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**From:** Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:48 PM  
**To:** Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Stop Drilling Now!

**Nicole Hayes**

Project Coordinator  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **A.J. Sothman** <[root2blossom@gmail.com](mailto:root2blossom@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 11:36 AM  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop Drilling Now!  
To: <[mnhayes@blm.gov](mailto:mnhayes@blm.gov)>

Dear Mr. Hayes,

Please act to Stop Oil Drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge!

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of our nation's most wild areas and it deserves our most enduring legal protections. The Coastal Plain is the calving grounds for the Porcupine Caribou upon which the Gwich'in tribe depend on for their sustenance and survival. Indeed, the Porcupine Caribou are the cultural identity of the Gwich'in and drilling in the coastal plain is a direct attack on their way of life.

An immense wilderness, bursting with biodiversity and framed by the awe-inspiring Brooks Mountain Range, the Arctic Refuge is pristine, it is spectacular, and for more than 50 years, our country has remained committed to protecting this unparalleled landscape, particularly its sensitive Coastal Plain, and we want to make sure that it remains off-limits to exploration and development for future generations to experience.

Recent polls show Americans are opposed to drilling in the Refuge, with a majority "strongly opposed."

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a national treasure. It mustn't be opened up to oil leasing.

Sincerely,  
Amy Sothman