

June 18, 2018



Attention: Ms. Nicole Hayes
Project Coordinator
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Re: Comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska

Dear Ms. Hayes:

ExxonMobil Exploration Company, a division of Exxon Mobil Corporation, ("ExxonMobil") appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska, published April 20th, 2018 in the Federal Register (pp. 17562 et seq.).

Preparing an EIS for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska (Leasing EIS) is a critical first step in fulfilling the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) obligations under Sec. 20001 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. ExxonMobil strongly supports using sound science and transparent processes to inform leasing decisions. Following a rigorous process ensures that regulatory agencies identify relevant stakeholders and understand facts rooted in science prior to making their decisions. As such, we are pleased that BLM is beginning development of the Leasing EIS and look forward to assisting BLM as needed.

ExxonMobil has nearly a century of experience safely operating in the Arctic, and over 50 years on the Alaska North Slope. Our recent endeavors at the Point Thompson field involved the development of comprehensive mitigation measures to minimize the impact on tundra, wildlife, aquatic resources, and subsistence activities. In addition, being a good steward involves being a good neighbor; therefore, we have committed to maintaining a positive working relationship built on trust and collaboration with the North Slope Borough, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Native allotment owners and heirs, the Iñupiat community of the Arctic Slope, as well as many others. We encourage BLM to leverage the vast experience industry has accumulated when developing the Leasing EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gantt H. Walton".

Gantt H. Walton
Vice-President, Public Affairs
Exxon Mobil Corporation