



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

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**[EXTERNAL] Submission on DOI scoping consultation for Arctic Refuge**1 message

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**snowbank22@gmail.com** <snowbank22@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 11:04 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

To Whom It May Concern;

Please accept this letter supporting the continued preservation of the Arctic Refuge from oil and gas development.

As home to the fragile calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd, the Arctic Refuge is a place of ancient renewal. Its importance is humanly sacred, of cultural significance, highlighting a pristine and unique arctic environment and more importantly, it is essential for the survival of one of the last great herds remaining on the face of the earth.

The Porcupine herd adheres to no borders and as a result, this issue has international implications as each this herd undergo the longest migration of any land mammal on earth, between their wintering grounds in Yukon and Northwest Territories and their calving grounds in Alaska. These animals already face enormous survival pressure with impacted climate change and increased human activity. Their saving grace has been the continued protection of these calving grounds.

Here in the Northwest Territories, we have seen caribou numbers drop significantly with other herds in the past decade and more. A lot of this has been blamed on the placement of diamond mines and their intrusive exploration into the middle of active caribou migration routes. So, development has not supported the health and well being of these animals and the effects are being felt today.

With the potential of exploration and industrial development in the actual calving grounds of the Porcupine herd, the results will be devastating given the Canadian experience. Both traditional knowledge and scientific study have confirmed that this refuge needs to remain a sacred part of the Americal policy of protecting, caring for these animals for the greater good.

We encourage you to continue to preserve and protect this vulnerable, yet great herd from any harmful impact.

Sincerely,

Ben Nind  
X1A 1Z5cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna  
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green