



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Arctic Refuge, Porcupine caribou herd, and DOI scoping consultation

1 message

aerin.jacob@gmail.com <aerin.jacob@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 21, 2018 at 3:12 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 Secretary Zinke and DOI staff,

I'm writing about the Porcupine caribou herd and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I'm concerned about proposed oil and gas development in ANWR -- in the heart of the Porcupine caribou herd's calving grounds. I am opposed to this development for a number of reasons, including the very real risk to caribou, the Gwich'in communities, and the addition to greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

Porcupine caribou are a transboundary herd - they don't pay attention to the international border between Canada and the US. Their calving grounds are in Alaska but they winter in the Yukon. As such, this is an issue that affects Canada and Canadians. Calving grounds are one of the most important places for caribou. And caribou are very sensitive to human-caused disturbance, particularly light and noise. Oil and gas development in ANWR - particularly in the calving grounds - pose great risks to Porcupine caribou. We have to make sure that these critical places are safeguarded, otherwise the herd will be in real danger. Losing this herd would be a global tragedy, and one that is avoidable.

I'm also concerned about the impact on Gwich'in communities. They live along the migratory routes of Porcupine caribou and sustain themselves by hunting caribou. The health and long-term presence of this caribou herd is directly related to the health and long-term presence of the people.

Please consider the importance of ecological connectivity, animal migration, and human-environment interactions in this decision. I urge you to refrain from developing oil and gas in ANWR.

Thank you for your attention.

Aerin Jacob, PhD
Canmore, Albertacc: Hon. Catherine McKenna
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green