

1 COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

3 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

4
5 Taken May 30, 2018
6 Commencing at 4:30 p.m.

7 Pages 1 - 176, inclusive

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9 Taken at
10 Dena'ina Center
11 600 West 7th Avenue
12 Anchorage, Alaska

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20 Reported by:
21 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

For United States Department of Interior, Lands and Minerals Management:

Joe Balash
Assistant Secretary

Kate MacGregor
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Steve Wackowski
Senior Advisor of Alaska Affairs

For United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management:

Ted Murphy
Associate State Director

Nicole Hayes
Project Manager

For United States Department of Interior, Department of Fish & Wildlife Service:

Greg Siekaniec
Alaska Regional Director

Steve Berendzen
Arctic Refuge Manager

Hollis Twitchell
Natural Resource Specialist

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2

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A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S (Continued)

4 For EMPSI:

5

Chad Ricklefs
Project Manager

6

7

David Batts
Principal

8

John King
Principal

9

10

Molly McCarter
Planner

11

Lindsay Chipman
Biologist

12

13

Andy Spellmeyer
Planner

14

Taken by:

15

Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

16

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BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken

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at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before

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Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary

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Public within and for the State of Alaska.

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. DAVID BATTS: All right. Welcome. On
3 behalf of the Department of Interior and the Bureau of
4 Land Management, I'd like to welcome you to the third
5 public scoping meeting on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas
6 Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement. You might
7 also hear us refer to that as an EIS as the acronym. I
8 greatly appreciate your time this evening. I know that
9 everybody has other commitments that they would probably
10 much rather be doing than sitting in a meeting hall this
11 evening, but I appreciate your time and effort to be here
12 with us.

13 Before we get started, I have just a few logistical
14 announcements. First and foremost, if you have any
15 questions, if you need anything, you need assistance,
16 please look for staff with name tags. We will be happy to
17 accommodate you and get you steered in the right
18 direction. Restrooms, we have two set of restrooms right
19 over here to the right-hand side, and then if you are
20 outside of the meeting hall there are restrooms at the far
21 end.

22 If we need to vacate the building, you can either go
23 out the main doors that we came in and the other side
24 doors. There is also emergency exits to the right.

25 You're welcome to come and go as you need, but please

1 do be respectful of others around you. If you leave the
2 secure area, you will have to go back through the metal
3 detectors again and show with your bags.

4 This room is big. It does pick up noise very easily,
5 so please, no sidebar conversations. If you just make
6 those conversations or any cell phone conversations out in
7 the main lobby, we would appreciate that.

8 You will notice that there are a few cameras around
9 the room. This meeting is being live streamed all around
10 the globe right now via the Internet. It will also be
11 posted on the BLM website probably by next week so that
12 you could also view the recorded version of it, also.

13 This evening we have a very simple agenda. We are
14 going to have brief introductions. We will have a
15 PowerPoint presentation giving the general overview about
16 the proposed Project, and then we will move into public
17 comment. And that is why we are here tonight.

18 We do have a number of stations at the rear of the
19 room that we hope you have taken a chance to view. We
20 have some posters back there explaining different aspects
21 of the project. In addition and probably most
22 importantly, we have a comment station where you can go
23 and fill out your comments electronically directly on the
24 website if you so choose.

25 When you came in, there is a table with some

1 handouts. There is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation
2 that we will be going through. You are welcome to take
3 that. We have a one-page front-and-back handout
4 describing the coastal plain oil and gas leasing program
5 EIS. And then most importantly we have the comment card.
6 This comment card you can use tonight. You are welcome to
7 fill it out. And we have a couple of different boxes
8 scattered throughout the room. You can just drop them in
9 there. If you have written comments that you brought with
10 you, you can also leave those in the box.

11 There is many other ways to provide your comments,
12 including via the email, through a website. Mailing it in
13 the old-fashioned way is also accepted. So please take a
14 stack of them if you would like to distribute them to
15 friends, colleagues, et cetera.

16 So with that, I'm going to stop and turn it over to
17 Joe Balash. He is with the Department of Interior,
18 Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management.

19 Joe.

20 MR. JOE BALASH: Good afternoon. For
21 those of you who don't know, my name is Joe Balash. I am
22 a 30-year resident of Alaska, currently dispatched to D.C.
23 to serve at the Department of the Interior. And it is a
24 great privilege and honor for me to be able to oversee
25 this process.

1 The NEPA process really is meant to serve two primary
2 functions: That's to inform the public as well as
3 decisionmakers as to the effects and consequences of a
4 proposed action, as well as any alternative approaches to
5 accomplish the same goal and what those impacts might look
6 like in the alternative.

7 So the phase of the NEPA process we are in now,
8 scoping, is where we try to gather as many points of view
9 and points of input about the kinds of impacts that we
10 should be looking at when assembling the draft EIS
11 document.

12 As part of the effort here, there are a number of
13 people participating, a number of agencies participating.
14 And a few of them are represented up here with me this
15 afternoon. To my right is Steve Wackowski. He is the
16 Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs to Secretary Ryan
17 Zinke. On down the line we have got Kate MacGregor. She
18 is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Lands and
19 Minerals Management. She works with me in Washington.
20 Next to her is Greg Siekaniec, the Alaska Regional
21 Director for Fish & Wildlife Service. They are a
22 cooperating agency in this endeavor.

23 And skipping a seat there is the Associate State
24 Director for BLM Alaska, Ted Murphy. And at the very end
25 is Nicole Hayes. She's the project manager for this EIS,

1 and so she's going to be a very, very busy person for the
2 next while.

3 You know, being from Alaska, this being my home,
4 having worked in resource management for many years, I
5 know that we here in Alaska have a lot of things that we
6 have seen, done, and improved upon in the decades that we
7 have been engaged in oil and gas development on the North
8 Slope. There are some things that are very unique to the
9 coastal plain, things -- and characteristics that we need
10 to take into account.

11 So the kind of best practices and stipulations that
12 need to be developed for this particular area are going to
13 be very important to the ultimate success here of being
14 able to strike a balance between exploration and
15 preservation of the things that make the coastal plain so
16 very special, as well as the fish and wildlife resources
17 that people in the communities depend upon.

18 So I know that for the Secretary and myself, it is
19 critical that we strike the appropriate balance as we go
20 through this process. And I know that everybody in this
21 room cares passionately about the issues, whether you are
22 in favor or opposed. And that passion is a good thing.
23 It's what makes all of us tick.

24 And the one thing that I would ask is that we -- we
25 express ourselves in a manner that is constructive and

1 respects the viewpoints of folks who don't necessarily see
2 things the same way as us. So I know that that can be
3 done because Fairbanks is a pretty rowdy place, and we
4 escaped last night without -- without any really harsh
5 rhetoric or comments and no name calling. So that was
6 good.

7 At this point, I want to turn it over to Nicole.
8 She's going to walk us through some slides that will
9 describe in a little more detail what the EIS process is
10 about and some of the unique things about doing an EIS in
11 Alaska that are different because of ANILCA. And then we
12 are going to move into some comments from individuals who
13 are representative of other groups. We wanted to make
14 sure that we accommodate the full spectrum out of the
15 chute here, and then we will open it up for the general
16 public, as will.

17 So with that, Nicole, I'll turn it over to you.

18 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you, Joe. As he
19 said, my name's Nicole Hayes, and I'm the project manager
20 for this Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS.
21 I'm going to go through the agenda, what we are doing here
22 today.

23 And apologize for those that have been at other
24 meetings. It's the same slide show. Nothing has changed.

25 We're here because of the coastal plain oil and gas

1 leasing requirement that was in the Tax Act. And I'll go
2 over that a little bit. I'm going to go over agency
3 responsibilities, what the NEPA process is, what -- how
4 subsistence and ANILCA Section 810 process that's into the
5 NEPA process and, most importantly, how to participate.

6 So on December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of
7 2017 was enacted. This -- you will hear us refer to it as
8 the Tax Act, but this Tax Act had requirements under
9 Section 200001, which requires the Secretary of the
10 Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, to
11 administer an oil and gas leasing program in a manner
12 similar to what was done in NPR-A under the Naval
13 Petroleum Reserve's Production Act of 1976.

