



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

**[EXTERNAL] Submission on DOI scoping consultation for Arctic Refuge**

1 message

**contactrichard@northwestel.net** <contactrichard@northwestel.net>

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 11:54 AM

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 Bureau of Land Management,

Few places left on earth are as wild and intact as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge are the calving grounds of the threatened Porcupine Caribou herd: critical to the culture and subsistence ways of life of Indigenous peoples across northern Canada and Alaska.

The importance of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge transcends borders. It's critical that Canadian interests be included within the scope of this Environmental Impact Assessment. I urge you to ensure your environmental review process be rigorous, and address all impacts using both Western and Traditional Knowledge. I strongly believe that oil and gas extraction has no place in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and anticipate that a sound and evidence-based process will come to the same conclusion.

I have been near the 1002 Lands of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of the at the Alaska-Yukon border at the Arctic Ocean and have seen that part of the world by air and on foot. I felt in awe of the pure cleanliness of that area.

It is now threatened by climate change as the shoreline is eroding due to melting sea ice. The Porcupine Caribou Herd too is threatened by climate change. If oil and gas drilling and extraction was to be permitted in The Refuge, then THE HERD'S NURSERY would lose its pureness as a birthing ground for the herd. This would not only be an inconvenience to the herd's survival, it would be a spiritual affront. I would not want oil drilling rigs beside my wife, as she is giving birth to our children.

I have also experienced the Porcupine Caribou Herd in their Canadian winter range, where I harvested these animals to feed my family and friends. This herd is critical to the area's ecology, and also a very important part of our northern culture and diet. Many people depend on caribou meat from this herd, and have for thousands of years. Extracting fossil fuels from the Arctic Wildlife Refuge in Alaska would likely mean the end of this herd, and food security for many northern people in Alaska and Canada.

The Porcupine Caribou Herd had used its range for thousands of years. Only recently have humans introduced national and international boundaries. I believe we humans must arrange our behavior in such a way as to not interfere with the herd's use of the land - regardless of human political boundaries.

In the name of respect for natural processes, I urge you not to permit any resource exploration and extraction in the whole of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Most northern barren-land caribou herds are in severe decline. The Porcupine Caribou Herd is at present healthy. We humans must not destroy the birthing grounds this last healthy barren-land caribou herd depends on for survival.

Leave this herd alone. We humans do not need that oil. There is an oil and gas glut being fracked elsewhere.

I look forward to you making a sane decision,

Sincerely,

Richard Mueller  
Y1A 7A1

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna  
House of Commons

cc: M. Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

6/18/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] Submission on DOI scoping consultation for Arctic Refuge

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green