



Ms. Lynn Larsen
1231 Sundance Loop
Fairbanks, AK 99709-6858

ALASKAN FRONTIER

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Mister Rogers

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Nicole Hayes
Attn: Coastal Plain Oil & Gas
Leasing Program EIS
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, Suite #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

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Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, Suite #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

RE: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

Dear Nicole Hayes:

I am writing about the DEIS for oil leasing in the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. My first trip to the Arctic Refuge was in 1988, and I have made thirteen trips since then. I have spent over 40 days in the 1002 area; my last trip there was in June 2017. I have also been to Prudoe and the NPR, so I am aware of the differences of the various areas of the North Slope. The 1002 area of the Arctic Refuge is a unique, special place and should be protected for future generations as wilderness. I support alternative A, which leaves the Coastal Plain in its current state.

I object to the way the leasing process is being handled. First, BLM is rushing the leasing process: something that should take several years is being done in one year. There are many reasons to slow this process down:

- To protect the 1002 area and its wildlife from as much harm as possible
- Congress never really debated and voted on development, but instead slid leasing into a budget/ tax bill that required only a majority vote.
- Polls show 70 percent of Americans support protection of the 1002 area.
- Current House of Representatives would probably vote against development.
- Current president, who made the leasing possible, did not even win the popular vote and might have been elected with the help of an enemy to the US

We cannot undo the development once it is done. This special place will be lost forever. It would be wise to slow down and see if future presidents and congresses support development. It would also be wise to have a congressional debate and not put leasing in a budget bill.

If leasing continues, the following are areas of concern:

- Where are they getting the water? Just drilling the wells will take 227 million to 1 billion gallons of water. Every mile of ice road requires 1 million gallons, each ice pad requires 500,00 gallons. How can withdrawal from the few rivers and streams not seriously impact populations of fish and wildlife?
- Polar bear critical den habitat constitutes 77% of the program area. The potential for injury or mortality could be high when developing gas and oil projects in their habitat. **Remember, this is a wildlife refuge, so wildlife should be the priority. The area with petroleum in its name is west of the Canning.**
- In terms of caribou, anything that moves the herd away from the Coastal Plain hurts calf survival. BLM acknowledges that oil and gas activities will likely disturb and displace caribou. **Again, caribou should have priority in a wildlife refuge, not oil and gas development.**

- Two of the primary purposes of the refuge are wilderness and recreation values. Development would destroy the wilderness experience. "oil and gas development activity across a vast majority (88%) of the 1002 area would potentially be visible to people rafting six of its major rivers even when structures as low as 15m are in place." (from GIS analysis by Dr. Stuart Smith)

All the above issues and concerns can be solved by keeping the 1002 area in its current state and allowing the 1002 to remain a wildlife refuge and not an oil field.

Thank you for extending the comment period and thank you for your service as a government employee.

I will be returning to the refuge this July, but not to the 1002 area.

Sincerely,



Lynn Larsen
1231 Sundance Loop
Fairbanks, AK 99709