



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS1 message

Paula Easley <peasley@gci.net>

Thu, May 31, 2018 at 10:13 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Speaker #52.

>

> Good evening. My name is Paula Easley. I am a 56-year resident and my Alaska family is now more than 35-strong, excluding spouses.

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> I've advocated leasing a small area of the ANWR coastal plain for some 35 years, both on behalf of Arctic Power and the Resource Development Council, for reasons many others have given. I have done so here, in Washington, D.C. and across the country, because I believe it is in the overall best interests of Alaskans. How fortunate we are to have been blessed with such valuable oil and gas resources, resources that have benefitted every citizen in so many ways, time and time again.

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> Some people tonight have expressed legitimate fears of coastal plain development, both for its potential effects on subsistence, the environment and traditional lifestyles. There are always dire predictions of any development project's effects anywhere in the state and, as a close observer of major projects over the years, I can say the benefits have far outweighed the drawbacks by any measure. After the fact, most people have been greatly relieved that their fears were unfounded.

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> I heard this evening that the human rights of indigenous people must take precedence over any other as leasing deliberations proceed. Obviously they must be given the most serious attention as local residents are most directly affected if development occurs. But we must also remember that human rights are inherent to all human beings, whatever their nationality, place of residence, sex, ethnic origin, color, language or any other status.

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> The right to earn a living is one of those constitutionally-protected human rights. In fact, Supreme Court Justice William Douglas once called the right to earn a living "the most precious liberty that man possesses."

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> I have to assume that few of us would choose to survive on welfare. Yet we cannot live in this great state without a viable means of supporting ourselves and our families. For that reason I will continue to support opening a small portion of the coastal plain to leasing and development if economic resources can be demonstrated.

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> Thank you for your attention.

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