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[EXTERNAL] irrevocable environmental impacts of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge1 message

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

Cc: Jared Smith <jaredasmith@msn.com>

I am writing out of serious concerns about the environmental impact of drilling in our precious Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I spent three months near in 1984 and can attest to the area's unique, spectacular and fragile nature. At the time, the local children would wait eagerly for the ice to melt so they could enjoy their short window of swimming in the ice cold – but melted lakes. That short window now extends throughout most of the summer months as global warming is taking a toll on the region. Here, the soils are fragile. The surrounding environment is fragile. And the plants and animals that owe their lives to a very fine balance – are fragile. I watched in awe as eider ducks flew above me, seals surrounded me, and the local Inuit elders shared their stores of caring for this special land.

To plunder this environment for the sake of the possibility – not even probability – of obtaining a small amount of oil that will be difficult to transfer without further damaging the area - enough oil to pay for the costs does not make sense – from a financial standpoint or ecological one.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is no place for oil and gas drilling – it never has been and it never will be. Thank you for taking all of the comments seriously.

Sincerely,

Karen Daubert

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