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

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Tue, Apr 24, 2018 at 8:52 AM

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

The Alaska-Yukon border was established by Russian/American/British colonialists with total disregard for the traditional territories of Gwich'in indigenous people and for the natural process of the land and the animals that dwell thereon.

The Porcupine caribou herd has traversed this land for millennia; calving in what is know as the ANWR where the winds keep the insects at bay and then traveling back tot their summer pastures in what is now called Yukon and NWT. This is one of the longest and largest mammal migrations in the world. The caribou are critical to the well being of the Gwich'in people on both sides of the artificial border.

Caribou are notoriously easy to spook and the introduction of industrialization in ANWR will disrupt their calving grounds and that will lead to a reduction in population, which could result in the loss of the herd, and the destruction of the Gwich'in communities that rely on the caribou.

The world does not need more fossil fuel! Despite the protestations of world politicians little has been done to reduce the impact of human activity on global warming and related climate change. A reduction in the supply of fossil fuels would drive up costs and reduce consumption, which would be a good thing. The human race would benefit. The only folk who would lose should fossil fuel exploitation be stopped in ANWR would be the share holders and executives of the oil companies involved and Alaskans who are seeing their annual profit from resource exploitation falling.

It would be very sad if corporate greed and political profit succeeded allowed the invasion of the ANWR and subsequent damage to the porcupine caribou herd and the Gwich'in people. Please recommend against allowing drilling in the ANWR. The damage that will done far outweighs any benefits.

Kind regards,
Al Cushing
Y1A 4T4

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green