



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] I oppose oil and gas extraction in the Refuge1 message

Greg West <gregory.l.west@gmail.com>

Mon, May 7, 2018 at 8:37 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Ms. Hayes,

Writing a letter to oppose oil and gas exploration and drilling within a protected wildlife REFUGE is not something I should have to do. This land is by definition a protected area for wildlife where this type of activity is prohibited. If this is allowed to go forward, then what do protections even mean?

Legally protected status aside, it was protected in the first place because it's vital for the survival of caribou and polar bears. Even in the absence of existing protection, this should not be allowed to go forward because it would negatively affect them. Lastly, oil and gas extraction within the Arctic has a tragic irony to it. I'm an atmospheric scientist, but I don't need to be one to know that the Arctic is warming at least twice as fast as the rest of the planet, due to the climate change that these extracted substances have created. It's honestly very scary how quickly things are deteriorating there.

This plan to explore and drill for oil in a *protected* area already being ravaged by climate change should NOT be allowed to go forward.

Thank you for considering my input,
Gregory West
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