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[EXTERNAL] Scoping period comment1 message

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To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

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I have had the privilege of visiting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge once. I may never get that opportunity again, but I will never forget the majesty and beauty of the place. It is important that we recognize the importance of our responsible stewardship so this great treasure will be there for generations ahead to dream about, and perhaps visit. I have read accounts of visits to the Refuge of folks from a variety of backgrounds, and spoken with some, of the impact the Refuge has had on their lives. I have observed wildlife simply to be amazed and learn. However, I also realize how important the coastal plain is as the birthing grounds of caribou, vital to the very way of life of the Gwich'in people. I listened to many eloquent speakers at the Fairbanks public meeting give their carefully thought out opinions and requests.

Specific concerns I have that BLM needs to address thoroughly in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement include assurance that: all agreements with the Gwich'in in Alaska and Canada be honored; the original four purposes for the creation of the Refuge be upheld, and not compromised by the recently, and hastily, added fifth purpose; all studies include both independent scientific ones and the incorporation of historical native experience and wisdom; the impact of withdrawing water from an area that has little be studied carefully; the impacts on the ecosystem and climate change by oil and gas exploration be looked at diligently; and all Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act be followed with care.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views,

Judy Williams

Fairbanks, Alaska