



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Alaska Refuge Drilling Article**

1 message

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**Melina Winters** <meliners01@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 14, 2018 at 8:13 PM

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

Dear BLM,

Although I am concerned with oil companies causing damage to Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), I believe that allowing the Bureau of Land Management to begin studying the impact of leasing drilling rights is a worthwhile undertaking. I trust that the environmental laws will require that every potential negative impact be examined so that any conceivable environmental damage can be avoided.

If the environmental review and legal process reveal any significant possibility of environmental damage, the process should be discontinued so that the ANWR is never endangered. However, if there is a way to allow the extraction of oil and gas with no measurable environmental damage, then the process should continue so that the United States can become more energy independent.

The United States' dependency on imported foreign oil has caused us to enrich foreign governments which have poor track records on human rights and which threaten world peace. Also, importing foreign oil and gas has caused a great deal of environmental damage because these resources must be transported over great distances, with increased risk of spillage and piracy.

I continue to believe that modern oil and gas extraction methods might allow limited resources to be safely extracted from the ANWR, but agree that extensive studies will be required.

We should not allow our political beliefs to cause us to pre-judge whether drilling in the ANWR should proceed. The decision should be based on scientific studies and legal process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Melina Winters, Grade 11, Ballard High School, Seattle, Washington