

Dear <NAME>,

We need your help!

Our families in Alaska are losing their homes and the resources they rely on to support their families and their communities.

NARF has been addressing the climate and environmental changes that are putting tribal peoples and their land and resources in jeopardy across the country.

In Alaska NARF attorney, Heather Kendall-Miller, is still spearheading the NARF Global Warming Project to help native people there live according to their traditions and protect the natural resources upon which they depend for food, shelter and income.

Heather reports that in recent years it has become evident that another, perhaps more impending threat to Alaska Native life ways looms because global climate changes are wreaking havoc on the Arctic causing loss of habitat and widespread erosion. Subsistence practices, too, are being threatened.

Upon learning that many villages along Alaska's coastline were eroding into the ocean, NARF's Alaska office took on the challenge of developing new litigation that would seek compensation from industry polluters for the cost of village relocation.

NARF, along with the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, plus six other law firms announced the filing of a suit against 24 Oil and Energy Companies for destruction caused by Global Warming.

The Native Village of Kivalina, which is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, and the City of Kivalina, which is an Alaskan municipality, filed the lawsuit on their own behalves and on behalf of all tribal members against defendants ExxonMobil Corp., Peabody Energy Corp., Southern Company, American Electric Power Co., Duke Energy Co, Chevron Corp., and Shell Oil Co., among others.

In total there are nine oil company defendants, fourteen electric power company defendants and one coal company defendant. The suit claims damages due to the defendant companies' contributions to global warming and invokes the federal common law of public nuisance.

A tiny and impoverished Alaskan village of Inupiat Eskimos located in the Arctic Circle, Kivalina, filed a lawsuit against industrial corporations that emit large quantities of greenhouse gases. Kivalina faces looming destruction from global warming due to the melting of sea ice that formerly protected the village from coastal storms during the fall and winter.

The diminished sea ice due to global warming has caused a massive erosion problem that threatens the village's existence and urgently requires the village to be moved.

The case seeks relocation of Kivalina in order to protect against total destruction. Kivalina residents will be forced to eventually leave their traditional homeland due to the negative impact of global warming on their community. The suit also alleges a conspiracy by some defendants to mislead the public regarding the causes and consequences of global warming.

Kivalina Eskimos rank among our nation's poorest people. Their subsistence activities provide most food resources from seal, walrus, whale, salmon, whitefish and caribou.

Kivalina hunters engage in spring whaling from leads that develop in the sea ice. The Native craft industry includes carvings and jewelry produced from ivory and caribou hooves.

Now, the effects of global warming are placing their very lives in danger.

The defense of Alaska Native rights has been a long-standing priority for NARF. With a satellite office in Anchorage, Alaska we represented Alaska Native Tribes for over two decades using negotiation and litigation to protect tribal sovereignty and traditional subsistence practices.

Respectfully,

John E. Echohawk
Executive Director

P.S. Please share this letter with your family members and friends and encourage them to sign up for our E-Action Network at www.narf.org. Together, we can make a difference in our world!
Thank you!