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

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Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 12:02 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

As a Canadian author and former Yukon resident, I am writing to express my deep concern about the possibility of the Arctic Refuge being opened to oil and gas leases.

Although the Arctic Refuge is in Alaska, the Porcupine caribou herd is also resident in Canada, as their wintering grounds are in Yukon and Northwest Territories. Disturbing their calving grounds in the Refuge would have disastrous effects on both the herd and on the Gwich'in people who rely on them, not to mention discouraging international tourism in an amazing wilderness area.

The Porcupine caribou herd is one of the last healthy barren-ground herds in North America. Their calving grounds are an incredible source of biological and cultural wealth, and their loss would be a global tragedy.

I ask you to act on behalf of the viability of this herd and the people who depend on it. Please don't put this priceless resource at risk.

Kind regards,
Patricia Robertson
R3T 1C5

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green