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**[EXTERNAL] Comment on P.L. 115-97**

1 message

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Sat, May 19, 2018 at 12:30 PM

To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

By definition, a democratic government is one in which elected representatives work to carry out the will of the people in the best interest of the nation. How then have we passed a bill to open up the Arctic Refuge when it is both opposed by the Gwich'in Nation, whose tribe who has sovereignty over this land, as well as 70% of the American public?

The opening of the Arctic refuge is a disgrace to our democracy. It was slyly passes through backdoor deals with total disregard for the tribal sovereignty of the Gwich'in Nation. To say that his law is unethical is an understatement. It is yet another tragic example of the continued disregard for the rights and will of native people in this country.

Additionally, those who will be affected by this decision have not been included in the conversation. Space for public comment and hearing needs to be made available to those in remote villages around Alaska. Additionally, documents need to be translated into languages spoken by the Native Nations out of respect for the cultural heritage and sovereignty of the Native Nations on this land.

Any bill passed that goes directly against the will of the sovereign people on the needs to be repealed immediately. The Gwich'in Nation has spoken their position loud and clear, and it's time we listened to them by repealing P.L. 115-97 and replacing it with legislation that matches the will of the people, protecting the land from greedy corporate interests.