



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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**sjcparker@gmail.com** <sjcparker@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 12:06 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 Does Concern,

I've spent my whole life living in northern Yukon, Canada. I would not be who I am today without the North's intact environment that has filled my family's lives, my friends' lives, and my own life with joy, wonder, sustenance, and a sense of belonging. The wildlife that inhabit our northern systems (Alaska and Yukon combined) show no regard for political boundaries. They require large spaces to survive, grow, and reproduce. Human caused climate change is causing an unprecedented rate of change in the North. Protected areas are one of the best tools we have and ensure safe havens for species to have a chance of adapting to changing habitats. They provide large and connected areas to move within and among. Species, like caribou, exemplify this absolute requirement for safe havens. They are a biological and cultural keystone species that so many natural species as well as Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike depend on.

As a science student, a Northerner, a Canadian, and a human being, I strongly encourage the reconsideration for allowing further human development within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Short term human economic gains that go against science and social values create a troubling trend. We still have the option of avoiding irreversible damage, and more importantly, we still have the option to say we made the right choice. We have a responsibility as human beings to make the right choice, and protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from human development.

Kind regards,  
Sonny Parker  
Y0B1G0

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna  
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green