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

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Sat, Apr 21, 2018 at 9:36 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

I am extremely alarmed that the US government is intending to open up the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas development. This will inevitably result in disastrous consequences for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the people who for millenia have relied upon that herd for sustenance and whose entire culture and way of life is intertwined with the herd, and for the ecology of the northern area along the herd's migratory route, generally. The real and symbolic importance of this herd to the world cannot be overstated. This is not a US-only issue. The herd undertakes the longest land migration of any land mammal on earth, with synchronous calving occurring only in the Refuge. The herd later travels to its wintering grounds in northern Canada, before making the long and arduous journey back to the Refuge the following spring. The herd is an irreplaceable, unique world treasure that is already facing pressure due to a changing climate, with the effects of climate change occurring faster, and being more pronounced and evident in the north, than anywhere else in the world (to date). The herd needs the Refuge to remain undeveloped. The critical risks to the herd's survival associated with opening up the Refuge (and migratory route into/out of) cannot be mitigated by any means. We have an obligation to ourselves, the world, and to all future generations not to allow business profit-motives to supercede all other social, economic, and environmental/ecological considerations. Please ensure that the herd issue is foremost in your deliberations.

Kind regards,
Cathleen Lewis
Y1A5S4

cc: Hon. Catherine McKenna
House of Commons

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

cc: Minister Chrystia Freeland

cc: Ms. Nadine Sander-Green