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**From:** Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 10:03 AM  
**To:** Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] A comment to oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

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**Nicole Hayes**

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Miho Aida** <[aidamiho@gmail.com](mailto:aidamiho@gmail.com)>  
Date: Wed, Jan 23, 2019 at 1:09 PM  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A comment to oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
To: <[mnhayes@blm.gov](mailto:mnhayes@blm.gov)>

Dear Ms Hayes,

My name is Miho Aida. I am an educator and filmmaker. I'm writing you a letter today to oppose the drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America's greatest wilderness. This area is the birthing and nursing ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, on which the Gwich'in people who are native to this region have physically, culturally and spiritually depended for millennia. In their language, they call this land "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins." I created a movie with them to share their concern and why this place needs to be permanently protected. Here is the film link for you that you can watch the movie. It is only 20 minutes and it is your responsibility to learn many perspectives speaking against the oil drilling. The one most important voice you need to hear is the Gwich'in people's. Please take your time to see this film.

<https://www.wearethearctic.org/action/sacred-place-where-life-begins-gwichin-women-speak>

Drilling would irreversibly damage this fragile ecosystem and the Gwich'in way of life. I stand with the Gwich'in people and speak on behalf of the future generations to oppose opening the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge for oil drilling. And I ask you to do the same to protect the basic human rights of the Gwich'in and for our future generations yet to come.

Thank you,

Miho

Miho Aida

Pronouns: She, Her

[www.mihoaida.com](http://www.mihoaida.com)

[www.mihoaida.com/gwichin](http://www.mihoaida.com/gwichin)

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