
From: Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:27 AM
To: coastalplainAR; Sean Cottle
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] EIS

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Nicole Hayes

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

From: **suzanne ravet** <sustainablefoothills@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 7:49 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] EIS
To: <mnhayes@blm.gov>

To Whom It May Concern,

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, in particular, the Coastal Plain is home to the Gwich'in tribe. The tribe depends on the Porcupine Caribou for food. As with most indigenous peoples who live in harmony with their surroundings, the native plants and animals also define their cultural identity. Just as in the late 1800's when General Sherman and Marshall used the extinction of the buffalo as a critical line of attack to exterminate the native populations, drilling in the coastal plain is a form of genocide. Under Article Two of the UN Convention, genocide is defined as an intent to destroy national, ethnic, racial, or religious groups. It includes not only physical harm, but also mental harm. By allowing drilling in the refuge the corporate leaders forwarding this project and US government should be accountable under this law. The permit under this law should be denied.

Furthermore, Theodore Roosevelt stated *"We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."* It has been only after witnessing immense loss in wildlife and biodiversity that our leaders have acted to protect life. The Arctic Refuge is one of a limited number of pristine environments remaining. As our planet is on the verge of losing everything, there is no better time to deny this permit. Once it is gone, there will be no turning back. As Roosevelt stated, it is time to be 'worthy of our good fortune'.

As if that weren't enough, recent polling by the Center on American Progress shows that two-thirds of Americans are opposed to drilling in the Refuge, with a majority "strongly opposed." Forwarding this project is a complete blight on our proclamation of Democracy and a Democratic Republic.

As an alternative to drilling, I support that the Arctic Wildlife Refuge lands to be returned to the Gwich'in tribe where it can continue to be a source of beauty and life for future generations, should we avert and/or survive this next great extinction.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Ravet
1419 Farrelly St.
Enumclaw, Washington

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"If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough." ~ Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's 1st female president and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner.