

My name is Cynthia Wentworth. I am the co-author of the report titled Kaktovik Subsistence: Land Use Values Through Time in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Area published in 1982 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

In the 36 years since this report was published, I have remained in contact with Inupiat in Kaktovik. Despite the official position of the North Slope Borough and the City of Kaktovik supporting oil development in the coastal plain, I know that over the past several years a growing number of Kaktovik Inupiat have opposed the development.

It can be a complicated and delicate situation, because the Inupiat in Kaktovik are one extended family. The above report contains a family tree diagram of this family. ~~The fact that~~ The Inupiat supporting development are first cousins, sometimes even brother and sister, with those who oppose development. The fact that these people are so closely related, makes it difficult for those who oppose development, to speak out, as it means opposing their close relatives who are in the official positions supporting development. They risk retaliation and retribution, socially and economically, and in other areas of their ~~lives~~ lives.

Yet the subsistence resources on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, are important to all the Kaktovik Inupiat. Those Inupiat ^{opposing development} know how oil development on the coastal plain, would endanger these resources -

They attest to how important subsistence continues to be, both to them, and to their relatives that favor development. The subsistence way of life sustains them all-nutritively, culturally & spiritually. Let me assure you, as the co-author of the above report, and as a longtime ^{close} friend of several Haktovik Inupiat, I know and fear how this subsistence way of life, which connects so closely to the coastal plain, could ~~be~~ be lost forever.

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