



2019 MAR -8

RECEIVED

SEATTLE WA 980

05 MAR 2019 PM 5 L

BLM, Alaska State Office
Attn: Coastal Plain EIS
222 West 7th Ave., #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

99513-750413



BLM, Alaska State Office
Attention—Coastal Plain EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

3/5/19

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to urge you to not allow oil leasing and drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to not allow it for the following reasons:

- Oil leasing and development would destroy the wild quality of both the Coastal Plain and adjacent designated Wilderness lands in the Arctic Refuge. The DEIS fails to truthfully explain what would be lost by opening the Arctic Refuge to oil leasing and development.
- The DEIS fails to describe how oil leasing and development would destroy the Arctic Refuge's ecological integrity which has flourished since the beginning of time.
- The DEIS fails to fully assess the significant impacts oil leasing and development would have on caribou, especially when caribou are most vulnerable to disturbance—during critical times of calving and raising young.
- Oil leasing and development on the Coastal Plain would cause caribou populations to decline, which would have significant ramifications over a vast area of Alaska and Canada, and these effects would persist beyond the estimated 130 years of exploitation. The DEIS fails to address this reality and its effects on indigenous people.
- The DEIS significantly underestimates the amount of carbon pollution that oil leasing and development would add to atmosphere, and fails to truthfully address the implications of exacerbating the climate crisis.
- Fresh water is relatively limited on the Refuge Coastal Plain, however the DEIS does not adequately assess the impacts that industry's water use would have on fish and wildlife.

- The DEIS does not thoroughly assess the cumulative effects of oil leasing and development within the Refuge and with current and expanding development across the North Slope and offshore in the Arctic region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Matera', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Stephen Matera

Seattle, Washington