

# PERSPECTIVES IV

## NATIVE ALASKAN PERSPECTIVES

ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE IS HOME TO THE INUPIAQ INUIT (ESKIMO) PEOPLE. ONE OF THE FEW CITIES WITHIN ANWR, KAKTOVIK, HAS A POPULATION OF ABOUT 250 PEOPLE. ROUGHLY 85% OF THEM ARE INUPIAQ. IN A RECENT POLL TAKEN BY THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF KAKTOVIK, 78% OF THE RESPONDENTS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED THAT THE COASTAL PLAIN OF ANWR SHOULD BE OPENED TO OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT. OBVIOUSLY, MANY INUPIAQ – WHO HAVE A TRADITION OF LIVING CLOSELY WITH NATURE – BELIEVE THAT THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF ANWR DEVELOPMENT OUTWEIGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS. IN THE ASSIGNED READING, YOU'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW THIS PERSPECTIVE DEVELOPED.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THERE ARE, NEVERTHELESS, STRONG OPINIONS AGAINST ANWR DEVELOPMENT AMONG OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ALASKAN ARCTIC, PARTICULARLY THE GWICH'IN OF NORTHEAST ALASKA WHO DEPEND ON THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD FOR THEIR SUBSISTENCE. READ THEIR PERSPECTIVE AT [THIS LINK](#). IN CLASS, WE'LL DISCUSS HOW SUCH DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES AFFECT THE POLITICAL CLIMATE SURROUNDING THE DEBATE OVER ANWR DEVELOPMENT.