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**From:** Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 12:19 PM  
**To:** coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] ANWR EIS comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Nicole Hayes**

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

From: **Katie Aspen Gavenus** <[katie.aspen@gmail.com](mailto:katie.aspen@gmail.com)>  
Date: Mon, Mar 11, 2019 at 10:59 AM  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ANWR EIS comment  
To: <[mnhayes@blm.gov](mailto:mnhayes@blm.gov)>

Dear Ms. Hayes,

My name is Katie Gavenus. I am a lifelong Alaskan, and grew up in Homer.

The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of America's greatest wildernesses and supports diverse ecosystems and communities.

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."

Even without any accidents, oil drilling and infrastructure development would irreversibly damage this fragile ecosystem and the Gwich'in way of life. Add to that the risk of spills or other accidents to the land and waters, and it becomes unconscionable to open ANWR to drilling.

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,

Katie Aspen Gavenus

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