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[EXTERNAL] Submission on DOI scoping consultation for Arctic Refuge1 message

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Sat, Apr 21, 2018 at 10:38 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

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to you on behalf of the porcupine caribou herd. Their calving grounds may be in Alaska but the caribou have making the longest migration of any land mammal on earth much longer than there have been invisible lines on the land called 'borders'. They winter in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. They and the Gwich'in people have a long history together.

Several years ago, a young couple followed the migration route from Old Crow in the Yukon to the calving grounds in Alaska. They made a film about their journey to the calving grounds called "Being Caribou". Besides showing the length of this migration and some of the dangers along the way, they showed, in a very powerful way, how sensitive to sound the caribou are on the calving grounds. In order not to spook the caribou, they stayed in their tent for many days. How much more intrusive would oil and gas development be. The noise and activity could lead them to abandon their calving grounds altogether. This would be a global tragedy.

I beg you to think further than short term gain and think about the cultural and biological wealth that these caribou, these calving grounds and this incredible migration represent.

Kind regards,
Aileen McCorkell
Y1A 2G4

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green