



European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples

Resolution to Prohibit Opening the Coastal Plain for Oil and Gas Exploitation in the Calving and Post-Calving Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd

WHEREAS:

The aim and focus of the *European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples* is to support the rights of Indigenous Peoples of North America, in particular their right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS:

For thousands of years the Gwich'in Athabascan Indians of northeast Alaska and northwest Canada have relied on caribou for subsistence, and continue today to subsist on the Porcupine Caribou Herd which is essential to meet the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of their people; and

WHEREAS:

The Gwich'in have the inherent right to continue their own way of life; and that this right is recognized and affirmed by civilized nations in the international covenants on human rights.

- Articles 1 of both the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights read in part: "... In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence."
- Further Article 32 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states in part that „States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources“.

WHEREAS:

The *European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples* recognizes that oil development in the caribou calving grounds is a threat to the very heart of the Gwich'in people and that by opening the Coastal Plain for oil and gas exploitation the Gwich'in culture and people will be under threat as they have never been before. Drilling in this fragile ecosystem will endanger the Porcupine Caribou Herd for which, among a huge range of other animals, this is an important, unique, and irreplaceable habitat. The health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and their availability to Gwich'in communities, and the very future of the Gwich'in people are endangered by proposed oil and gas exploration and development in the calving and post-calving grounds in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the *European Alliance for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples* demands that United States Congress and President recognize the rights of the Gwich'in people to continue to live their way of life by prohibiting development in the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd; and

That the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be made Wilderness to achieve this end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the *Alliance* calls on the institutional investors to put pressure on the oil companies and the banks that fund them calling on them not to initiate or support any oil and gas development in the the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Passed unanimously, November 3rd, 2018 in Zuerich/Switzerland, by

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