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EST

To: PAIS_public_comments@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Drilling in Padre Island Seashore

Hello there,

I'm writing after hearing about the approval to drill multiple wells on Padre island National seashore.

While I don't live in the area, I've spent much time there, travelling to enjoying it's beauty and spreading the word about such a natural resource.

While I understand that oil is money and what is currently there doesn't offer such an immediate payback, the natural setting and all that it enables -- for humans and non-humans -- is priceless and irreplaceable. Perhaps you can apply the Mastercard commercial to my thoughts on the matter.

Consider the less squishy parts of this:

*A federal buyout of the mineral rights should be included as one of the alternatives, eliminating the need to allow access to privately owned mineral leases and consistent with the NPS environmentally preferred alternative and meeting all 6 of the national environmental policy goals and would be consistent with the original intent of the park.

*Consider that most of the Texas coast is currently being used to produce oil and gas, and that only 3 percent of Texas is public recreation land.

*The plan will take at least eight months to complete -- 8 months of up to 20 trucks per day traveling up and down the beach. This beach is for Americans to enjoy as a national park.

*Padre Island National Seashore is the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world and the last great coastal wildland in America. We need to protect this great national treasure by stopping the drilling once and for all.

Since there are only two alternatives listed in this Environmental Assessment, the National Park Service should choose Alternative A, as it is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Oil is something found in many places. Padre Island National Seashore is found only in place, and to destroy it would be a permanent loss to the world-- you included. Is oil the only thing worth anything any more? Please reconsider this abuse of a national resource.

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