



Re: Public Commenting on the Scoping Process of the 10-02 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area

June 15, 2018

To the Bureau of Land Management

This letter provides the comments of Native Movement on the scoping process regarding BLM's Notice of Intent in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Native Movement is a non-profit community organization with board and advisory membership consisting of Alaska Native community leaders from throughout Alaska. Native Movement serves to uplift Alaskan community voices. Our office is based in Fairbank, Alaska and we work with community members throughout Alaska.

First and foremost we are extremely concerned with the speed at which the NEPA process is being carried out regarding ANWR. The fast track process that has been initiated is a blatant disregard to not only one of the last untouched, rich ecosystems in the world, but also the people that have been the stewards of the land in and around the Refuge since time immemorial. We request an extension of 120 days for the scoping commenting period and future commenting periods.

Additionally, we are concerned that all Alaskans, in particular the Inupiaq and Gwich'in people, are fully informed as to the NEPA process and the potential development impacts. For this reason we request that all the written materials and public hearings and meetings be translated into and from the 24 official languages of Alaska. There is a critical need for Gwich'in and Inupiaq language translation as these are the communities that would be most impacted. Translation should be provided in Gwich'in and Inupiaq at all public hearings, translators can be hired through the State of Alaska.

Government to government consultation between Federal agencies and Tribal governments must uphold. Addressing impacts to Alaska Native hunting, gathering, and fishing rights of the Gwich'in and Inupiaq people must be foremost. We encourage co-management of both the land and resources with local tribal governments. Impact assessment must include traditional use places within and surrounding areas of the refuge. Indigenous and local resident's relationship to both the flora and fauna of the refuge must be compiled. This rich bionetwork continues to uphold food security for the people of the North. Indigenous peoples in Alaska have cultural and spiritual connections to the land that continues to provide. Human activity and disruptions such as seismic testing and drilling are concerns, not only for the Porcupine caribou herd, but also the hundreds of thousands of birds that migrate, the whales, seals, porpoises, many species of fish, and other land and water mammals that rely on the refuge for birthing, nesting and spawning grounds. With the continuing impact of climate change, we ask that there be a baseline health study of the Gwich'in and Inupiaq people before any development or exploration is considered.

As a non-profit organization that is rooted in uplifting the right of Indigenous Peoples, we stand with the Gwich'in Nation and those opposed to the desecration of area 10-02 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Enei M. Peter, Executive Director

On behalf of Native Movement staff and board