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[EXTERNAL] EIS for Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

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Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage, Alaska

To Whom It May Concern:

As an Alaskan citizen that came to this state 42 years ago, I remember the opposition to the oil and gas development and the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline (TAPS). All of the dire claims by the development opposition were proved false.

With the passing by Congress of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, vast amounts of land in Alaska was removed from development and from the ability of the Native Corporations or the State of Alaska to select per prior laws. These set asides increased the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to 19 million acres and set aside 42% as wilderness and 8% (the 1002 study area known as the Coastal Plain) for evaluation for oil and gas potential and leasing. It has long made sense that the 1002 area is leased for oil and gas development in an environmentally responsible manner. The area is believed to contain over 10 billion barrels of oil and 8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and is located adjacent to the current infrastructure for moving the resource to market.

The oil and gas industry in Alaska is highly regulated to assure safety to employees and the environment as well.

Please move forward expeditiously in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement so the dreams of a vast majority of Alaskans can be realized with the leasing and hopefully development of the 1002 area that is thought to disturb as little as 2,000 acres out of 19 million.

Thank you.

James Cloud
Anchorage, AK