

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft EIS

Comment Form

Please submit your comments by March 13, 2019 via one of the following methods:

- **Via webform on the project website:**
<https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj>
- **Mail:**
Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing
Program EIS
222 West 7th Ave., Stop #13
Anchorage, AK 99513
- **In person at a public meeting**

PLEASE PRINT

Date: 02/04/2019

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Public Disclosure. Before including your address, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments:

I'm sure that all of you have heard the arguments concerning the environment and the wildlife of ANWR. While these arguments are valid and important, I understand that not everyone values wilderness as highly as my peers and I do. Everyone does seem to understand money though. Wilderness is an important economic resource which financially benefits us through tourism, hunting, and ecosystem services. Wilderness is a sustainable resource that never decreases in value. Oil, on the other hand, varies wildly in value. Alaska has seen numerous economic ups and downs at the hands of oil companies. Drilling for more oil is not a financially sound idea. Most of the world is backing away from fossil fuels in favor of greener resources. We are holding on to a dying industry which will give us

less and less as time goes on. We cannot afford to sacrifice the viability of a sustainable resource such as wilderness in favor of an unsustainable industry.

Furthermore, the law requiring leasing of land for development is incredibly unethical. It is beyond unethical, arguably illegal, to deny the public the opportunity to support an alternative required by NEPA. Immense public support has been shown for alternative A, inaction. To deny us the option that we support is unconstitutional, the government has ceased to hold our resources in trust for the public.

The biggest argument in favor of drilling is the economic benefit. This benefit does not exist because the industry is failing.

We all want enough wealth to grant healthcare, education, and food to our families and our neighbors. We all want a beautiful and productive wilderness. These desires are not at odds with each other, despite how they are often portrayed. There are other economic paths that will align with these values. Alaska has tourism, fishing and hunting, wind, solar, hydroelectric, and tidal energy, and many other ways to make money. We do not need to be slaves of oil companies, we don't need to alienate Native People.

We need communication, compromise, and conservation.