



CoastalPlain\_EIS, BLM\_AK &lt;blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_eis@blm.gov&gt;

---

**[EXTERNAL] 30 Days of Alliance for 30 Years of Self-Defense**

1 message

---

**Margi Dashevsky** <margueritedashevsky@gmail.com>  
To: blm\_ak\_coastalplain\_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, May 15, 2018 at 11:27 AM

Dear Ms. Hayes and Ms. Mouritsen,

I am concerned that any oil activity in the Arctic Refuge will threaten the Gwich'in people's culture and way of life. I respectfully submit the following Comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska.

The Gwich'in people have long known the vital importance of the Arctic Refuge. They call the Coastal Plain "Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit." "The sacred place where life begins." The caribou that are born there provide 80% of the nourishment for the Gwich'in.

I was born to fight for this land. I am of this land. I can never lay claim to this land but I can stand for this land. I was conceived on this land.

My white parents gave me an Inupiaq middle name to commemorate where my life began; Nularvik to honor a watershed that traverses the sacred land of the Arctic Refuge. They gave me a name to connect me to the Nularvik River. A literal translation of Nularvik is "campsite" but I have come to understand that Nularvik means "home."

My middle name reminds where I am from. The years I spent outside Alaska for school have only deepened the commitment I have to the wild Alaskan land I love. The Gwich'in Steering Committee has been fighting to protect the sacred Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge for my entire life. These 30 years of struggle are not over. I just turned 31 years old and I am ready to stand with the Gwich'in, for their rights and our home.

Sincerely,  
Margi Nularvik Dashevsky