



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Public Comment: ANWR Leasing EIS

1 message

Jennifer Blecha <jblecha@sfsu.edu>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 10:32 PM

To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

Dear BLM,

I am submitting my comment regarding the potential opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development.

I am wholeheartedly against this action. As a professional Geographer, I have been teaching about this question for over 10 years. I oppose this leasing, exploration, and development for several reasons:

1. The potential damage to the local environment, including the Porcupine Caribou calving grounds, is too severe. We know that accidents happen at both drilling sites and via pipelines and tankers. The Alaska coastline and pristine wilderness should not be endangered.
2. The impact on the Gwich'in People is potentially catastrophic. Their traditional way of life depends on the caribou and the surrounding environment. Their culture has developed for survival in this extreme climate and can be disrupted by development. They have opposed this for decades and I support them.
3. The planet is already experiencing rapid and visible climate change – clearly visible in the Arctic and Antarctic with rapidly disappearing ice. The last thing we need is to extract more fossil fuels that will further accelerate the warming of the planet.

Please do not approve or allow any leases in ANWR.

Thank you,

Dr. Jennifer Blecha

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