



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] IMPORTANT: Arctic Refuge protection**

1 message

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**Elizabeth Duncan** <liz.duncan90@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 11:40 AM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

To whom it may concern,

The Arctic Refuge was set aside for protection decades ago because of its critical ecological value. It has always been off limits to oil and gas development and should remain that way permanently. This vast, wild place sustains 42 fish species, 37 land mammals, 8 marine mammals, and more than 200 migratory and resident bird species. Most **importantly, it is home to Alaska's indigenous Gwich'in people whose sustenance and culture would be threatened by drilling. They consider Arctic Refuge drilling a matter of human rights.** The Arctic Refuge is a national treasure, and we have a moral obligation to protect it for our children and grandchildren.

Ultimately, we need to wean ourselves off non-renewable sources of energy. Humans cannot sustain our energy needs indefinitely with the use of fossil fuels – because they will run out. However, the damage done to the environment as a result of drilling will likely last for hundreds of years, long after fossil fuels are no longer available, if we allow it. When there are alternative, green sources of energy available and the future of energy is already moving in that direction - it is down right foolish to continue to put monetary resources into an inevitably dying industry.

Protect the Arctic Refuge.

-Lizzie Duncan

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