
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:46 AM
To: Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Arctic Refuge Oil Leasing Comments-Keller
Attachments: Keller.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Nicole Hayes

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrew Keller** <amkeller@alaska.edu>
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 8:42 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Arctic Refuge Oil Leasing Comments-Keller
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Cc: <magalialaska@gmail.com>

Hello Nicole Hayes,

Attached are comments concerning oil leasing in the Arctic national Wildlife by my wife and me.

Thank you of for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Andrew Keller

Andrew M. Keller

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March 10, 2019, 2019

Comments on Oil Leasing in the Arctic Refuge

-Oil leasing and drilling is simply incompatible with the stated purposes of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. Purposes such as: protecting free roaming caribou and other wildlife populations, ensuring that the area remains untrammled (free from human influence), that air and water quality are protected and that there is ample opportunity for wilderness recreation.

-If oil drilling takes place in the Arctic Refuge, the only part of the entire Arctic Alaska coastline protected would be the 25 miles from the Yukon border to the Achilik River!

-We would not dam the Grand Canyon for electrical generation or exploit Yellowstone's thermal features for energy and we should not drill for oil in America's only conservation area with an Arctic Coastal Plain component. The Arctic Refuge is a national treasure that should be protected - not sacrificed to oil drilling.

-Climate change is a critical issue that must be addressed immediately. Drilling for oil in the nation's prime conservation areas only exacerbates the problem. 95% of Alaska's glaciers are receding and the Arctic Ice Cap is shrinking. **It is time to act.**

- A July, 2005 report from the Energy Information Agency determined that, at peak production, in 20 years, Arctic Refuge oil would only reduce the price of a gallon of gas by about a penny.

-We need a smarter energy plan that moves us away from our reliance on oil, not just foreign oil. The U.S. has exploited its oil reserves longer and more fully than any other nation, thus finding and extracting each barrel becomes more expensive than the cheaper reserves abroad. Substitution is the most logical response to this problem-substituting more oil production and imports with more efficient use. From 1977 to 1985 we used this strategy with dramatic success. We increased fuel efficiency by seven miles per gallon and oil imports from the Persian Gulf region fell by 87 percent, while the gross domestic product increased by 27 percent. But when world oil prices collapsed in 1986, the United States rolled back fuel efficiency standards, resulting in renewed dependence on imports. If the United States had continued to conserve oil at the same rate, we would no longer need ANY Persian Gulf oil today.

-The gas/electric hybrid Toyota Prius averages 49 miles per gallon (mpg), the Honda Insight gets 67mpg. A fleet that efficient, compared to the current U.S. average of 24 mpg would save 26 or 33 refuges, respectively. This type of technology is here now and will reduce dependence on greenhouse gases, which is a major international concern. A

modest gain of 2 percent per year would yield oil savings far greater than the oil that might be in the refuge.

-The U.S. obtains 14.5% of its oil supply from seven Persian Gulf area nations. An increase in fuel economy to 35mpg over a ten-year period would displace oil from this region

- The Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge is the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, which the Gwich'in people have depended on for thousands of years for their way of life. Drilling in the calving grounds could negatively impact this culture.

-The Arctic Refuge has a long history of scientific study and conservation. Early arctic conservation proposals date back to Bob Marshall in the 1920's and '30's. Distinguished pioneer arctic biologist Olaus Murie and his wife Margaret worked tirelessly for the protection of this area in the 1950's. Some of the most complete biological records in the Arctic have been compiled in this pristine area.

"I feel so sure that, if we are big enough to save this bit of loveliness on our earth, the future citizens of Alaska and of all the world will be deeply grateful. This is a time for a long look ahead."

Margaret Murie, Arctic Refuge founder

"[The Refuge] symbolizes freedom...freedom to continue, unhindered and forever if we are willing, the particular story of Planet Earth unfolding here. ..where its native creatures can still have freedom to pursue their future, so distant, mysterious."

Lowell Sumner, Arctic Refuge Founder

For these and many other reasons we oppose oil drilling in the arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

Andrew Keller

Magali Vincent (wife)