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[EXTERNAL] Submission on DOI scoping consultation for Arctic Refuge

1 message

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Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 2:18 PM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Cc: catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca, justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca, eactivist@cpawsyukon.org

Dear U.S. Bureau of land management,

Please consider this letter before making a final decision regarding extraction of oil and gas in the Arctic wildlife refuge.

The arctic wildlife refuge, like other vast natural areas, is so important for so many species to thrive. As you know, its vast plains are the ideal and only area where the porcupine caribous feel safe to have their babies every year. Oil extraction in this area would be devastating to them as they are very sensitive to light and sound. Enough so that they might abandon this area altogether. This would have disastrous effects on their wellbeing and population size. Many caribou herds in Canada, and presumingly in the United States of America, are in great danger of extinction due to human impacts.

Like other species, the Porcupine caribous are crucial to environmental balance. Their loss would have a great impact on the whole ecosystem of both Canada and U.S.A. Also, for much longer that you and I can grasp, people have been dependant of this herd to survive and still are. I was fortunate to be in Old Crow in November when the caribous were passing through. The whole village was thriving, coming together as a community, preparing for the cold winter months, fully living their culture by adopting the same practices their ancestors did for years and years.

Living in the Yukon territory, I am reminded on a daily basis of the impact that global warming has on the northern territories by noticing those changes in my everyday life. We had two very warm spells this winter where temperatures raised well above zero for an extended period of time. Those changes have a great impact on the everyday life of the people living here and I can only imagine the greater impact on the ecosystem and all living things. The caribous are already affected by global warming and further stress could denefinitely harm the health of the herd.

Please acknowledge that the decision you are about to make will have international repercussions as animals are borderless and that both U.S.A and Canada will be negatively affected by opening the Arctic wildlife preserve to drilling. Further more, I strongly believe that the loss or decline of the Porcupine caribou herd would be a global tragedy.

Globally, too many species have already gone instinct. I beg you to please you everything in your power to preserve the existing animals species. Keep the North wild and thriving as it is one of the only region that had not been forever ruined by human greed.

Kind regards,
Joëlle Haché
Y1A 5M2

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green