



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] ANWR Drilling

1 message

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Sat, Jun 2, 2018 at 11:38 AM

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

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

I am writing with extreme concern for the plans to lease parts of ANWR and the Alaskan Coastal Plain for drilling. This wild area is deserving of our protection for many reasons:

1. The short term benefits of oil drilling and consumption are far outweighed by the long term detriment, not only to Alaskan lands and wildlife, but to every human on the planet. The growing and unavoidable impacts of climate change cannot be addressed through more oil. Pumping more into the market only continues our dependence and prolongs this incredible addiction. Punting the responsibility of finding a solution to our children is so incredibly irresponsible. Future generations will judge our time on the earth based on the world we leave to them. A toxic world stripped of its natural gifts is no inheritance worth receiving.
2. The impact on local wildlife is unforgiveable. Migrating and breeding caribou depend on this region, and predators like arctic wolves depend on the caribou. Polar bears are using this land for dens more and more, as their typical home of sea ice is no longer reliable (due to oil consumption and carbon emissions). I would direct you to the map towards the end of this National Geographic article for more wildlife impact information: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-america-oil-risk/?beta=true>
3. Native peoples have been ignored and abused far too long for the sake of expansion and exploitation. The first people on this land should have as much say as anyone, and too often they are merely humored and tolerated until financial benefits become too great for morals and values. The indigenous peoples of the coastal plain are among the last in the world to live reasonably and responsibly with the land they call home. The idea that they, like so many other native populations, will fall victim to the over-consumption of others is another chapter in an ongoing tragedy.
4. There is no such thing as a clean, low impact drilling process, nor is there a reliable and safe way to transport it. We have seen time and time again that spills and leaks are not only possible, they're inevitable. Not only is land in the arctic at risk from this proposition, but water supplies, sea shores, native populations, and wildlife far away from ANWR are susceptible to its toxic impact.

Thank you for considering these important issues. I will close with a few last comments, in the hopes that if you won't listen to me or others like me, you'll listen to Teddy Roosevelt, who knew over 100 years ago that battles such as these were inevitable:

"Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

"We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted"

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"I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

-Teddy Roosevelt

Thank you,

Caleb Lawson