

Basham
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Fairbanks AK 99709



ALASKAN FRONTIER
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21 MAY 2018 PM 11

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program
222 West 7th Ave Stop #13
Anchorage AK 99513

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May 20, 2018

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas

Leasing Program EIS

222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13

Anchorage, AK99513

We of the Interfaith Working Group of the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition stand firmly in support of the Gwich'in people as they continue to oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the birthing grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd, sacred to the Gwich'in and important to all Alaskans.

Many religious organizations across the United States have urged the Administration and Congress to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Despite the passage in December of the tax package, which included a provision for opening a portion of the Refuge to oil drilling, we know that there must be Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and public hearings before leasing begins.

As you prepare the scoping materials, we urge you to consider:

- The impact of oil and gas development on the subsistence rights of the Gwich'in people. In your study, please include Native knowledge of the land, migratory practices, and subsistence harvest practices.
- Other scientific knowledge about climate change and the environmental impacts.
- The fact that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an unmatched wilderness that belongs to us all. Its wild, unaltered character is a spiritual resource—impossible to quantify but nevertheless very real to those who find satisfaction, inspiration, and even hope in just knowing it exists.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Basham
Interfaith Working Group, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

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