



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Leasing for oil and gas development on Alaskan Coastal Plain**2 messages

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**Bill Maier** <wlmaier@rochester.rr.com>

Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 6:02 AM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Dear Project Manager Ms. Nicole Hayes,:

I am writing to comment on the environmental impact statement prepared for consideration regarding leasing coastal lands in Alaska for oil and gas exploration and extraction. Perhaps it is too late in the process for my comments, but I will share them on the chance that they will be helpful.

I have reviewed the statement in brief. As a citizen of the United States who has long been interested in the preservation of wild lands for the benefit of our country, future citizens, and the natural integrity of our planet, I want to express my preference that the Department of Interior not move forward with this project, or if it must, it chooses Alternative D as the best alternative.

This area of North America has long been an esteemed treasure of wilderness. With its spectacular caribou herd, Musk Oxen, Polar Bears, shorebirds, and coastal whale habitat, our country has always deemed wilderness preservation as the only best course of management there.

Your task is to complete and report an EIS that considers various alternatives and incorporates the most up-to-date ecological research to estimate such impacts. My comment on your work so far is that it is woefully incomplete given what's at stake. We stand to lose the very essence of what Presidents Eisenhower and Carter, their staffs, and Congress sought to preserve when they chose refuge status for this ecosystem. Your current EIS fails miserably to quantify the effects leasing and development would have on the Coastal Plain. What seems uncalculated are the best estimates of which species would decline in each alternative, by how much, and how permanently, and how those effects would compromise the wilderness state which raised that ecosystem above others when it was selected for preservation.

Further, fossil fuel extraction is a temporary endeavor. Once the fuel is gone, the site is abandoned, yet the environmental impacts can last. The landscape and coastal-scape will require a long recovery period to return to its current wilderness state. Your analysis fails to estimate how long, and thus falls short of accurately informing the Bureau and Public of the quantity of loss associated with this project's legacy.

I hope I am not too late to help make sure that any development toward fuel extraction in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be done following only the most robust consideration environmental impacts. Personally, I am terribly sad that our nation is pursuing this course of action, given the need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and the availability of sound alternatives (renewables, energy conservation). Reducing the average weight of automobiles by 10% would more than eliminate the need to compromise the Coastal Plain of Alaska with fossil fuel extraction.

We simply have to make better choices.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bill Maier  
51 Dewey Avenue  
Fairport NY 14450

Sent from my iPad

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***Due to the lapse in funding of the federal government budget, this email will not be monitored.***