

BRADY
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Wasilla, AK 99654

ALASKAN FRONTIER
995-597
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Attn: Coastal Plain Oil Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Ave, Stop 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

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ANCHORAGE, AK 99504

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2/9/19

Re: EIS on Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain—in Protest of Opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Drilling

There are so many reasons to not drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Much has been written about it being our country's last true surviving wilderness. Certainly it is home to an amazing abundance of wildlife and plants. Turning the 1002 area on the Coastal Plain into an industrial zone, visible from the top of the Brooks Range, would destroy the very character of that wilderness, would be criminal in itself.

It is amazing how quickly the wilderness has disappeared around Alaska in the 57 years I've lived here. Proponents for drilling say development of these pristine places can be done "in an environmentally sensitive manner." It is a foregone conclusion that the caribou will suffer on their birthing grounds of the Coastal Plain, not to mention the millions of migratory birds that fly from five continents to nest here. The lie that development can be done without harm to the environment is just that: a lie. The ugly monstrosity that is Prudhoe Bay is what the 1002 area will look like. Industrial development will radically alter the coastal plain, forever.

The Gwitch'in, and their Proto-Athabaskan ancestors, have lived in this area at least since the Bering Land Bridge, 15,000 to 18,000 years ago, approximately 600 to 700 generations, not the paltry one or two generations claimed by most Alaskans. Throughout these long ages they have prospered in a harsh environment, living sustainably, in harmony with Nature, dependent upon the caribou and other bounty the Refuge provides. The Coastal Plain is the birthplace of the caribou on which they depend. Drilling there would be tantamount to sentencing their age-old way of life to death, yet here we descend, with our arrogance and greed, and in the span of fifty years want to sweep it all away.

Beyond the issue of the Refuge itself, however, is the equally important question of the effect of yet more oil development on Human Caused Catastrophic Climate Change. Short of nuclear war, this is the *MOST* important issue of our day, a not-so-slow-moving disaster, far more important than the petty political squabbles in Washington, which are simply distractions from this most vital of problems to the future of life on Earth. The idea that Congress, the administration, and the BLM, would push for yet more oil development, knowing of, yet ignoring this burgeoning disaster, which, unless checked before it's too late—it may *already* be too late—shows an appalling lack of understanding or heeding of *established* climate science. 99% of climatologists say what is happening to our atmosphere is human caused, and it is costing us mightily in human suffering and billions, perhaps trillions, in dollars. We don't need any more oil; there is already too much carbon-based fuel in the world. Take the money that would be invested in drilling in the Refuge and invest it in renewables in Alaska instead—in geothermal, solar, wind and tidal energy.

It is positively criminal that large oil companies, at the forefront of producing greenhouse gases, who have known for decades the dangers of those gasses to our climate, yet have kept their knowledge secret until recently, should be allowed to drill for yet more oil, to produce yet more greenhouse gases. The officers of these corporations belong in jail rather than being rewarded.

I have never had the fortune to go to the Arctic Refuge. At my age I may never get that chance. Just because I may never get to experience it myself, doesn't mean that I want to see it drilled and built upon. It is important for mankind as a whole to simply know that there are places that are inviolate, which should be left alone to develop in peace and at their own pace, as they have for millennia.

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