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BLM, ALASKA STATE OFFICE  
Ahtenon - Coastal Plain EIS  
222 West 7th Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

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

February 17, 2019

Re BLM, Alaska State Office Attention—Coastal Plain EIS

Please, in the name of our children and grandchildren, know that oil and gas drilling must NOT be allowed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is not a matter of opinion. It is a matter of fact and experience. If you need data, just look a little further up the coast at the destructive accident history and impact of BP's Prudhoe Bay development site. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be unalterably damaged by oil drilling. You must protect it, not sell it off.

Your work depends upon good information. And the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is deficient and misleading.

Oil leasing and development will irreparably damage the wild ecosystem of both the Coastal Plain and adjacent, designated Wilderness lands in the Arctic Refuge. The Arctic Refuge's ecological integrity has flourished since the beginning of time - until now. The DEIS fails to truthfully explain what will be lost by opening the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas leasing and development.

The DEIS fails to fully assess the significant impacts oil leasing and development will 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 resulting in 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 the reality of wildlife disturbance and resulting negative effects on indigenous people.

The DEIS significantly underestimates the amount of carbon pollution that oil leasing and development will add to the atmosphere and fails to truthfully address the implications of exacerbating the climate crisis. Again, this is calculable. It is not a matter of opinion - it is a matter of science.

Despite the fact that fresh water is relatively limited on the Refuge Coastal Plain, the DEIS does not adequately assess the impacts that the oil industry's water use will have on fish and wildlife.

The DEIS does not thoroughly assess the cumulative effects of oil leasing and development within the Refuge combined with current and expanding development across the North Slope and offshore in the Arctic region. These are not isolated instances. They are part of a system of damage and negative effects that must be looked at as a whole.

In conclusion, the DEIS fails to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and therefore BLM cannot authorize leasing.

Thank you for your attention,  
Sincerely yours,



Ann Woll  
mother of two and grandmother of three

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