14 There are several other requirements within the Tax
15 Act. BLM is also required to hold not -- not fewer than
16 two lease sales within the 1002 area that's identified
17 here on this map. This map is also referenced in the Tax
18 Act, and it refers to the 1002 area as the coastal plain
19 area. This area covers about 1.6 million acres of the
20 19.3 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
21 And the requirements are that two lease sales be held, the
22 first one within four years of enactment of the act, and
23 the second one within seven years. Each lease sale shall
24 offer no fewer than 400,000 acres at the highest potential
25 hydrocarbon areas.

1 The agency's responsibilities for the coastal plain
2 leasing EIS are the BLM, us. We are responsible for the
3 EIS. We are the lead federal agency. We are responsible
4 for the leasing program, and we will be responsible for
5 holding and having the lease sales. Fish & Wildlife
6 Service administers the surface of the Arctic National
7 Wildlife Refuge, and they are a cooperating agency.
8 Fairly, they are integral to this process because they are
9 the surface managers and they have a lot of resource
10 information regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

11 This slide here outlines the entire BLM oil and gas
12 leasing and development process. The top one is
13 highlighted and the little arrow pointing to it because
14 that's the phase where we are. We are focused on the
15 leasing phase, the EIS for this leasing program, the sales
16 and lease issuance.

17 Separate and subsequent activities would require
18 separate NEPA analysis, but they are part of the overall
19 oil and gas leasing and development process. They include
20 the geophysical exploration pre and post lease, APDs, or
21 applications for permit to drill, which include the drill
22 and exploration and the development, operations and
23 production, inspection and enforcement and reclamation.

24 Again, the Tax Act does have a requirement that the
25 Secretary shall offer up to 2,000 acres of surface

1 development, but any proposal for surface disturbance
2 would require a separate NEPA analysis. And while we will
3 analyze a reasonably foreseeable development scenario
4 within the lease and the EIS, there is going to be no
5 activities, no surface disturbance authorized as a result
6 of it.

7 This slide shows the NEPA process. It's -- we call
8 it NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act. And I'll
9 just quickly walk through it. The project requirement was
10 initiated with the passing or the enactment of the tax
11 act. So that -- either a project proponent applies for an
12 activity which will initiate the NEPA process or, as in
13 this case, the enactment of the Tax Act.

14 On April 20, 2018, BLM issued the Notice of Intent
15 stating that we intended to do an Environmental Impact
16 Statement for the leasing program, and that initiated the
17 scoping period. We started with a 60-day scoping period,
18 which goes to June 19, 2018. That's the period we are in
19 now. That's why we're here. And it's a very important
20 part of the process because this is the opportunity to
21 provide input into what we should be analyzing in the EIS,
22 issues and concerns. It helps inform our alternatives
23 development.

24 Once the scoping period closes, we have a scoping
25 report, and that informs the development of the draft EIS.

1 The draft EIS goes out for public comment. That's another
2 really important period. It's a comment period for the
3 public to provide input. Once that input is received,
4 then we address those comments, publish the final EIS, and
5 then sign a Record of Decision and hold a lease sale.
6 Again, the two main points here where there is public
7 involvement are the scoping period and when the draft EIS
8 is published. But there is other opportunities for input.
9 We do government-to-government consultation throughout the
10 process, and so we are receiving ongoing input through
11 that process. And I'll talk about ANILCA 810 in just a
12 second.

13 So this slide shows subsistence and ANILCA Section
14 810 and how it fit into the NEPA process. It's separate
15 from NEPA, but it's a really important component. It's
16 done concurrently. ANILCA, for those who don't know,
17 stands for the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
18 Act. You will hear us refer to it as ANILCA. Section 810
19 requires federal agencies to consider impacts of their
20 actions, including leasing, in an evaluation of
21 subsistence uses.

22 So as you see on the slide up there, the initial 810
23 evaluation is appended to the draft EIS, and it's based
24 off of information within the draft EIS document.

25 If the initial evaluation made significantly

1 restricts subsistence uses, subsistence hearings are held.
2 And those subsistence hearings are separate from the
3 public comment meetings for the draft EIS, but they are
4 usually held, like, the same day. The public comment
5 meeting would adjourn for the draft EIS and then the
6 subsistence hearing would be held. They are concurrent,
7 but they are separate.

8 And once that subsistence hearing is held, the
9 information that is provided during that hearing is used
10 to inform the final determination, which is then appended
11 to the final EIS.

12 So the decisions that we have to make for the leasing
13 program are the alternatives, the lease sale tracts that
14 we should offer for sale, lease stipulations and best
15 management practices. This is really important, again,
16 for the scoping process. Things that we want to hear from
17 the public and we want to know from you: What are your
18 concerns about the specific resources or resource and why?
19 Do you know of geographic areas of concern for a specific
20 resource? And provide us those details. Is there
21 important information in your community that we should be
22 aware of that will help inform our decision making? Do
23 you have recommendations for stipulations or best
24 management practices? All of that information will
25 greatly inform the development of the draft EIS.

1 To date, we have one, two, three, four -- seven
2 cooperating agencies: Fish & Wildlife Service, EPA, the
3 State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough, the Native
4 Village of Venetie Tribal Government, Venetie Village
5 Council and Arctic Village Council. We had one additional
6 one yesterday which was the EPA, so this slide has changed
7 since the initial presentation last week, and we have
8 added four more.

9 Cooperating agencies are agencies that have
10 jurisdiction by law or they have specialized expertise.
11 They are really critical in development of the EIS, too,
12 because they help inform the information that they have
13 and provide the expertise in development of the EIS and
14 the alternatives.

15 This is the tentative schedule that we are on. The
16 Notice of Intent went out April 20th. The scoping period
17 is set to close June 19th. This summer we will be
18 developing alternatives, evaluating environmental
19 consequences and anticipate publishing a draft EIS by this
20 fall.

21 If we publish a draft EIS this fall, then it would go
22 out for public review in the fall and winter. We revise
23 that EIS based on the public feedback we receive, and then
24 the final EIS would go out in the spring with a Record of
25 Decision being signed in the spring or summer of 2019.

1 And then once the Record of Decision is signed, we would
2 have a lease sale.

3 We have already had a couple scoping meetings. We
4 were in Arctic Village last week. We were in Fairbanks
5 yesterday, Anchorage today. We will be in Utqiagvik
6 tomorrow, Venetie on June 12th, Kaktovik later that
7 evening, and then Washington, D.C. on June 15th. We are
8 live streaming today's meeting, and we live streamed
9 yesterday's, as well.

10 Another important thing to remember is how to provide
11 comments. We are taking public testimony today. If you
12 don't get an opportunity to speak and you want to provide
13 comment, please, we have computers in the back over on the
14 side. You could provide your comments online today. We
15 have forms around the room that you could fill out and
16 submit in the box, or you could email or mail your
17 comments to the addresses on this paper. We have some
18 handouts in the back with this information on it, as well.

19 And thank you. Now we will be taking the
20 predesignated speakers.

21 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you, Nicole. All
22 right. Now, for the most important part of the meeting,
23 and that is the public scoping process. Again, my name is
24 David Batts. I'm with the EMPSI. We are the consulting
25 firm helping to collect your comments through the scoping

1 process. My job tonight is really twofold. First and
2 foremost it's to make sure that your voice is heard and
3 your comments are incorporated into the EIS process. In
4 addition to the verbal comments, I want to stress again
5 there is many opportunities to get your comments to us
6 through different mediums. Again, pick up the public
7 scoping comment form. All the information is on there.

8 My job is also to make sure that we are able to
9 conduct this meeting in a civil and inclusive manner. All
10 comments are very, very important to us.

11 Please remember that it can be very stressful and
12 uncomfortable to present in front of a large audience.
13 Therefore, we'd like to have a few ground rules to move
14 forward. Please be respectful of each other and diverse
15 opinions. It's, of course, okay to disagree, but personal
16 attacks will not be tolerated. I request that we also
17 don't have any clapping or jeering, anything that might
18 make people feel uncomfortable. Besides being rude, it's
19 also going to take up valuable time, and we want to make
20 sure we can accommodate as many speakers as possible this
21 evening.

22 And again, if you have any special needs, please let
23 us know and we will make sure that we can accommodate
24 those.

