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[EXTERNAL] Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

1 message

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

I am writing to register my strenuous objection to the notion of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

The Wildlife Refuge is a treasure belonging to all the people of the U.S., one of the very few such wild places left on an earth where nature is under widespread siege from human development. And the needs of the Native people who dwell there must be protected, not ignored. Oil development is grossly incompatible with the values that must be protected in the Refuge. There will never be a suitable time for oil exploration in the Wildlife Refuge, but now is particularly absurd, when recent lease sales in this area brought in bids on less than one percent of the offerings, due to a glut in the oil market.

I have lived in Alaska for half of my eighty-some years, and have contributed to Earthjustice and the Natural Resources Defense Council for decades. If our planet is to have a healthy future and our state a healthy economy, we must transition off our current dependence on fossil fuels to sustainable, renewable energy sources. This cannot be done in an instant, but the sooner we begin a serious change of direction, the better. Oil drilling in sensitive locales is double folly.

Our Alaska Senator, whose reelection campaigns are financed by the Oil Industry, who is the chief promoter of this issue, has resorted to legislative dirty tricks to advance drilling which would benefit the few and harm the many.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has withstood many assaults. Don't let it fall now. Keep it as a Wildlife Refuge. Forever.

Thank you.

Joanne Erskine