

# ***Letters to the Editor***

## **Stipulations for ANWR drilling**

Dear Editor:

I read your June 21, 1995, article with Mr. Jeff Richardson, entitled, "AFN Board Votes for Arctic Refuge Oil Drilling" (pages 1 and 10), and I would like to suggest that the Gwich'in Athabaskan communities explore three (3) measures to safeguard their interests:

1) stipulate that the oil drilling companies set aside 2% of their gross income into a mutual fund that will help the Gwich'in Athabascans to deal with the long-term consequences of disrupting their homeland, such as the eventual loss in wildlife;

2) link arms with the environmental protection groups to periodically

review how the Athabaskan homeland is being affected by oil drilling and by supportive oil drilling activities, with the assistance of unbiased University of Alaska biologists, to make public concerns about the effects to the environment, and to file financial penalties and oil drilling shutdowns whenever there is negligence and violations to the environment or whenever negative consequences to the wildlife and the land are observed; and

3) have a team of attorneys study and establish the rights of the Gwich'in Athabascans to their aboriginal environment in order to show what would be

equivalent rewards to irretrievably damaged environment and wildlife, in order to obligate the oil drilling companies to pay for, maintain and run community clinics and hospitals, public schools and community colleges, airfields, alcohol and drug rehabilitation program centers, and decent housing with running water and sewage system.

Seeing that the AFN has yielded to the pressure of politicians to drill in the backyard of the Athabascans, it is a matter of time before the petroleum companies start drilling with such "blessing." If these giant corporations are interested in seriously profiting their stockholders, these three measures are reasonable.

Sincerely,  
Allen R. Walunga