25 As mentioned before, this is a scoping meeting in

1 support of the EIS. It's the first step in a long
2 process. And we are looking for substantive comments that
3 help provide data and information to inform the analysis
4 that will be going into the EIS.

5 Again, we will take all the scoping information that
6 we receive, analyze it and prepare a scoping report that
7 will be available for your review this summer.

8 I'd like to introduce one of the most important
9 people in this room, Mary Vavrik. She is our court
10 reporter. This meeting is being recorded for a transcript
11 in addition to the live streaming. In that realm, I ask a
12 few favors. The court reporter needs to be able to see
13 our speakers. That's why we have our microphones aimed
14 directly at Mary. Please speak into the microphones.
15 Speak slowly and clearly.

16 And if you have written testimony that you are
17 reading from, if you can leave a copy with us this
18 evening, we would appreciate it. You can just bring it up
19 and put it right on Mary's desk. If you are reading off
20 of your phone and you have something that you can email,
21 please let one of our assistants know and we will give you
22 her email address and you can email it directly to her.

23 We want to accommodate as many people as possible
24 this evening, so we have two speaking groups that we will
25 be going through. We will be having our prearranged

1 speakers that include elected government officials and
2 selected representatives from different groups. If you
3 are a prearranged speaker, you should probably already
4 know that. Please go ahead and move on down to the front
5 rows.

6 Then we will move into the public speaking. Public
7 speakers, if you are interested in speaking, please be
8 sure you grab a comment card at the back of the room.
9 That's how we will move forward with the public speaking
10 process. Keep that card with you at all times, as that's
11 what we will use to reference and get you up in front of
12 the comments.

13 We are asking that folks please keep your comments
14 within the time frames. We are asking our prearranged
15 speakers to please stay within five minutes. For the
16 public, we would request that you stay within three
17 minutes. Last night we were, unfortunately, unable to
18 accommodate all the people that wanted to speak. This
19 venue closes tonight at 10:00. We have to be out of the
20 venue, broken down with all of our equipment out of here
21 by 10:00. So that's why on the agenda we have the meeting
22 ending at 9:00. If we run over a little bit, that's not
23 going to be a problem, but obviously we want to be able to
24 accommodate as many people.

25 In that vein, what we are going to ask is that if you

1 are speaking, to try to cut down on the time limit, maybe
2 try to hit more of a two-minute mark and then we will have
3 a hard stop at around three minutes. If we end up having
4 extra time at the end of the evening, you are more than
5 welcome to come back up and continue any of your comments
6 at that point in time.

7 Wonderful. With that, I'd like to go ahead and begin
8 our prearranged speaking process. You will notice up on
9 the screen that we have a timer. This is here to help you
10 manage your time and know how much time is allotted. At
11 the end of it there will be a little chime, so don't get
12 startled if you hear some bells playing. That's just a
13 reminder that your time is up.

14 So first we're going to start with Andy Mack, please.
15 We are going to go -- Mary, would you like it on
16 microphone No. 2? Is that going to be the easiest?

17 COURT REPORTER: Either one.

18 MR. DAVID BATTS: Either microphone.

19 Andy, please.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDY MACK: We ready?

21 MR. DAVID BATTS: Absolutely.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDY MACK: Thank you. First
23 of all, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Andy
24 Mack. I am the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of
25 Natural Resources. I'm here to testify on behalf of the

1 State of Alaska today.

2 First of all, I'd like to thank the group here that's
3 in front of us, Mr. Balash, Mr. Wackowski, Kate, for being
4 here and for holding six hearings in Alaska. We
5 appreciate you taking extensive time here in our state to
6 listen to the views, the hopes and also the concerns of
7 Alaskans.

8 The State of Alaska supports leasing in the 1002
9 areas of the ANWR. I'd like to briefly touch on three
10 topics which I think bear on the decision and the way we
11 move forward in this process. One is the history and how
12 we got here. Two is Alaska's outstanding 40-year record
13 of responsible development. And third is the importance
14 of ANWR to Alaska's continuing economy.

15 First of all, the history. In 1971 U.S. Congress
16 took up and passed ANCSA to address the rights and land
17 claims of the Alaska Native people. In the decade
18 following, we worked to reconcile the promise and
19 opportunity of statehood, the newly created Alaska Native
20 corporations, the beginning of Alaska's oil boom, and the
21 role of federal management in our sovereign state. These
22 discussions led to another piece of landmark compromise,
23 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. This
24 legislation served to finalize the allocation of lands in
25 Alaska to be managed for conservation while importantly

1 guaranteeing the residents of Alaska rights to access and
2 use of the land for hunting, fishing, recreation and
3 resource development.

4 It is very important to remember that ANILCA doubled
5 the size of the United States' national park system,
6 doubled the size of the national refuge system, tripled
7 the amount of land designated as federal wilderness. Also
8 the legislation protected the rights of Alaskans to
9 develop our economy through the use and safe development
10 of our abundant natural resources.

11 Regarding the coastal plain specifically, Congress
12 made a compromise in ANILCA that allowed a small area in
13 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to be studied for oil
14 and gas leasing. The coastal plain was to be studied for
15 its petroleum potential, environmental qualities, with the
16 expectation of Alaskans that there would be safe
17 development to follow.

18 These provisions are obviously found in Section 102
19 of ANILCA. Alaska is uniquely founded on resource use and
20 development, and the 1002 area is a critical piece of the
21 compromise that continues the formation of our state. We
22 view the different interests as part of the balance that
23 continues to make our Alaskan way of life possible in our
24 ever-changing world.

25 Today Alaskans continue to hunt caribou and

1 participate in traditional whaling activities, subsistence
2 fishing, while also pursuing careful development to
3 strengthen the state and create opportunities for all of
4 our residents. The state has demonstrated that wildlife
5 and environmental protection can be achieved by working
6 closely with local leaders, community organizations and
7 others on how best to develop our abundant resources.

8 Importantly, the state has an incredibly successful
9 track record of responsible development in the very Arctic
10 that we are talking about, where healthy caribou herds
11 continue to thrive.

12 I'd like to talk about two prime examples where we
13 have worked with federal agencies and companies here in
14 Alaska. The two most recent developments that I want to
15 discuss are CE-5, which was a ConocoPhillips project on
16 the edge of the National Petroleum Reserve. It serves as
17 an example of modern development in the Arctic.

18 First of all, the entire development has under eight
19 acres of surface disturbance. Secondly, impacts are
20 managed through the use of stipulations and required
21 operating procedures. There is no air travel to the drill
22 pad. There is limited surface transportation. The
23 impacts to water movement -- surface water, that is -- are
24 limited. And there are multiple mitigations in place for
25 waterfowl, caribou and marine mammals. We believe that

1 this serves as one of the prime examples of how we can
2 very safely and very responsibly develop in the Arctic.

3 The other example is even more recent than CE-5, and
4 it is Point Thomson. Point Thomson's total footprint is
5 under 250 acres. It is only accessed by water and air
6 year-round. In other words, there is no permanent road to
7 the facility. There is the facility, the pad.

8 The last thing I'd like to bring up is that
9 development in the 1002 is important because we are the
10 recipients of 50 percent of the royalty generated there.
11 I serve on the Board of Trustees for the Alaska Permanent
12 Fund, and we have made some critical decisions recently on
13 how to use our resources and to use our wealth to support
14 public education, to support public safety, to support
15 transportation and to support public health. It is
16 required and it is important that we be able to continue
17 to fund those efforts here in Alaska, and continued
18 contribution through development of oil is very important
19 to the state of Alaska.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. I'm going to
22 issue a blanket apology to all the speakers right now,
23 because I'm sure I'm not going to pronounce all the names
24 correctly. So please do come up, reintroduce yourself and
25 who your organization is.

1 Next speaker is Dana Tizya-Tramm.

2 MR. DANA TIZYA-TRAMM: Mahsi' Choo. My
3 name is Dana Tizya-Tramm. And I'm on council with the
4 Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation. And I would like to begin
5 my opening comments by first recognizing everybody in the
6 room and pay my respects. Each one of us were born in
7 this great continent. We come from families. We have
8 lived our lives. And now we find each other here today.
9 Whether we support or we not support, I first want to pay
10 my respects to everybody in the room. And I feel that
11 that's important.

