

Mr. John Koenig
3968 Brae Burn Dr
Eugene, OR 97405-4973

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BLM STATE OFFICE
ATT: NICOLE HAYES
222 WEST 7TH AVE., STOP # 13
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99513-7599

99513-750413



John Koenig
3968 Brae Burn Dr.
Eugene, OR 97405-4973

March 8, 2019

Nicole Hayes
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Ms. Hayes:

I write to you to express my great opposition to any effort to drill in America's Last Frontier, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The recent release of The Bureau of Land Management's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for oil and gas leasing proved to be insufficient in assessing the damages that would occur to the refuge's biological heart, it's coastal plain. Because oil and gas drilling will despoil one of the last great ecosystems on Earth, I implore you to reevaluate BLM's findings in its DEIS and put an end to the possibility of damaging the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge through oil and gas drilling once and for all.

Impact on wildlife of the Arctic Refuge: The EIS should study the impacts oil and gas will have on the hundreds of species that exist at the Arctic Refuge. Between Arctic Refuge and the adjacent Arctic Ocean, one finds 700 kinds of plants, 200 species of birds, 47 mammal species and 42 fish species. No other protected area in the entire circumpolar north has such abundant and diverse wildlife and oil and gas impacts must be studied to understand how this delicate ecosystem will be impacted.

Impact on Wilderness. With two adjacent Canadian National Parks, the Arctic Refuge ecosystem is the largest and wildest protected landscape in North America, affording unparalleled opportunities for those seeking the solace of undisturbed areas and vicariously enjoyed by many who may never personally experience it. Further, President Obama transmitted a Wilderness recommendation to Congress to designate the entire refuge as Wilderness. The EIS should study how oil and gas will impact Wilderness character and the ability for future generations to experience Wilderness areas and proposed Wilderness in the Refuge.

Threatening the Gwich'in Way of Life. The Arctic Refuge is the homeland for the Gwich'in people who have depended on caribou for their subsistence for thousands of years. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge will impact their way of life and threatens their very existence. The EIS must fully study how oil and gas drilling will impact the way of life for the Gwich'in people.

Impact oil and gas drilling will have on our climate: Air temperatures on the Arctic Refuge have already increased by several degrees and are projected to warm 6° F by 2040, shrinking habitat and food sources. The EIS should study how oil and gas drilling will impact our climate.

I strongly believe that there are places in our nation that are too important to exploit for short term financial gain. The EIS being prepared by the BLM must address the concerns listed above to show the American people the true impact of drilling for oil and gas in this sacred place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Sincerely,

John Koenig