



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Request for Arctic Refuge Public Meeting in Texas

1 message

Luke Metzger <luke@environmenttexas.org>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Fri, May 11, 2018 at 12:55 PM

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284K



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May 11, 2018

Nicole Hayes
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Ms. Hayes:

On behalf of Environment Texas, I write to request a public scoping meeting in Austin, Texas as part of the process for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska. 83 Fed. Reg. 17562 (Apr. 20, 2018).

We were very concerned to see Congress pass a tax bill that included a provision to change the purposes of this wildlife refuge – the crown jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge system – to be for oil and gas development. This change sets an alarming precedent for wildlife refuges around the country, and threatens the system's very existence, including the 18 National Wildlife Refuges here in Texas.

Here in Texas we feel a direct connection to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Every year, the White-fronted Goose migrates from Texas to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and back.

As public lands, America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a key part of our national heritage, a birthright for all Americans. We strongly believe that our members in Texas have as much an interest in the future of the Arctic Refuge as anyone else in the country. It is for this reason, we urge you to consider Austin, Texas for an additional public scoping meeting.

Thank you for considering this request to let our members' voices be a part of this important decision-making.

Sincerely,

Luke Metzger
Executive Director
Environment Texas
200 E. 30th St.
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