



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] comment on coastal plan EIS

1 message

William Cook <reho1951@yahoo.com>

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To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

Dear BLM:

Thanks for this opportunity to submit comments on the scoping for an EIS on proposed oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain in Alaska (to include portions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge).

I am submitting my comments as an individual, not as a member of any organization. I worked in the wildlife field for many years, and have a deep interest in wildlife and natural resources generally. I am also a Christian, concerned about the care of God's Creation. I am not a Democrat, a liberal or a progressive.

As BLM approaches the EIS process, I urge BLM staff to carefully consider the "no action" (i.e., no leasing) alternative. Given the pristine nature of the lands involved, and their ecological value, the prudent course would be to leave them alone at this time. Why would we put these fragile lands at risk, just to satisfy our nation's profligate waste of gasoline? Before considering oil and gas drilling on these lands, we should first make sure that we are doing everything we can to conserve gasoline. Tighten vehicle fuel economy standards. Promote mass transit in urban areas.

Although our nation has made some progress in these regards, we still have a long, long way to go. To consider oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to provide fuel for people who drive gas-guzzling SUVs on their morning commute would be immoral.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge represents some of the crown jewels of God's Creation. The Refuge deserves a high level of protection. My wife comes from the Bakken oil fields of Eastern Montana, so we are familiar with the impact of oil and gas drilling on the land and on other natural resources. While it is possible to drill for oil and gas with acceptable impacts in the Bakken, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is far more fragile and valuable and should be shielded from oil and gas drilling altogether.

Best wishes in your efforts.

Cordially,

Bill Cook
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