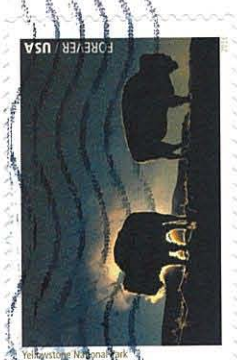




Christopher Calvert  
11104 Bucknell Dr  
Silver Spring, MD 20902

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CAPITAL DISTRICT 201806  
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BLM, Alaska State Office  
ATTN: Coastal Plain EIS  
222 West 7th Avenue, # 13  
Anchorage, AK 99513 - 7599

99513-750413



June 15, 2018

BLM, Alaska State Office  
ATTN: Coastal Plain EIS  
222 West 7th Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

The entirety of what is now the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be set aside as a National Park. It should have been set aside as a National Park from its very inception (dating back at least to the 1950s). Thus, how dismaying (to me, literally sickening) to learn that Congress has voted to open up the coastal plain of this pristine natural wonderland to oil exploration. Dismaying but not surprising, as the United States Congress must rightly be regarded as the most corrupt criminal syndicate in modern history, rapaciously stealing the public lands on behalf of its corporate and industrial masters. But I hope there remains within the Bureau of (Public) Land Management the courage and resolution to do the right thing – namely, to deny any and all permits and permissions for any form of extractive uses (oil or otherwise) that would in any way harm the wilderness character of the coastal plain of ANWR. And if you need a reason, consider this:

The age of oil has decidedly peaked. With states (*e.g.*, California) mandating the transition to electric cars within the next decades, and with numerous major car manufacturers not only increasing their production of electric cars but in some instances committing to going 100% electric (including General Motors, no less!), the world's demand for oil is soon to fall dramatically. This means that, in the very near future, there will not be a market for the oil produced by the world's *existing* petroleum-extraction infrastructure. Consequently, allowing the decimation, or even diminution, of one of America's most rare and fragile wildernesses (*i.e.*, the ANWR coastal plain) for the production of even *more* oil cannot be justified economically. Indeed, if oil exploitation is allowed on the coastal plain the wells will be abandoned in only a few years (for, as the world's demand for oil falls, other, less remote sources will prove more cost effective), but the scars of drilling pads, roads, pipelines, and the like will remain, essentially forever. The wilderness will have been destroyed for no long-term gain to the nation but rather for the short-term feathering of a few well-placed corporate and political nests. The long-term, national value in the coastal plain is in its wilderness – its wild life and wild character – a present and future source of inspiration; and, if economic values must be weighed, a present and future source of wealth from eco-tourism (after all, the world is full of abandoned industrial sites, yet I am not aware of any significant tourism centered around them).

So please, save us from ourselves! Protect the coastal plain. Do not destroy its one true resource (namely, wilderness) for the chimerical promise of oil production (which will last at most only a few years). Think of those people, a hundred years from now, taking a ranger-led tour of the coastal plain of Arctic National Park; think of how their hearts quicken when the ranger explains that, way back in 2018, the coastal plain was nearly opened up to oil exploration, that the beauty around them was nearly lost; think of their collective sigh of relief when the ranger says that, in the end, it didn't happen; and hear their collective exclamation of gratitude when they cry, "Thank God we had the foresight to save this place!"

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Calvert  
11104 Bucknell Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20902