



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

JUN 13 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Bob Rae".

Dear Premier:

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2017, regarding a motion from the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly regarding the protection of the Porcupine caribou herd on the Alaskan coastal plain and for noting that the Government of the Northwest Territories previously supported calls to protect the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

As you know, the Government of Canada strongly advocates for continued protection of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge and the Porcupine caribou herd. The joint advocacy events, led by the Canadian embassy in Washington on November 6-7, 2017, provided a unified Canadian message, opposing drilling in this critical area that is the calving grounds. The participation of Grand Chief Bobbie-Jo Greenland-Morgan at that time was very much appreciated, and I look forward to her further engagement on this issue. The recent passage of the tax bill by the U.S. Congress does not mean our efforts have ceased; rather, we have shifted our efforts to the U.S. administration, namely the Department of the Interior, where responsibility now lies for performing environmental assessments and meaningful consultation. I know our embassy staff is working diligently to provide facts and arguments to administration officials who will be involved in these critical next steps.

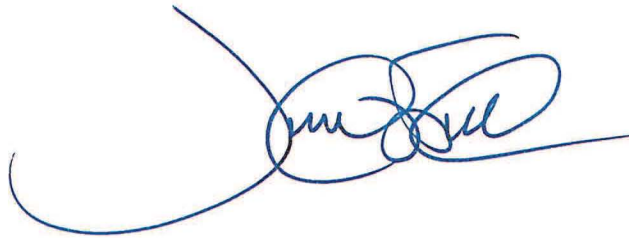
The Honourable Robert R. McLeod
Premier of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Legislative Assembly Building
2nd Floor
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2L9

Our officials will also continue to engage with U.S. counterparts as part of the International Porcupine Caribou Board, established under the 1987 *Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on the Conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd.*

The Government of Canada will continue to offer as much support as possible in trying to protect the herd and its habitat. I am thankful for your support in helping us maintain a united front to oppose development in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

I am forwarding, for their information, a copy of our exchange of correspondence to: Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and David MacNaughton, Ambassador of Canada to the U.S.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hill", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.