



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Please Do Not Allow Petroleum Development in 10021 message

Ryan Boudreau <ryan.m.boudreau@gmail.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 7:12 PM

Dear Committee,

I am writing to plead that we as a nation do not open Area 1002 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. While the area under consideration is roughly less than 10% of the total area of ANWR, it comprises a large chunk of the ANWR's coastline and therefore is critical to many species in the area, including the Porcupine caribou herd, polar bears (which studies have shown are moving their dens off unreliable sea ice and onto shore with increasing frequency), and native peoples. We have so many areas in Alaska and in our territories that have petroleum deposits but do not represent our last truly wild space. Simply put, ANWR holds within it the wildness and the limitlessness that have defined us as a people for generations.

As a native of south Louisiana and a member of an oil drilling family, I know oil exploration and development are critical for jobs and for national security; the industry has been good to my family.

However, I cannot forget that the Deepwater Horizon spill killed a large portion of the Gulf of Mexico around my home state, where I grew up fishing for everything from drum to tuna, making a dead zone out of a paradise. I have seen pipeline canals accelerate saltwater intrusion and kill of marshes, turning once small ditches into wide bayous.

Simply put, even in the best of hands petroleum development has profound, irreversible, and negative effects on the scenery and living creatures of a place. I know this first hand. I suspect each of you know it too.

Please leave 1002 and the rest of ANWR to the fate it has known from its creation until our time: a wild place too remote, too severe, and too beautiful to be marred by the dirtiest hand of man.

I thank you again for your consideration and, as well, for your hard work on behalf of our nation.

Best,

Ryan Boudreau