearly \$1.3 billion in the state in 2017. That spending resulted in 18,903 jobs and had a cumulative benefit to the state economy of \$1.89 billion. ". Oil and gas development, no matter how lucrative, will never generate those numbers INTO PERPETUITY. Look at the long game. Look at the place. Make the right decision.

Jan Tomsen
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Near-lifelong resident
UAF 2007, UAS 2009

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"May I be the tiniest nail in the house of the universe, tiny but useful." -Mary Oliver