12 And I'd like to contextualize this conversation a
13 little bit. I can get into the science, and I would love
14 to and I could go on for days and days. That's what I'm
15 paid to do. That's what I was born to do. But the truth
16 of the matter is is that every one of us here have the
17 best intentions. We are all human beings, and we believe
18 that in our hearts. But one piece of information that I'd
19 like to share with you is that each one of us here are
20 Gwich'in.

21 I am the Vuntut Gwich'in coming from the People of
22 the Many Lakes. When we first met the European settlers,
23 we called them the Chai Zhiit Gwich'in, which meant the
24 People of the Stone Houses; whereas, we were the People of
25 the Many Lakes. And I'd like to offer you that

1 partnership and respect no matter what the outcomes are
2 because we are dealing with things greater than us. And I
3 definitely feel that in my heart, as well. But I would
4 warn those and really state that this is a canary in a
5 coal mine because, as William Blake feverishly wrote his
6 letters before the turn of the century to the British
7 aristocrats that were formulating empiricism which
8 piggy-backed on guns, on germs, on steel, on rubber and
9 steam to create the Industrial Revolution, and his fate
10 sealed with the Rosa Park County ruling in Northern
11 California with the beginning of corporations, our
12 economies and these arguments do not have a heartbeat and
13 they do not have human imagination. This is how we can
14 have human beings organizing themselves under human
15 systems.

16 I understand economical arguments. I understand all
17 of the arguments, but Canada, the Gwich'in, all of our
18 partners stand by the science which has been established
19 from the '80s still to this day, and we stand against us
20 because even though it's only 2,000 acres on the surface,
21 that is our heart. And you are going to do surgery on our
22 heart.

23 Just like the air that you breathe, there is no way
24 to determine where a human being begins and the air ends,
25 the water that you carry in you, the way that the four

1 elements found a way to become you so that we could
2 experience each other today. And do not forget the heart
3 that beats in your chest is the genetic memory of the
4 ocean.

5 Our people have always known this. We are the people
6 of this land. And the caribou that run across bringing
7 together both of our countries, that is the blood that
8 runs across the Gwich'in body. That is us. The land is
9 us. And my people are still here after residential
10 schools, after everything that we have been through. And
11 we're here as what seems to be a faded memory of who we
12 all once were, a people of the land. And we know the laws
13 of nature that gave rise to all of us. And nature, it
14 banks on diversity and rewards cooperation.

15 We have always been strong partners with all of those
16 who have shaken hands with us, and no matter what comes
17 out of here, we will continue to offer strong partnerships
18 in Alaska, with First Nations, or anyone else because we
19 are not against development. We are for responsible
20 development. But from our elders to biologists going back
21 30 years, this is heart surgery. And it is the future of
22 my people that I must now squeeze into five minutes.

23 So I would like to make a formal request that not
24 only this scoping period be extended, but it also
25 encompass the thousands of people who cannot sleep at

1 night, the young children in my community at six years old
2 that come up to me and ask me why this is happening and if
3 we can talk to Donald Trump. The kids in the Gwich'in
4 communities, the children use crayons to draw pictures of
5 their caribou camps. This is their childhoods. This is
6 our future. The caribou carry all of our knowledge and
7 our teachings.

8 As party to the U.N. Declaration on Indigenous Rights
9 and the 1987 International Accord, please extend the
10 scoping period. Come to the Yukon Territory and
11 Whitehorse, and we will have all of our First Nations and
12 everyone gather so that we can further these conversations
13 and continue respectful dialogue.

14 Mahsi' Choo.

15 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Okay. Next speaker will
16 be Jason Alward.

17 MR. JASON ALWARD: Thank you, Department
18 of Interior, Fish & Wildlife and BLM officials for the
19 opportunity to speak today.

20 My name is Jason Alward, and I'm with the Operating
21 Engineers Local 302, and I'm very excited we are
22 discussing work in ANWR Section 1002. The Operating
23 Engineers represent over 3,000 people throughout the
24 state, primarily as heavy equipment operators and
25 heavy-duty mechanics. More specifically to the oil

1 sector, we represent 130 full-time positions on the
2 Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, and we average another 500
3 seasonal jobs on pipeline and oilfield support work.

4 ANWR is vital for Alaska and America to pursue energy
5 dominance and independence. From the U.S. Energy website
6 2017, when you look at the U.S. as a whole, we are
7 importing roughly 10,000,000 barrels a day while only
8 proceeding 6,000,000 barrels. When you look at USGS'
9 report that shows that this development can result in
10 seven- to 10,000,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil, this
11 project just makes sense.

12 Opening up ANWR will be very much like the Alaska
13 pipeline in the number of job opportunities -- jobs and
14 opportunities it can bring. And once again, we have the
15 opportunity to utilize another project labor agreement to
16 ensure that work and the jobs stay with Alaska's workers
17 and contractors to the largest extent possible. PLAs are
18 market-based project efficiency tools to ensure on-time,
19 on-budget results for construction projects. The PLA
20 model also promotes career training opportunities for
21 local residents, particularly women, minorities, and
22 veterans.

23 Hiring these people easily goes hand in hand with
24 apprenticeship training. Of the 110 people in Local 302's
25 apprenticeship program, 17 percent are female, 16 percent

1 are Alaska Native, 16 percent are veterans, and 13 percent
2 are made up of Black, Asian, American Indian, and
3 Hispanics combined.

4 Training our next generation workforce is achieved
5 through apprenticeship requirements. These training
6 expectations ensure for a safer and more confident
7 workforce with skills to perform sustainable jobs and a
8 career. Through the use of PLAs and apprenticeship
9 programs, we can build the workforce. For tomorrow we
10 need to plan for our energy independence. With low-cost
11 affordable energy found in ANWR, we can entice business to
12 set up shop here in America.

13 When you need projects to show the success of PLAs,
14 the following projects show results: Chugach Power Plant,
15 ML&P Power Plant in Anchorage, 24 projects totaling over
16 250 million dollars in Juneau, Missile Defense with
17 Bechtel at Fort Greely out of Fairbanks, and Healy power
18 Plant No. 2.

19 PLAs continue to be utilized by the profit-oriented
20 and the cost-conscious private sector because of one
21 paramount rationale: They work.

22 The leases, the development, the production of ANWR's
23 natural resources are vital to our future, and this
24 project can be done responsibly. With PLAs included in
25 this work, we can assure to the greatest extent possible

1 we will have qualified local contractors doing the work,
2 and we can also ensure the highest utilization of locals,
3 minorities and veterans that will be on the job.

4 In conclusion, I'd like to express my support for
5 ANWR leases in Section 1002 and the inclusion of PLAs and
6 apprentices on future developments.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

8 MR. DAVID BATTS: Our next speaker is
9 going to be Nicole Whittington-Evans.

10 MS. NICOLE WHITTINGTON-EVANS: Good
11 evening. My name is Nicole Whittington-Evans, and I am
12 the Alaska Regional Director of The Wilderness Society, or
13 TWS. Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak.

14 Our mission is to protect wilderness and inspire
15 Americans to care for our wild places. TWS has a long
16 history of working to protect the Arctic National Wildlife
17 Refuge, and I have personally worked to protect it for
18 over two decades. I have traveled to the Arctic Refuge
19 many times, with my first trip in 1991, and spent time in
20 Arctic Village, Venetie and Kaktovik and other Arctic
21 villages.

22 Our organization was founded in 1935 and one of our
23 early directors was Olaus Murie, a wildlife biologist who
24 studied Alaska caribou in the early 1920s for the U.S.
25 Bureau of Biological Services. He traveled throughout

1 what is now the Arctic Refuge, learning from and depending
2 upon Native people. He documented the extraordinary
3 wildlife values of the area, and he and his wife Mardy
4 Murie were instrumental in establishment of the Arctic
5 National Wildlife Range in 1960, which was later expanded
6 with the 1985 passage of ANILCA to become the Arctic
7 National Wildlife Refuge.

8 The Arctic Refuge is an amazing wild landscape of
9 more than 19,000,000 acres and is home to polar bears,
10 wolves, migratory birds, and the Porcupine caribou herd,
11 now numbering more than 200,000 animals. Oil and gas
12 drilling would have devastating impacts on this pristine
13 and fragile ecosystem because of the massive
14 infrastructure that would sprawl throughout the coastal
15 plain to extract and transport oil.

