

FOR RELEASE
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Statement from the Governments of Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin on the signing of the United States tax bill, which affects the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Governments of Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin today released the following statement:

"We are saddened by the news that the United States has signed into law their tax reform bill, which allows for drilling lease sales in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This goes against the spirit of the Canada-U.S. Agreement on Porcupine caribou herd conservation.

"For almost 30 years, our governments and people have joined together to protect the Porcupine caribou calving grounds within the coastal plain. This remarkable herd has sustained communities across the northwest Arctic for millennia by providing an integral food source and way of life.

"So many have stood alongside the Gwich'in Peoples from across Canada and the United States. We recognize and thank all those who have been so passionate in their advocacy to keep the herd safe. We encourage you to continue those efforts.

"Traditional and scientific knowledge will be at the forefront of our efforts as we endeavor to make sure a Canadian voice is heard during the U.S. regulatory process. We will not lose sight of the importance of the Porcupine caribou herd and will keep them at the heart of our work."

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