
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:59 PM
To: Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] ANWR EIS

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From: **Jim & Jan Plaquet** <jandjplaquet@gci.net>
Date: Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 2:57 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ANWR EIS
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Alaska's economic lifeline, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), is now running three-quarters empty. In 1980, Congress identified the 1002 Area for its potential oil and gas resources. Since the non-Wilderness coastal plain is less than 60 miles from TAPS, development of energy resources there is one of the most environmentally-sound ways to increase oil production in Alaska. If we make available these resources much employment, state revenue and prosperity will be provided. It's about jobs. Job's for today's Alaskan's and jobs that today's high school and college students will be desperately seeking here at home when the time comes for them to start their working lives.

In, fact, 78 percent of Alaskans support oil exploration in the 1002 area. Every Alaskan Governor and every legislature, elected congressional representative and senators from Alaska have supported responsible development. The opening of ANWR to exploration has everything to do with Alaska's right to develop its natural resources. With Prudhoe Bay oil reserves in decline, it is essential that new areas be opened for oil exploration and development. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is operating at less than one-third of it's original capacity of 2.2 million barrels a day.

Government and industry experts predict huge amounts of oil and gas lie beneath the coastal plain, enough to serve America's needs for 40 years or more. Upwards to 7.68 billion barrels of oil and 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas are estimated to lie within the program area covered by the DEIS. Oil exploration in ANWR would take place on just 2,000 acres of the 1.6 million acre coastal plain, which amounts to a tiny fraction of Alaska's protected lands. Responsible oil and gas development in ANWR for leasing will help ensure America's energy security for decades. The land is on the coastal plain, a tiny sliver of the huge wildlife refuge. Congress excluded the "1002 area" from ANWR's large Wilderness block in a compromise struck under ANILCA. The compromise doubled the size of the Arctic Refuge and designated 8 million acres of wilderness. Congress also mandated a study of the 1002 area's environment and petroleum resources. In 1987, the Department of the Interior concluded oil development would have minimal impact on wildlife and recommended Congress open the coastal plain to development. The DEIS includes a wide range of alternatives, which contain measures to avoid or mitigate surface impacts and minimize ecological disturbance throughout the program area.

The essential needs of Alaska's working families all across this vast and beautiful state depend on the responsible development of our natural resources. For us, environmentally responsible development in a tiny portion of the Arctic Refuge means jobs and the opportunity to improve our schools and other public services. It would mean thousands of jobs for Fairbanks workers and billions of dollars in revenue for the State of Alaska. ANWR would create high paying jobs for Fairbanks to earn and enjoy a livable wage.

Green activists have shut down most of Alaska's large job producing industries, harassed many of the rest and blocked oil and gas exploration for many years on the coastal plain of ANWR. Their goals are to withdraw more land in Alaska, prevent timbering in Alaska, prevent mining in Alaska, prevent oil and gas development in Alaska. However the greatest challenge that Alaska faces is a lack of urgency. Alaskans need to wake up to what the extremists are doing to us. Alaska already contains 58 million acres of federal Wilderness, an area larger than the combined size of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. Alaska accounts for 53 percent of America's federal Wilderness areas. Environmentally conscious obstruction is something else entirely.

Prudhoe Bay oil is in decline and it is essential that new areas be opened for exploration and development. Opening ANWR to oil and gas exploration will benefit the State of Alaska through increased revenues and the citizens of Fairbanks with jobs and income. Alaskans need to work in the oil patch and develop our most important natural resource laying thousands of feet below the tundra's surface.

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