

Kimberly Olds-Craig
20824 86th Ave W.

Edmonds, WA 98026

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

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EIS 222 West 7th Avenue,

Stop #13

Anchorage, Alaska 99513

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To whom it concerns :

"The environment is not a political idea or belief system" ^{actor} Ted Danson

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. It is not for us to destroy the Garden of Eden, be it in suburban Boston, in the Cities where the people struggle to breathe clean air and water, or in rural areas where farmers struggle to feed the nation. It is not for us to pave over the sacred places of discovery and enlightenment in which generations of people have found inspiration." Reverend Jesse L. Jackson

I found these quotes in one of my favorite books, Heaven is under our feet.

I think they so emotionally apply to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge - people have fought for years to leave this special pristine place untouched - protected from economic and political interests. And

yet here we are again under Trump's administration wanting to open up this sacred place to plunder for short term interests. And why now? America has a surplus of oil & gas and is fracking away finding more all the time.

The time to say no is now. I urge you in power to stop this for several reasons. One being we don't need what small amount we would get after destroying this wild, beautiful area. Two, the price is not worth the sacrifice. Thousands of migratory birds, caribou, bears, use these vast areas, indeed it is their home, their only home - these depend on the ~~little~~ refuge for life, food, & the very special place they come annually to raise their young. Where are they supposed to go when the roads are built, the land torn apart and dug open? And what of the damage to the water - the salmon, whales that also depend on

the area in the surrounding ocean water. Oil wells notoriously have accidents that leave lasting damage (not to mention the rigs themselves and all the vehicles that will be brought in to do this hazardous work).

I have not been to Alaska but hope to before I die. But I have been to Mt. Rainier, the Everglades, & Glacier Park and can see unequivocally some places inspire the human spirit - they nurture the soul for all the beauty, the splendor, the quietude, solace they offer - something only truly wild, untouched or unspoiled places can offer - and too often we sell these invaluable places off for some short term gain, and leave them recharged and in irreparable shape - tattered and torn for a fast buck.

For the countless animals, for the unmatched beauty - indeed it is the crowned jewel of America, for my

three school aged children who
may get there before I do, indeed
for all future generations, let's
put this to rest and make sure
we protect this place of
unparalleled beauty and wonder -
for all time.

Please do the right thing - see
the larger picture and vote
against this unnecessary travesty.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Olob-Graig
Washington State
Resident
and mother of three