16 Drilling in the Arctic is dangerous. Chronic spills
17 of oil and other toxic substances onto the fragile tundra
18 and potentially its waterways would forever scar this now
19 pristine land and disrupt its wildlife. Oil and gas
20 drilling and accompanying air, water and noise pollution
21 would threaten the existence of wildlife and harm
22 indigenous peoples that rely on this ecosystem for
23 subsistence practices.

24 We do not need oil from the Arctic Refuge, and this
25 move is an overreach by industry advocates. The nation is

1 awash in oil from less expensive sources. We are
2 exporting oil to countries, and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
3 flow has been increasing since 2015.

4 BLM's proposed timeline for this EIS process is
5 unreasonable. The Arctic Refuge is not the place to
6 experiment on completing a short 150-page EIS in one year.
7 BLM should extend the scoping comment deadline by 60 days.

8 In preparing this leasing EIS, BLM must fully engage
9 and fulfill its responsibilities to Alaska Native tribes,
10 including the Gwich'in, with full consultation, accepting
11 tribes as cooperating agencies and a robust analysis of
12 impacts to subsistence.

13 BLM must fully consider and analyze treaty-based
14 ANILCA and National Environmental Policy Act obligations
15 to consider transboundary environmental, subsistence and
16 socioeconomic impacts of leasing the coastal plain.

17 BLM must honor its obligations under the 1987
18 international agreement with Canada for the conservation
19 of the Porcupine caribou herd, as well as treaty
20 obligations related to the conservation of polar bears and
21 migratory birds. The BLM must coordinate closely on these
22 issues with the Canadian government and First Nations.

23 As the agency with expertise in and jurisdiction over
24 refuge resources and management, Fish & Wildlife Service
25 must be intimately involved in the leasing EIS. BLM must

1 fully consider the original purposes of the Arctic Refuge,
2 which focus on preserving and protecting fish, wildlife,
3 habitat, subsistence, wilderness, recreation, and water
4 resources. The newly added purpose in the tax bill does
5 not render the other conservation purposes irrelevant.

6 The EIS must address all reasonably foreseeable
7 impacts associated with leasing, exploration, production
8 and reclamation of the coastal plain. It also must
9 reflect best available scientific information and
10 traditional and local knowledge and remedy critical gaps
11 in information and data.

12 BLM must fully analyze and consider a no-action
13 alternative that would maintain the ecological integrity
14 and fully preserve the socioeconomic and cultural values
15 of the coastal plain.

16 Among other resources, BLM must analyze the impacts
17 to wilderness, subsistence and human health, air quality,
18 caribou, with particular consideration of the narrow
19 coastal plain in the refuge bounded by mountains and the
20 Arctic Ocean, which leaves few, if any, alternatives for
21 displaced caribou during the summer calving and foraging
22 season; fish and hydrology, and a full economic analysis,
23 including the impact on our warming climate. Alaska's
24 North Slope is fast becoming a fully industrialized zone.
25 Protecting the Arctic Refuge coastal plain would be a

1 reasonable way to achieve balance in the Arctic.

2 TWS stands with the Gwich'in in advocating that the
3 Arctic Refuge remain protected. Wilderness, at its core,
4 is restraint from ourselves for ourselves. By leaving
5 some places in their unaltered and natural state, we as a
6 nation gain tremendous value.

7 With an intact Arctic Refuge, we ensure an Arctic
8 ecosystem with abundant subsistence resources, world class
9 recreational experiences, the mitigation of climate
10 impact, and the value of knowing that some places on our
11 planet are still truly wild. There is far more value to
12 the Arctic Refuge than the oil beneath it, and we have a
13 moral responsibility to preserve and protect it for future
14 generations.

15 Thank you very much for listening to me.

16 MR. DAVID BATTS: Our next speaker will be
17 Klint Van Wingerden.

18 MR. KLINT VAN WINGERDEN: Thank you for
19 this opportunity, and thank you for your comments so far.
20 Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the
21 development of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing
22 program Environmental Impact Statement. I am Klint Van
23 Wingerden. I'm an Operations Engineering Manager for
24 Alyeska Pipeline. I joined Alyeska in 2008 as an
25 electrical engineer and have held a number of positions in

1 the company since then, serving as automation supervisor,
2 oil movements engineering manager, and the Galbraith
3 maintenance base area manager.

4 I was born, raised and educated in Alaska with the
5 support of my immediate family and extended family through
6 the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. I'm
7 proud to work for an Alaska company.

8 As an Alaska Native, I'm Aleut with roots from my
9 mother's home village of Old Harbor, Alaska on Kodiak
10 Island. I have a long heritage working with Alaska to
11 provide a sustainable and comfortable home for my family.
12 My wife and I are now raising our own children here and
13 continuing to work hard to build a brighter future for
14 them in our great state.

15 I spend much time enjoying the many epic outdoor
16 activities Alaska has to offer, including competing in the
17 world's longest, toughest snowmobile race, the Iron Dog.
18 With Alyeska's support, I'm able to engage with the
19 community through opportunities like this, speaking to the
20 benefits of hard work, innovation and perseverance. I'm
21 both thankful and hopeful for the future here in our great
22 state.

23 I am representing Alyeska, the company that operates
24 and maintains the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System,
25 transporting crude oil from Alaska's North Slope to

1 Valdez, where it is shipped to market. The environmental
2 impact statement will consider and analyze the potential
3 impacts of various leasing alternatives.

4 According to the U.S. Geological Survey's most
5 conservative scenario, the coastal plain contains 5.7
6 billion barrels of oil, and production on the coastal
7 plain could top out at 560,000 barrels per day in 2039.
8 And the USGS mean estimate calls for 10.4 billion barrels
9 of oil, and production could peak at 880,000 barrels per
10 day in 2041. This is oil that would be transported
11 through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Therefore, it
12 is of particular interest and importance to the Alyeska
13 Pipeline Service Company.

14 TAPS has safely delivered crude oil to meet the
15 nation's energy needs for over 40 years. The ongoing
16 success of this existing infrastructure and its role to
17 the nation's energy security is directly tied to healthy
18 levels of Alaska crude oil production. At the peak of
19 Alaska's production in 1988, TAPS delivered 2.1 million
20 barrels of oil per day, transporting some 24 percent of
21 the nation's crude oil production.

22 We still have the capacity to deliver large volumes
23 of oil through TAPS every day. Unfortunately, TAPS
24 throughput has declined over the years. In 2017 the
25 pipeline averaged 527,323 barrels per day, which is still

1 about 6 percent of the nation's crude oil production.
2 Lower throughput levels creates serious challenges for
3 safe, long-term operation of TAPS. To keep the pipeline
4 operating safely while moving lower throughputs we have
5 made significant investments to reengineer and adapt the
6 pipeline. The changing hydraulic profile on TAPS has
7 triggered the replacement of our mainline pumps,
8 in-station pipe replacement, additional piping for
9 recirculation to heat the oil, added heat along the line,
10 additional pigging and additional pig launcher and
11 receivers.

12 We are confident in our handling of these and other
13 issues that have required significant attention and
14 considerable resources and investment. However, these
15 challenges will grow if throughput continues to decline.
16 The long-term solution to our operational challenge is for
17 more oil to be delivered into TAPS from the North Slope of
18 Alaska. Development of oil in the coastal plain would
19 play a vital role in that long-term solution.

20 As we focus on ensuring the nation continues to
21 benefit from the investment in the critical energy
22 infrastructure of TAPS over the next several decades, we
23 fully support environmentally responsible exploration and
24 development efforts that could result in increased
25 throughput into the pipeline. This includes efforts to

1 produce oil onshore, nearshore and offshore areas of the
2 North Slope of Alaska that would be delivered to the
3 American people through existing infrastructure that TAPS
4 provides.

5 As the Bureau analyzes leasing proposals for the
6 coastal plain, we ask that you consider the ongoing
7 benefit TAPS provides for our nation's energy policy and
8 the importance the energy resources in the coastal plain
9 may have to the pipeline's continued contribution to
10 Alaska's and the United States' energy and economic
11 security.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on
13 the preparation of the environmental impact statement for
14 the development of the coastal plain oil and gas leasing
15 program.

