

Attn: Coastal Plain oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

June 19, 2018

My name is Lawrence Burris and I am a resident of Anaktuvuk Pass, President of our village corporation, Nunamiut Corporation, and a member of Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat. In short, the goal of Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat is to work collectively across the region to address the needs of our people and work to amplify local voices over those who would speak on our behalf. With this in mind, we have been working with the Kaktovikmiut since January 2017, when ANWR legislation was introduced into Congress, on their thoughts, concerns, and hopes for this issue. In our series of meetings in Kaktovik, through a poll taken in the community, and the information we receive from fellow VOICE board members Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation and Native Village of Kaktovik, I have heard strong local support for this issue. As the only North Slope community located within a National Wildlife Refuge, Kaktovik has long felt the strain of a stifled economy and access issues related to Fish and Wildlife Service's management of the refuge. Historically, the Federal government and the military have treated the Kaktovikmiut very unfairly, and listening to them now on this issue is an important way to show respect for their land, culture, and livelihoods.

I understand that the scoping stage of this process helps the Bureau of Land Management and cooperating agencies to determine the issues that should be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments to this process in to ensure that potential future development is done in a way that is respectful of our culture and environment.

I believe that as you move to create the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the following issues should be of particular focus:

- Village Health Assessment should be a part of this process to provide a baseline measure of the health of the community to ensure that the health of Kaktovik is not negatively affected should any development occur.
- Ensure that the Kaktovikmiut are an integral part of this process – their voices should be heard above those who do not live on or near the 1002 area.
- Ensure that any adverse effects to wildlife and subsistence resources are thoroughly studied and protected.
- Indigenous Knowledge from community members should be incorporated into any environmental and/or wildlife studies conducted in the Coastal Plain and the Kaktovikmiut should be consulted in how these studies take place.
- Recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into a co-management arrangement with the community of Kaktovik in the management of the Coastal Plain and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge more broadly.
- Require that those who buy leases in the 1002 area attend cultural and environmental seminar given by Kaktovikmiut.
- There should be a thorough review of closed and pending Native allotments – especially those closed with the withdrawal of the military (Public Order 82) from Barter Island.
- Community needs to be provided access, especially All-Terrain Vehicle in the summer and fall months, across land on the Coastal Plain for hunting, fishing, camping, and subsistence use sites.
- Community trails, campsites, and subsistence use sites used by the community of Kaktovik should be identified and protected in the EIS and should not be included in a lease sale.

- Support should be provided to the community, especially Native Village of Kaktovik, to assist in their capacity to participate effectively in this process. This should include, if the community desires, BLM hire of local resident of Kaktovik to facilitate meetings and work to communicate between local entities and the BLM/DOI
- Impact Aid has not been addressed; Kaktovik needs to know that they will receive assistance for their community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence Burris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lawrence Burris