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Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program
EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

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June 19, 2018

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is among the last truly wild places in the US. To muck it up with oil and gas extraction is a travesty. The US has an embarrassing and tragic history of exploitation. We have an opportunity to preserve the beauty nature has created.

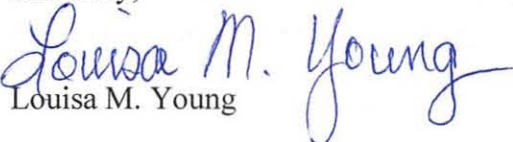
In the name of progress and energy development, Colorado has been forced to endure fracking, which causes countless health hazards and scars the land. Even our beautiful mountains bear scars of natural resource development. The Climax mine ate an entire mountain and turned it into an ugly slag pond. I shudder to think what the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge might look like if development is unchecked. Coal mines of West Virginia are another example of irresponsible exploitation that does irreparable harm to the land and its inhabitants. Responsible use of federal regulations could have prevented much of this suffering.

It is well known that the federal government has run roughshod over native populations. The joke about welfare programs is that those who think the federal government will take care of them should look at the Native Americans. BLM has a chance to avoid egregious treatment of the native population in the Arctic. When it suits the federal government to use land set aside under agreements/treaties, it ignores the treaty. If the roles were reversed, the government would not stand for such treatment. Why is it okay for the government to force "progress" on the native population when it has all the power? For once, do the right thing.

Wildlife cannot speak for itself. It has to adapt or die. Some species that will be affected by Arctic National Wildlife Refuge exploitation are already dying and endangered. People in general, and the federal government in particular, do not have the right to subject animals to a struggle for future existence. They should be protected, not molested.

BLM has the chance to look at the big picture and bring benefit to the natural ecosystem and the very survival of a way of life. It is on the brink of opportunity. Please don't blow it with an irresponsible use of power.

Sincerely,


Louisa M. Young