16 MR. DAVID BATTIS: The next speaker will be
17 Bernadette Dementieff.

18 MS. BERNADETTE DEMENTIEFF: (Speaking in
19 Alaskan indigenous language.) I'm here at the direction
20 of my elders on behalf of the Gwich'in Nation of Alaska
21 and Canada. The first Gwich'in gathering that was held in
22 over 100 years was in 1988, and our elders directed us to
23 do this in a good way. That's not always easy, with a
24 corrupt government. We have been fighting for years for
25 our way of life.

1 Gwich'in Steering Committee has resolutions with over
2 200 Alaskan organizations and tribes, including the
3 National Congress of American Indians, the Council of
4 Athabascan Tribal Governments and Tanana Chiefs
5 Conference.

6 Two out of three Americans opposing drilling in the
7 calving grounds. It's time that we start being heard and
8 you start listening to the American people and the First
9 Nations of this country. You need to really listen with
10 your hearts. Listen to our voices. Consider the animals
11 that are there that don't have a voice, the peoples whose
12 lives are forever going to change.

13 The prices of food there are extremely high. It's
14 \$20 for a can of coffee, \$40 for a steak. Three bananas
15 are \$12. We take care of ourself, and that's what our
16 food security does for us. What will your message be to
17 my people when we no longer hunt for our food security?
18 When an oil spill happens -- and mark my words it will --
19 the price of that is going to be more than we can endure.
20 Our animals will be poisoned, our land contaminated.

21 With 33 coastal communities that are dealing with
22 erosion, including the coastal plain, the smart thing to
23 do is update your science, accept local knowledge.

24 I see you just praise and speak so highly of
25 corporations; I agree with you with drilling. Why don't

1 you show that same with respect to my people, my elders
2 and my tribes? We are the one -- our voices are
3 important, too. For days you have been -- you have heard
4 of the damages that this will cause, but still you could
5 care less. You have been hearing from people from here in
6 Anchorage talking about they want drilling. But they are
7 the last people that will be affected. You need to listen
8 to the people in the northern communities that are going
9 to be affected, whose lives are going to change.

10 I know your minds are made up, and some of you could
11 care less and don't even care about me or my people at
12 all, but I will follow you at every meeting if I have to.
13 You need to understand that drilling in the calving
14 grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd is a direct attack
15 on the Gwich'in Nation and our culture and our way of
16 life. It may be the law now, but we will never give up
17 until the calving grounds is protected.

18 Our children, our future generation, they deserve to
19 see the world as it was in the beginning, not just when we
20 are done with it. So I just really ask you guys to please
21 just understand where we are coming from. We are real
22 people.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Our next
25 speaker will be Haley Johnston. We are going to move over

1 to microphone No. 2 until we get No. 1 fixed, please.

2 MS. HALEY JOHNSTON: Thank you for
3 allowing me the opportunity to speak here today. My name
4 is Haley Johnston. I'm a wilderness guide, Alaskan
5 resident, Anchorage homeowner, and the program manager of
6 an adventure travel business, Alaska Alpine Adventures.
7 For the past decade, I've had the great fortune to work
8 all over the state of Alaska, from Aniakchak National
9 Monument to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I'm also
10 an avid backpacker, skier, snowboarder, packrafter, and
11 trail runner.

12 Im lucky enough to have traveled to the refuge, not
13 just for work, but for personal trips, as well. And I
14 believe the coastal plain should be protected for its
15 importance to the Gwichin people, its recreational
16 opportunities, and its ecological value.

17 But Im here today to present an economic argument,
18 as well. At Alaska Alpine Adventures, I manage a seasonal
19 staff of 26 guides and support employees. Were part of
20 the small adventure travel niche of Alaskas outdoor
21 recreation economy. Annually, this sector employs over
22 72,000 people and contributes 7.3 billion dollars to the
23 States economy.

24 Tourism plays a huge role in Alaskas recreation
25 industry. According to the Alaska Visitors Statistics

1 Program, in summer 2016, over 1.8 million people visited
2 Alaska. On average, each visitor spent \$1,057 while in
3 state.

4 But Im not here to talk about big numbers. Id
5 rather talk about one particular guest of mine. His name
6 is Andrew, and he came to Alaska for the first time in
7 2015 to travel to the Arctic Refuge. I guided him on a
8 10-day backpacking trip, and he stayed in Fairbanks for
9 several days afterwards. In total, he spent roughly
10 \$7,000 on that trip. In 2016, he came back for a
11 self-guided trip in Southcentral Alaska. This year hell
12 be back for another guided trip. By the end of 2018,
13 Andrew will have spent \$20,000 visiting Alaska. That
14 first trip to the Arctic Refuge, with all of its splendid
15 scenery and abundant wildlife, is what hooked him on our
16 state.

17 So while the average visitor to the state may spend
18 just over \$1,000, Andrews experience illustrates that
19 visitors to the Arctic Refuge are significantly more
20 economically valuable than your average tourist. Andrew
21 represents a class of visitor that is well-educated,
22 environmentally conscious, and financially capable of
23 traveling literally anywhere they choose.

24 When national headlines in regards to Alaska are
25 dominated by news of pipelines, open pit mining, oil

1 spills and natural gas extraction, Alaskas brand as a
2 pristine tourism destination is degraded. Eventually,
3 environmentally conscious and economically impactful
4 visitors like Andrew may choose to go to British Columbia,
5 the Galapagos, or Costa Rica, destinations with greater
6 perceived environmental stewardship.

7 I realize that annual tourism and recreation spending
8 may not measure up to the inflated numbers thrown about by
9 the oil and gas industry for potential revenue from the
10 coastal plain.

11 But there are two important factors I would like you
12 to consider. One, nearly all tourism spending stays in
13 state, supporting guides like myself, small business
14 owners, air taxi pilots, hotel and lodge employees,
15 restaurant employees. The list goes on. Unlike
16 extractive industries, none of my employees fly home to
17 Houston at the end of their shift. Most of my staff are
18 year-round Alaska residents, who own homes, send their
19 children to local schools and operate their own small
20 businesses in the off season.

21 And two, recreation and tourism are the ultimate
22 renewable resources. If we play our cards right, in 100
23 years, residents of and visitors to the state of Alaska
24 will still be enjoying unparalleled scenery, abundant
25 wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities.

1 As you consider resources affected by potential
2 leasing, please consider that protecting the coastal plain
3 is an opportunity to support recreation and tourism in
4 Alaska and drive our states unbalanced economy towards a
5 more balanced sustainable future.

6 Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

7 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Next speaker
8 will be Kara Moriarty.

9 MS. KARA MORIARTY: Thank you. For the
10 record, my name is Kara Moriarty. I'm the president and
11 CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. And I just
12 want to point out that my first job in Alaska was over 20
13 years teaching school on the North Slope. So I have had
14 the privilege of living in NPR-A.

15 As AOGA, we are the professional trade association
16 that represents the majority of oil and gas producers,
17 explorers, refiners and transporters of oil. We have a
18 well-established history of prudent and environmentally
19 responsible exploration and development in Alaska, and we
20 are happy to talk about that record. We have taken great
21 care for over 40 years to work with the residents of the
22 North Slope, to work with whaling captains, hunters, and
23 other community members to make sure that our drilling and
24 our activities can co-exist with their subsistence
25 activities. We take great mitigation measures. We

1 identify polar bear dens with using infrared technology.
2 We build causeways for caribou passage. I think we have a
3 great record, and we are proud of it.

4 We are fully supportive of BLM's initiation of the
5 scoping process to prepare this EIS. And as an
6 organization that represents companies who may participate
7 in such a leasing program, and because the leasing program
8 will undoubtedly be vigorously contested by groups who
9 oppose development, we strongly believe it is important
10 for BLM to conduct a very thorough NEPA process.

11 As Commissioner Mack testified about the history of
12 how the refuge was designated, in 1980 when it became the
13 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge versus the Range and it
14 was expanded in ANILCA, there was the section -- the
15 section number is 1002 -- that expressly directed the
16 Interior Secretary to carry out an oil and gas exploration
17 program and conduct baseline studies.

