



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING IN ANWR

1 message

Cami Dalton <camimark@gci.net>
 To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 1:47 PM

To All Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

I am concerned about these issues because:

1) The people who have lived on this land for thousands of years are opposed to using their land for this purpose. For them it is a sacred place. To ignore their voice, their culture, their way of knowing and being is unfair and violates their rights as a people. 80 percent of the Gwich'in diet is hunted. Their primary source of meat is caribou. Oil and gas development would adversely impact the calving grounds of the porcupine caribou herd and disrupt the patterns of the caribou. This disruption is not fair to the caribou and it would make it hard for these people to continue to subsist from their land.

2) We live in a challenging time. Climate changes threaten the entire planet. This is especially true in the Arctic which has a fragile ecosystem, and where a warming climate is already causing irreversible harm to an unique and delicate ecosystem. The US should be leading in the effort to move to a less carbon based energy economy. To hope that drilling in the Arctic is the answer to our demands for more energy, is to sentence future generations to a life of scarcity of resources. As the impacts of climate change become more visible and frightening, drilling for and burning more fossil fuel is a bad idea!

3) The revenue gained by lease sales and drilling will not sustain the Alaskan or US economy. And the possibility of lowering fuel costs, or becoming energy independent is not realistic. Even with the best case scenario, any gains won't be felt for 10 - 20 years. Why not put the financial resources of the energy companies, the expertise of engineers, and fierce efforts of politicians into exploring potential for and development of alternative energy?

Having recently spent 2 months in India, I was struck by the fact that this huge country has very little land that is not crowded with people and structures. The air is dirty. The roads are packed with vehicles of all kinds spewing pollution. Seldom do you see blue sky. The ocean and beaches, where people flock for a sip of "nature", are full of plastic and trash. Is that what we envision for our country in 100 years? It is where we are headed if all we seek is development in order to feed our hunger for fossil fuels. Is it interesting that the Indian government has a goal of making all vehicles electric by 2020! Many states have banned plastic bags. I flew out of an airport that was run entirely on Solar energy!

I have lived in Alaska for 35 years. I love my state. Yes, the state is enormous. Yes, there is a need for jobs and new sources of oil. But, as an educated and caring citizen, I know that the earth is finite, and that there is not any place in the world left as remote, wild and untouched by civilization as the area we know as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As Margaret Murie said, *"Beauty is a resource in and of itself"*. Though our modern minds and lives would tell us that humans demand the extraction of resources from every piece of land to serve our immediate needs: I believe our hearts, and souls cry out for wilderness!

***" There may be people who have no need for nature. They are fortunate perhaps.
 But for those of us who feel otherwise,
 who may feel something is missing unless we can hike across land
 disturbed by only our footsteps,
 or see creatures roaming as freely as they have always done,***

we are sure there should be wilderness.

Species other than man have rights too.

Having finished all the requisites of our proud, materialistic civilization, our neon-lit society, does nature, which is the basis for our existence, have the right to live on?

Do we have enough reverence for life to concede to wilderness this right?"

Please take Margaret Murie's wisdom to heart as you consider all the options and ramifications of allowing this wilderness to be subjected to human exploitation in the name of progress.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions and for taking the time to listen.

Sincerely,

Cami Dalton

[2551 Foraker Dr.](#)

[Anchorage, Alaska 99517](#)

Margaret Murie's eloquent words were written over 20 years ago and capture a wisdom that needs to be remembered and reflected on in our era of scientific expediency and the selfish press for development. Please preserve this wilderness!1

Thank you for allowing me to express my views.

Sincerely,

Cami Dalton

[2551 Foraker Dr.](#)

[Anchorage, Alaska 99517](#)