

Dear xxxnamexxx,

You may not think that climate changes have much to do with the Native American Rights Fund's mission to assert and defend the rights of Indian tribes, organizations and individuals . . . but they do.

With environmental shifts wreaking havoc around the world, our attorney, Heather Kendall-Miller, continues to work tirelessly on the NARF Global Warming Project, beginning with Alaska.

In recent years scientists have documented melting ocean ice, rising oceans, rising river temperatures, thawing permafrost, increased insect infestations, animals at risk and dying forests.

Alaska Natives are the peoples who rely most on Alaska's ice, seas, marine mammals, fish and game for nutrition and customary and traditional subsistence uses.

They are experiencing some of the most adverse impacts of global warming. For the past several years, during the Alaska Forum on the Environment, Alaska Native participants described increased forest fires, more dangerous hunting, fishing and traveling conditions, visible changes in animals and plants, infrastructure damage from melting permafrost and coastal erosion, fiercer winter storms, and pervasive unpredictability.



Native Americans like Ayita and her family - who have always lived off the land and treated it with the utmost respect – still rely on these resources for their existence and sustenance.

Virtually every aspect of traditional Alaska Native life is impacted.

Indigenous peoples are reporting that sea ice is declining, and its quality and timing are changing, with important negative repercussions for marine hunters. Others are reporting that salmon are diseased and cannot be dried for winter food.

Widespread concern grows about caribou habitat diminishing as larger vegetation moves northward. Because of these and other dramatic changes, traditional knowledge is jeopardized, as are cultural structures and the nutritional needs of Alaska's indigenous peoples.

To address these life-threatening issues, NARF successfully gathered 162 Tribal and Corporate Resolutions calling on Congress and the Executive Office to adopt legislation reducing carbon emissions.

Thanks to the support of concerned people like you NARF is able helping Native Americans faced with dire living consequences, not only in Alaska but throughout the lower 48 states.

Without laws and codes intact, tribes cannot continue to live according to their Native traditions, enforce their treaty rights, or protect and control the natural resources upon which they depend for food, shelter and income.

That's why we need to fight as hard and as long as we can with all the resources we've got. Because we are privately funded, we truly rely on the generosity of caring individuals like you to address all the cases we are representing.

Your commitment is vital to our ability to continue to fight to preserve, not on our country's past, but its future.

Sincerely,

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 to read about periodic case updates, calls-to-action, and information on special events and other activities.