18 They kept with that directive, and in the mid 1980s,
19 1,300 miles of seismic was shot, and in 1987 the
20 Department of Interior issued a report and an EIS that
21 recommended Congress take action and move forward with oil
22 and gas development in this tiny fraction of the refuge.
23 Even 30 years ago this is what the report said: That the
24 1002 area was the nation's best single opportunity to
25 increase significantly domestic oil production and the

1 most outstanding petroleum exploration target in the
2 onshore U.S.

3 The estimated -- estimates were updated in 1998, and
4 still today there is no other onshore opportunity in
5 federal land that has the potential of the 1002 area. And
6 why is that important? Even though renewable resources of
7 energy are increasing, the nation's energy estimates and
8 international estimates show that over 57 percent of the
9 globe's energy is still going to come from traditional
10 sources of oil and gas. And there is a direct correlation
11 even in our country; as oil production has gone down in
12 Alaska, imports of oil to California from foreign sources
13 have increased.

14 We have a strong track record, and we are always
15 finding ways to reduce our footprint. As Deputy
16 Commissioner Wiggin said last night, when he started in
17 the industry, a typical path was 65 acres and would maybe
18 get to three to five miles of subsurface. Today pads can
19 be 20 acres and reach 113 miles. We have Doyon Limited
20 that their rig just this past March in NPR-A beat the
21 record for the longest horizontal lateral well, and they
22 are currently developing another extended reach drilling
23 rig for that region.

24 I think it goes without saying how important we are
25 to the economy. One third of all jobs in Alaska can be

1 attributed back to the oil and gas industry. Those are
2 not inflated numbers. Those are numbers proven by
3 university professors as well as independent private
4 economic firms. And that university report said that if
5 we did not have the oil and gas industry, our economy in
6 this state would be half its size.

7 So lastly, I would just end with I can't guarantee
8 any companies are going to show up to a lease sale. But
9 the lease sale is the first step in a very long process.
10 And I think it -- as an American, as an Alaskan, I think
11 it's important for the federal government to offer the
12 lease sale. And if there is interest, that interest would
13 be purchased, and the process would continue with more
14 studies and public comment.

15 So thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight.

16 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Our next
17 speaker will be Brad Meiklejohn. Either microphone.

18 MR. BRAD MEIKLEJOHN: I'm Brad Meiklejohn,
19 and I'm here on behalf of the American Packrafting
20 Association. We represent 2,000 members in 30 countries.
21 And for us, the Arctic Refuge is a sacred wild place on a
22 very crowded planet.

23 I've spent the last 33 years getting to know the
24 Arctic Refuge. I've traversed it in every possible
25 direction, floated every creek and river and spent months

1 immersed in the wild silence. The Arctic Refuge is a
2 major reason that I live in Alaska. Members of the
3 American Packrafting Association come from around the
4 world to experience the Arctic Refuge. Many others never
5 visit the refuge, but it's important for them that it's
6 there. For me and thousands of other like me, it's our
7 refuge.

8 You may have the idea that the earth still has plenty
9 of wild places. Perhaps you imagine them to be found in
10 Africa or Australia or the furthest reaches of South
11 America. Sadly, it's just not true. The number of vast
12 wild places that take you days to traverse without
13 encountering the sounds, smells and structures of man is
14 down to a small handful. We've nearly completed the job
15 of converting the entire planet to the needs of man.

16 It's worth highlighting just how rare large wild
17 places are outside of Alaska. In the Lower 48 there is no
18 place that's more than 20 miles from a road. Even the
19 largest wilderness areas there can easily be traversed in
20 two or three days. From the highest ridgetops, you're
21 still able to see the cities, roads, lights and haze that
22 strangle what's left of the wild. Outside of the United
23 States, besides Antarctica, the northern reaches of
24 Canada, portions of the Amazon Basin and parts of Siberia,
25 there are extremely few places that match the wilderness

1 character of the Arctic Refuge.

2 This story isn't about caribou or oil. It's about
3 restraint. Restraint is an underrated virtue these days.
4 Who could be against ease and comfort and convenience,
5 bigger cars and yet another strip mall lined with Jack in
6 the Box and Home Depot? It's hard to go against our base
7 desires of greed and hunger, but we are usually glad when
8 we find the courage to say no. In the past we said no to
9 proposals to dam the Grand Canyon and to tap Yellowstone's
10 geysers for commercial heating, and now all Americans are
11 grateful for our restraint.

12 What are we getting in exchange for the wild places
13 we pave, mine and drill? Here in Alaska we have the odd
14 paradox of a fierce pride in our wild salmon, but a
15 hellbent determination to become New Jersey with
16 mountains. If you don't know where you are going, you
17 will end up somewhere else, Yogi Berra observed.

18 Alaskans have this funny idea that we know best when
19 it comes to taking care of nature, but the facts say
20 otherwise. Does the Exxon Valdez ring a bell? Alaskans
21 howled in unison when Jimmy Carter protected our global
22 treasures. And we quickly tumble into bed with every mine
23 and oil rig that promises jobs for Oklahomans. Just today
24 there was a report out about our Congressional delegation
25 colluding with industry and the Army Corps of Engineers to

1 gut protections for Alaska's rivers and wetlands. Whether
2 it's the Arctic Refuge or Pebble Mine, all you have to do
3 is follow the money. Those of us with nothing to gain can
4 afford to tell the truth.

5 The fate of the Arctic Refuge is not just for
6 Alaskans to decide. Alaskans complain bitterly about
7 decisions made in D.C., but all Alaskans have the right to
8 object to this decision being made in Alaska. For 40
9 years the American public has said no to turning this wild
10 place into yet another industrialized zone. There ought
11 to be a statute of limitations that says if you win five
12 times in a row the issue is settled.

13 Converting one of the very few wild places on the
14 planet to an oil patch is a decision that we will regret.
15 We wish we hadn't killed off the last wild buffalo herd or
16 the last flocks of passenger pigeons. Perhaps we can say
17 we didn't know any better at that time, but this time we
18 do. We can say with certainty that we will regret losing
19 our greatest natural heritage to greed, indifference and
20 lack of imagination.

21 One last request: Please call this place by its
22 rightful name, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We
23 don't call Chugach Park Chug or Denali Dena or Yellowstone
24 Yell. The ugly ANWR acronym is a ploy to make you forget
25 that this place is a wildlife refuge that belongs to all

1 of us.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Our next
4 speaker will be Gary Dixon.

5 MR. GARY DIXON: I'd like to thank
6 everybody from all the different departments for this
7 opportunity to speak. My name's Gary Dixon. I'm Vice
8 President of Teamsters Local 959. Local 959 represents
9 thousands of workers all over the state of Alaska, from
10 the port of Anchorage workers to hauling freight to school
11 bus drivers and UPS workers. We also represent
12 construction workers on the North Slope and all over the
13 state. Our members help maintain the 800 miles of
14 Trans-Alaska Pipeline for Alyeska Pipeline Company. These
15 are just a few of the industries our members work in.

16 At a time when the state's budget has a shortfall and
17 all over the economy has slowed, the opening of new
18 exploration should be a top priority. We can all agree
19 that new developments on the North Slope means new jobs
20 for Alaskans, even jobs nationwide. Our Local 959 members
21 depend on development of new oil discoveries on the North
22 Slope, as do all Alaskans because new development provides
23 new jobs and ultimately has a trickle-down effect on a lot
24 of the industries around the state.

25 For those who have worked on the North Slope in the

1 last 25 years, myself included, I spent most of my 20s and
2 30s working up there, and we understand the culture up
3 there in those fields. We know the high priority given to
4 the environment, to the animals, to personnel safety and
5 the local Native communities. The producers make certain
6 that all workers complete an orientation of their
7 expectations on these high priorities. And the goals are
8 set high for a reason. We must maintain minimal impact.

9 The proposed oil and gas leasing program for ANWR
10 Section 1002 is no more than 2,000 acres of a
11 1.6-million-acre coastal plain. In comparison, the Valdez
12 Marine Terminal, the end of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, is
13 only 1,000 acres. Therefore, you see the footprint is
14 very small.

15 ANWR Section 1002 is one of the best onshore
16 prospects in the United States. The industry has proven
17 that responsible development is a must when laying out
18 their business plan for these new developments.

