



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Drilling EIS--public comment AGAINST going forward

1 message

Debra Ellers <debra4stuff@gmail.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 7:47 AM

Nicole Hayes

Coastal Plain Project Manager

Dear Ms. Hayes and Project Staff,

As a concerned citizen and individual who has lived in Alaska for a period of time, I strongly urge you to stop planning to lease drilling rights in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should remain as one of the last pristine areas, untouched by humans. Consequently, it must not be damaged in any way. Leasing and drilling will certainly cause extensive, long-term damage to wildlife, watersheds, air, and the entire fragile ecosystem. Development of other areas in Alaska as well as other western states like Wyoming show long term and substantial damage from prior "development" of such lands, and drilling, pumping, and shipping of oil and gas presents serious hazards to other ecosystems. We must turn away from further development of fossil fuels now to avert further potentially catastrophic climate change.

In Alaska, particularly, the lingering effects of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill must be taken into account, as it has never been effectively cleaned up and has killed countless animals, birds, and plants, including driving the resident orcas into functional extinction. With increased traffic, another accident or spill is inevitable--they occur regularly around the world, regrettably. When such a problem occurs, the entire western portion of North America will be impacted through a cascade of linked environmental effects.

It is shameful that Sen. Lisa Murkowski has sneaked this proposal into process by putting it into a bill with a different intent (tax bill). Shameful, because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studied the idea for years and in 2015 reported that any such drilling, shipping, etc. would be irreparably destructive. The land, and Indigenous rights as well, must not be subjected to any further harm.

We do not have many places left on earth that have not been polluted by human exploitation and waste. Reject the idea of leasing drilling rights in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Show leadership by abandoning those plans and doing the harder--but more sustainable--work of finding alternatives to oil and gas, alternate means of employment and income for Alaskans and other concerned peoples.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely yours,

Debra Ellers

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