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**From:** Hayes, Miriam (Nicole) <mnhayes@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 9:30 AM  
**To:** Sean Cottle; coastalplainAR  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Comments: Arctic Wildlife Refuge proposed oil drilling

**Nicole Hayes**

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

From: **E H Thomas** <[spikeline@yahoo.com](mailto:spikeline@yahoo.com)>  
Date: Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 5:20 PM  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments: Arctic Wildlife Refuge proposed oil drilling  
To: [mnhayes@blm.gov](mailto:mnhayes@blm.gov) <[mnhayes@blm.gov](mailto:mnhayes@blm.gov)>

February 2, 2019

Erik Thomas  
517 32nd St. #55  
Bellingham, WA 98225

To All It May Concern,

I am writing about The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is one of the world's most iconic wild areas. It needs and *deserves* our most enduring legal protections. The Coastal Plain is the calving grounds for the Porcupine Caribou upon which the Gwich'in people depend 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.

The Arctic Refuge is an immense wilderness rich with biodiversity. Framed by the awe-inspiring Brooks Mountain Range, it is pristine and breathtaking. For more than 50 years, our country has remained committed to protecting this unparalleled landscape, particularly its sensitive Coastal Plain. We want to guarantee that it remains off-limits to mineral exploration and development in order that future generations may also experience this area as a wilderness, not a wasteland.

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.”

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a national treasure. It must *not* be opened up to oil leasing.

Most Sincerely,

Erik Thomas