



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Impending Oil Disaster on Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain

1 message

Adriana Britton (adrianag26@hotmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message

Sat, Apr 21, 2018 at 2:41 PM

<automail@knowwho.com>

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov

Dear BLM Alaska,

As we've learned with the Exxon Valdez, the BP's tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico and over a dozen major oil spills, a major spill is probable. The timing and method are the only questions. Our oceans, especially in Alaska, are major food sources are already challenged. Oil companies know another major oil spill will happen, they'll do their best, but it's guaranteed to happen. With the size of our populations today, we've got to reverse the damage caused to our oceans, not add to them. The next spill could be so large we jeopardize collapsing the fish populations in the surrounding sea. With the BP oil disaster, humans were unable to stop the flow for weeks. Oil producers have no way to predict the size of the next spill or when it will happen so we must assume an entire oil field could spill in the ocean and decide whether a cheap tank of gas is worth drilling in the ocean.

We stand with the Gwich'in Nation in defense of the sacred coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. By rushing to open this land to destructive oil drilling, the Trump administration is blatantly prioritizing profits over people, and disregarding tribal sovereignty for the sake of corporate greed.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America's last truly wild places, and the coastal plain is its biological heart -- home to the largest array of wildlife in the circumpolar north. Oil drilling would permanently destroy this sacred place.

Protecting the Refuge is also a matter of human rights for Alaska Native tribes like the Gwich'in, who consider the Refuge sacred and rely on the Porcupine Caribou herd for over 80% of their diet. Oil exploration would impact the birth rates and migration patterns of the caribou, which would threaten the tribe's food sources and way of life.

Allowing drilling in the Arctic Refuge would also worsen climate pollution, harming communities already bearing the brunt of the changing climate as they are forced to adapt to rising seas, melting ice, and changing migration patterns.

The Arctic Refuge is a symbol of what we want for our future -- the preservation of a way of life, climate justice and wild places for future generations. I urge you to protect it from drilling at all costs.

Sincerely,

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