



June 19, 2018

Submitted via email

Nicole Hayes
Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Ave., Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
Blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS @blm.gov

Scoping Comments re: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hayes,

Nature Canada is the oldest national nature conservation charity in Canada. Over the past 75 years, Nature Canada has helped protect over 63 million acres of parks and wildlife areas in Canada and countless species that depend on this habitat. Today, Nature Canada represents a network comprised of over 80,000 members and supporters and more than 350 nature organizations across the country and with affiliates in every province.

Nature Canada has joined with U.S. and Canadian nature and environmental groups in opposing all oil and gas activities on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in comments jointly submitted under separate cover in response to the public notice from April 20, 2018, Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Nature Canada also wishes to advise you that 12,896 of Canadians have signed the following petition directed to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

Raise your voice to defend the Arctic Refuge

The Trump Administration wants to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. Porcupine Caribou cross from Canada to give birth in the Arctic Refuge, so the plans are opposed by the Gwich'in people because it threatens their subsistence lifestyle and culture. It is also a major nesting area for migratory birds like Snowy Owls. We have until June 19 to join thousands of Americans and Canadians to tell Trump and the US Government that oil and gas drilling has no place in the Arctic Refuge. Tell the U.S. Bureau of Land Management that the environmental review must be rigorous and address all impacts using both western science and Indigenous knowledge. Oil and gas extraction has no place in the Arctic Refuge.

The attached spreadsheet includes the names and postal codes of those Canadians who have signed the petition.

In addition, 1,774 Nature Canada members and supporters have sent emails directly to the Bureau of Land Management stating their view and oil and gas extraction has no place in the Arctic Refuge.

Nature Canada stands with the Gwich'in Nation and support the efforts of Indigenous people in Canada and the United States to protect their human rights and food security by protecting the Coastal Plain. Nature Canada also wishes to emphasize that the Environmental Impact Statement must address the international treaty obligations of the United States to Canada under the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement and the Migratory Birds Treaty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Saul', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graham Saul
Executive Director

cc. Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs