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**[EXTERNAL] BLM Proposal for Drilling Leases in ANWR**1 message

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Sat, Jun 9, 2018 at 9:40 PM

To: "blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov" &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov&gt;

I am **100% opposed** to opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration.

First, the timing is wrong. There is already an ample supply of oil and gas. There is no current shortage. By leaving ANWR intact for now, we also allow for the possibility that if a true shortage arises in the future, there may be accessible assets that can fill that need. Even though alternate sources of energy are slowly replacing oil, gas, and coal, there are some vital, critical products that may always require oil. If in this time of plenty, we tap and use every available resource, how can we explain this unrestrained greed to future generations when a true need arises?

Secondly, it is an issue of stewardship and respect. There is already a large amount of coastal plain that is available for this type of activity. Must we really impose ourselves on 100% of it? Can we not find enough modesty, grace, and restraint to reserve a portion untouched for the benefit of the natural world and the animals that have lived there for millennia? Can we not pass on to our children a few places on the planet undisturbed? How does this exhibit good stewardship of the land?

Thirdly, this decision was not properly discussed and vetted. It was conveniently tacked onto a tax package bill without explicit debate. Surely the fate of such an increasingly rare resource as this should be debated on its own merits -- not passed in such a covert manner.

Please protect and preserve this valuable resource. As wilderness, once it is intruded upon, no amount of remediation will make it wilderness again. Once lost, it is lost forever.

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