



**City of Kaktovik**  
PO Box 27 • 2051 Barter Avenue, #27  
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747

www.cityofkaktovik.org  
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907.640.6313 • 907.640.6314, fax

**CITY OF KAKTOVIK, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 17-08**

**A RESOLUTION TO CALL ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO  
CONSIDER THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF KAKTOVIK AND  
THE WILDLIFE ON DECISIONS REGARDING THE OPENING OF THE COASTAL  
PLAIN OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (ANWR) AND  
THE BEAUFORT SEA TO OIL AND GAS DRILLING**

WHEREAS, the arctic coastal plain and the Beaufort Sea have been the home of the Inupiat people of Kaktovik, providing safety, sustenance, and traditional lifestyle, AND for which we have been the rightful custodian and guardian since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, You have taken from the people of Kaktovik our lands and our rights to create the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge without our consent and have promised to protect and guard these lands and wildlife (Porcupine Caribou Herd, Central Arctic Caribou Herd, Polar Bear, Grizzly Bear, Wolverine, Gray Wolf, Dall Sheep, Bowhead Whale, Beluga Whale, Bearded Seal, Ringed Seal, critical fish stocks, Snowy Owl, Geese, Eider Ducks, and other waterfowl that need these lands to continue to exist) but now threaten both with development; and

WHEREAS, While the outcry of the people of Kaktovik may seem minuscule and non-existent, we believe our voice to be more relevant than that of all government or business entities, as the arctic coastal plain and the Beaufort Sea has always been our home; and

WHEREAS, we, the rightful residents of Kaktovik, have concerns regarding the opening of ANWR. We will feel the negative impact of development, the loss of our way of life, the loss of our healthy source of subsistence, and the loss of health due to cumulative negative impacts of drilling on the environment; and

WHEREAS, we feel that our future generations will not be able to hunt and gather food on our now traditional lands; how we harvest along the coast will be displaced like the caribou; and



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WHEREAS, our people are divided over the opening of ANWR for oil & gas drilling on land, but stand united in strong **OPPOSITION** to any offshore oil & gas activity and development; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's recent inclusion of subsistence whaling deferral areas (specifically, the Kaktovik Whaling Area) in its 2019-2024 OCS Draft Proposed Program has materially demonstrated a complete disregard and disrespect for the due process of protecting the cultural and human rights of the Inupiat community of Kaktovik;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Kaktovik has no choice but to see all arctic oil and gas programs proposed by the US Department of the Interior— offshore and onshore— as a hostile process being imposed by government agencies acting in bad faith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Inupiat cultural rights and human rights issues of land, native allotments, health, and safety must be addressed and resolved as a prerequisite to any oil and gas development plans or actions, and we further require all financial, technical and human resources to mitigate the impacts of such planning and development and to assist in improving the health and welfare of our community.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on this 13th Day of February, 2018 at a duly called City of Kaktovik city council meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City of Kaktovik Mayor, Nora Jane Burns

ATTEST:



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City of Kaktovik Acting City Clerk, Fred Tagarook, Jr.