

Website Comment **057320**

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From: KateStephenson
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Comment: July 13, 2004

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Office
Att'n: Northeast NPR-A Planning Team
222 West Seventh Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Planning Team,

001
Outside

It confuses me that this is still an ongoing issue concerning possible oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge. I am a college student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and recently completed a research project on the effect and distribution of oil drilling in the United States. I find it hard to believe that the Refuge is the last and/or best source for oil drilling. I would like to prove my point from a paragraph taken from my research paper:

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Outside

An estimated 16 billion barrels of oil has been claimed to be under the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain. However, the U.S. Geological Survey, after 12 years of studying the refuge, estimates there is only 3.2 billion barrels in the coastal plain. If the oil were tapped in ANWR, it would take up to 10 years for the oil to reach the pumps. Moreover, drilling/tapping for oil in ANWR would lead to environmental destruction, exemplified by the Arctic Refuge - Prudhoe Bay site, located some 60 miles west of the refuge in Alaska, which has been a source of crude oil for several years. Much like the refuge, Prudhoe Bay is a tundra that has turned into "1,000 square miles . . . [of] a sprawling industrial zone containing 1,500 miles of roads and pipelines, 1,400 producing wells and three jetports". The oil drilling in Prudhoe Bay has turned the landscape into a landfill of sewage, waste, and old product containers that had been used and discarded."

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I believe that the drive for money, power, or whatever you would like to call it has blinded American's concerns for the environment and the wildlife that inhabits our nation. The thousands of individuals who will voice their concerns to you in the next couple of days may not have an effect on your final decision, however, you should just know that the decisions that you make today will have great ramifications on what will happen in the future.

Sincerely,

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Attached: None