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[EXTERNAL] Comments regarding Coastal Plain Oil and Gas EIS1 message

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Thu, Jun 14, 2018 at 6:14 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

As an American with a deep love of, and long experience with, the Alaskan wilderness — and a conservationist and researcher who knows firsthand the fragility of the North Slope ecosystem — I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed oil and gas leases in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

To scar the U.S. portion of the largest remaining pristine, roadless area in North America, at a time when industry interest in Arctic oil exploration is fading due to dramatically lower oil prices, rising natural gas supplies and increased production in the Lower 48, is a crime against the future. Oil exploration in ANWR jeopardizes hundreds of species of birds, mammals and fish, and one of the largest caribou herds (which undertakes the longest migration of any land mammal) on the planet.

From Prudhoe Bay west across the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska, most of the North Slope is already reserved for energy production. The Arctic Refuge is our last — and only — chance to preserve an American Arctic landscape as nature and time created it.

The process by which the EIS for oil and gas leasing is being rushed through makes a mockery of deliberate environmental review. I urge the Bureau to reject calls to allow leasing in the ANWR coastal plain.

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