



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Drilling Plan**

1 message

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**Elizabeth Bradfield** <lizbradfield@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 5:51 PM

Dear BLM officials,

As a one-time resident of Alaska and a professional naturalist, I am writing to voice my extreme opposition to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling.

While I understand the need for energy independence in the US, this is not the right path toward it for many reasons.

The Arctic Refuge provides critical habitat for caribou, migratory birds, denning polar bears and many endangered species; it is a treasured area for human recreation and refuge; and it is a homeland and an essential resource for Gwich'in people and other Northern indigenous tribes and nations.

We have other paths toward energy independence that are available to us as a nation -- once this set-aside land (and set-aside after much debate and discussion!) is roaded, pipelined, drilled, and otherwise "trammed," there is no going back. We can't unwind that clock. The Arctic is already under pressure from climate change that is pressuring wildlife stocks. We have no reasonable right to add to that difficulty for animals and plants in the region. Indeed, it may well be that the intact health of that ecosystem is more vital to human well-being than the oil taken from it.

The Arctic Refuge is public land. Procedural and scientific integrity, not political expediency, should drive the timeline. I urge you to extend the EIS and public comment period to at least 60 days beyond the current close in order to allow the best available scientific information and traditional and local knowledge to fill baseline data gaps.

I know that drilling is being proposed in many previously protected areas in the United States. I oppose these expansions. We can do more to lessen our dependence on oil by other means -- alternative energy, better fuel emissions standards, more efficient homes. This oil is not our solution.

I lived in Alaska for five years and have worked there as a naturalist and guide for ten. It is a place I know well. I have had conversations with people across the state. I have benefited from the PFD and have advocated for the state's conservation of public lands. What you are proposing is a travesty.

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