



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Please Stop Efforts to Drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

1 message

Robert Bryant <rabryant@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 6:29 PM

Reply-To: rabryant@presby.edu

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

The impending exploitation of the Arctic Refuge and the inevitable and irreversible ecological degradation that will follow--all of which is being driven by an artificially stimulated consumerism to devour a non-renewable resource--signals nothing less than a failure of leadership of national proportions. Such an act is akin to building a house upon sand and cannot make a stronger, more lasting future for our nation, not to mention the harm it will do to the environment.

I'm writing to let you know that I strongly oppose efforts to develop an oil and gas program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of the Interior must closely examine the science and fully evaluate the impacts at every stage of energy development on the Refuge's wildlife, water, subsistence, and other values for which it was created. The Trump administration has indicated an intent to expedite the review process and hold lease sales by next year. This rushed timeline will not allow for the full analysis required under the law and which is necessary to meet the Department's obligations to responsibly steward one of the crown jewels of the nation's National Wildlife Refuge System.

You certainly understand that energy development raises a suite of environmental issues, but have you read the many reliable reports of studies that show the inescapable and permanent harm that such exploitation will do to the Arctic Refuge's fragile environment? Scars on the tundra from heavy seismic equipment will remain visible decades later. Most disturbing to the world's environment, however, is that no less than 180 species of nesting birds will be vulnerable to numerous, inevitable industrial oil spills and increased predation. These studies also show more disastrously, still, that the Porcupine Caribou Herd will face potential population-level impacts from roads and pipelines displacing the herd from calving grounds on the narrow coastal plain. The long-term conservation of a holistic Arctic ecosystem in the U.S. will be significantly jeopardized by embarking on this oil and gas program in the Refuge.

These and other impacts must be evaluated for their effects that will extend far beyond the footprint of any physical development. The Refuge should remain a place in America's Arctic for birds and wildlife seeking refuge from the pressures of climate change and development. The Department must carefully collect the science and consider these issues, which clearly indicate why an oil and gas program does not belong in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Anything less is a disservice to the American people, now and for the future.

Sincerely,
Robert Bryant
Clinton, SC 29325
rabryant@presby.edu