

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
Nicole Hayes, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

February 4, 2019

Dear Ms. Hayes:

I am testifying today as a fifty-year Alaska resident in support of **continuing full protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge** and in **total opposition to the proposed oil and gas leasing** within the Refuge's coastal plain.

This proposed oil and gas leasing is the wrong action in the wrong place for the wrong reasons.

Mitigating further impacts from climate change demands we stop using fossil fuels that are destroying the livability and well-being of our planet. It is simply wrong to negatively impact the Arctic NWR with oil and gas development activities that will also negatively impact our planet when consumed. This is a short-sighted, anachronistic activity. While it may benefit a few corporate interests, it will damage not just the sanctity of the Refuge, it will contribute to further adverse impacts to our planet. This issue is much broader than 'caribou vs development' and needs to be addressed comprehensively.

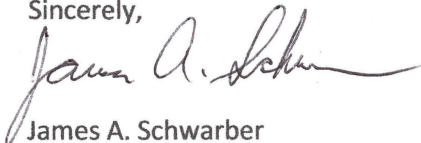
There is no shortage of oil and gas in the United States or the world. It would be a travesty to sacrifice this Refuge's unique values and important de facto wilderness area that is a national treasure for an unneeded polluting commodity. Our world needs to stop producing greenhouse gases.

Congress did not debate and separately vote to proceed with this leasing – it was included within a much larger budget bill, the Tax Act of 2017. This is an abrogation of the intended public process designed to protect the Refuge from just this kind of legislative sleight of hand. A national decision of this magnitude deserved a proper process be applied to this vital question. This did not happen and demonstrates a violation of the national trust.

For the above substantive, moral, ethical and eternal reasons, I support Alternative A – the no-action alternative in the Draft EIS. In addition, the limited time and effort put into drafting this DEIS falls far short of what is needed to properly analyze or give credence to the other alternatives.

It is imperative for present and future generations that the Arctic NWR continue to be closed to oil and gas leasing and other industrial development, just as it has been closed since 1960.

Sincerely,



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