



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Protect Polar Bears in the Arctic Refuge from Drilling**1 message

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**Sharon Lea Summerson Haven** <info@care2.com>

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 3:48 PM

Reply-To: Sharon Lea Summerson Haven &lt;pandorasls@hotmail.com&gt;

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

Jun 18, 2018

Ms. Nicole Hayes  
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Ms. Hayes,

For nearly 60 years, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has been protected habitat for polar bears and other important wildlife. Please end all plans to open this critical habitat to dirty and destructive oil drilling.

More than 75 percent of the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is designated critical habitat for endangered polar bears. The coastal plain is the most important onshore denning habitat for polar bears in the United States.

In addition to polar bears, the Arctic Refuge has sustained the Gwich'in peoples for thousands of years. The Refuge's coastal plain provides vital habitat for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which use the unique ecosystem to bear and rear their young. The Gwich'in people call the coastal plain "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins." Protecting the caribou is a matter of basic human rights for the Gwich'in.

Beyond caribou and polar bears, the 1.2-million-acre coastal plain is home to brown bears, wolves, muskoxen, and hundreds of species of migratory birds. The refuge has famously been called "America's Serengeti" because of its importance to wildlife.

There are some places too important to drill - the BLM and the Trump administration must recognize how critical the Arctic Refuge is to native people and endangered wildlife and drop this reckless and short-sighted plan immediately.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sharon Lea Summerson Haven  
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