19 In conclusion, Alaska's oil and gas prospects in ANWR
20 Section 1002 has a big role in American energy for not
21 only Alaskans' future, but for America's future, as well.
22 It would even help the Trans-Alaska Pipeline with its
23 throughput problems. The limited development in ANWR will
24 create jobs for the future so the next generation of
25 workers can earn a good living for themselves and their

1 families. Teamsters Local 959 supports responsible
2 development in ANWR Section 1002.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Our next
5 speaker will be David Raskin.

6 MR. DAVID RASKIN: I'm 82 years old, so
7 I've asked for the courtesy of sitting while I speak.

8 MR. DAVID BATTS: No problem.

9 MR. DAVID RASKIN: I'm Professor David
10 Raskin. I thank you for this opportunity to speak before
11 you. I reside in Homer, Alaska, and I'm representing the
12 Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges. We are an
13 Alaska volunteer organization established in 2005 to
14 assist the Fish & Wildlife Service in their mission to
15 preserve and protect the natural habitat and wildlife of
16 all 16 Alaska National Wildlife Refuges.

17 I've served as president of Friends for 11 years, and
18 was personal friends with Arctic refuge pioneers Margaret,
19 Adolph and Louise Murie. I was an Arctic Refuge
20 volunteer. I've hiked and floated its wilderness rivers.

21 I participated in the several-year Comprehensive
22 Conservation Plan and EIS process that in 2015 resulted in
23 the full wilderness recommendation by Interior Secretary
24 Sally Jewell that President Obama sent to Congress.

25 I've devoted almost five decades of volunteer

1 conservation efforts on Department of Interior and Forest
2 Service land management issues, but they all pale in
3 comparison to this proposed desecration of the coastal
4 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

5 The Arctic Refuge is the crown jewel of the world's
6 largest wildlife refuge system, the largest intact natural
7 ecosystem in the United States. It's managed as
8 wilderness by the Fish & Wildlife Service. It is an
9 incomparable, living scientific laboratory. It sustains
10 physical, cultural and spiritual well-being of the
11 Gwich'in people of Alaska and Canada.

12 The 1987 agreement between the United States and
13 Canada requires that both parties "take appropriate
14 actions to conserve the Porcupine caribou herd and its
15 habitat; ensure that the Porcupine caribou herd, its
16 habitat and the interests of users of the Porcupine
17 caribou are given effective consideration in evaluating
18 proposed activities within the range of the herd;
19 activities requiring a party's approval having a potential
20 impact on the conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd
21 or its habitat will be subject to impact assessment and
22 review consist with domestic laws, regulations and
23 processes."

24 All of this is threatened by this prepared oil
25 development for questionable short-term profits that will

1 produce long-term major damage in the Arctic Refuge and
2 those who depend on it. The November 2017 national survey
3 conducted by Yale and George Mason Universities indicated
4 that 70 percent of the American public are opposed to
5 drilling in the Arctic Refuge, and four times as many are
6 strongly opposed than strongly supportive.

7 Given this background, the EIS process must include
8 thorough and complete assessments and analyses of the
9 potential impacts of exploration, development and
10 operations on lands, wildlife, stressed and threatened
11 species, migratory birds and polar bear protected by
12 international treaties, vegetation, fishes, aquatic
13 organisms and vegetation, water quality, air quality,
14 production of noise and greenhouse gases, wilderness
15 values, archeological resources, and especially effects on
16 all who use and depend on the refuge for subsistence,
17 recreation, economic, cultural and spiritual activities,
18 scientific research, observation of wildlife and
19 photograph, tourism and other commercial activities.

20 Analyses must also address the climatic changes
21 produced by burning the produced oil and the resultant
22 physical damage to habitats, coastal cities, increased
23 health problems and mitigation costs, and the
24 environmental and social costs of its development compared
25 to the potential economic benefits of projected oil

1 production and price when product would become available
2 only in ten or more years from now. The potential for
3 declining demand for oil as increasing alternative energy
4 production displaces the burning of oil and coal.

5 Now I'd like to just end with a little story. I
6 visited the Arctic Refuge at the request of the Fish &
7 Wildlife Service seven years ago when I was a mere 75
8 years old in order to assist in a cleanup operation on the
9 refuge to remove discarded 55-gallon fuel drums from the
10 refuge. This was a project that took seven days floating
11 the Marsh Fork and Canning Rivers. I rowed a raft for
12 seven days on those rivers, and we collected these oil
13 drums from the refuge. I rowed this raft for seven days,
14 including rowing downstream against the winds coming off
15 the Arctic Ocean. And you can see the coastal plain right
16 there.

17 This is an example of how we protect the Arctic
18 refuge, how the Fish & Wildlife Service manages that
19 refuge to preserve its integrity and to prevent it from
20 being damaged by people. We removed campsites, any trace
21 of campsites, campfires and so on. This is how the refuge
22 should remain in perpetuity as it is managed today. And
23 it would be a desecration to do anything but that.

24 So we suggest that you consider a no action
25 alternative. You cannot do a proper environmental

1 statement in six months. That is ridiculous. It took
2 several years for Fish & Wildlife to do the Comprehensive
3 Conservation Plan and the EIS, and this is a travesty to
4 try to jam it into six months. You must extend the
5 comment period and the process to do it right because we
6 will not -- there will not be a second time.

7 Thank you very much for your consideration.

8 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Our next
9 speaker will be Senator Cathy Giessel. We can go to
10 microphone No. 1 if you like. It's already set up.

11 SEN. CATHY GIESSEL: Good afternoon. I'm
12 State Senator Cathy Giessel. I represent a part of
13 Anchorage, but I was born and raised in Fairbanks before
14 statehood. I have been the chair of the Senate Resources
15 Committee for the last six years, and I support your
16 efforts to evaluate the opening of the 1002 in ANWR. You
17 may be expecting me, as the chair of the Senate Resources
18 Committee, to speak to you about the prospectivity of oil
19 and gas in the 1002, perhaps the profits to the federal
20 and state governments, or the long history of safe
21 resource extraction in Alaska and how the Trans-Alaska
22 Pipeline needs more throughput.

23 I could expound on data about our healthy caribou
24 herds. There is lots of information on the Porcupine and
25 Central herds from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game,

1 who use new technologies with GPS and digital imaging to
2 track the herds. Pregnancy rates, calf and adult
3 survivals and cow and calf ratios are all up,
4 demonstrating healthy herds.

5 But I'm going to ask you to consider an even more
6 important factor when you consider the opening of the 1002
7 to hydrocarbon exploration. And that most important
8 factor is to consider the effect on the people of Alaska
9 and their future.

10 I serve as a state senator, but my profession is as a
11 nurse practitioner. I worked for nine years for the North
12 Slope Borough School District. I'm going to call your
13 attention to a compelling research study that examined
14 life expectancy in areas of the United States from 1980 to
15 2014. For those of you who are Alaskans and who were here
16 during those times, think about what was happening in the
17 realm of resource development in those years. The title
18 of the research report is Inequities in Life Expectancy
19 1980 to 2014, Temporal Trends and Key Drivers. It was
20 published in the Journal of the American Medicine
21 Association Internal Medicine, published in May of 2017,
22 so about a year ago.

23 This research examined life expectancy over that
24 34-year period and assessed the factors affecting it,
25 describing trends and explanation in socioeconomic,

1 behavioral and health care factors. So the question was,
2 are these inequities and life expectancies growing or
3 diminishing and what factors can explain the changes. The
4 details they looked at were poverty, high school
5 graduation, unemployment and access to health care.

6 The astounding results to me as a health care
7 provider were this: Alaska's North Slope people
8 experienced the largest increases in life expectancy
9 between 1980 and 2014 than other areas of the United
10 States. The North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic
11 Borough saw an eight- to 13-year increase in life
12 expectancy. There were very few other areas in the U.S.
13 that saw increases that were that high. The interior of
14 Alaska, extending from the west coast all the way to the
15 southern and eastern end of ANWR had a seven- to
16 eight-year increase in life expectancy of the people
17 living in that area from 1980 to 2014.

18 The research results found that the combination of
19 socioeconomic, behavioral and health care access explained
20 74 percent of that variation.

21 So what does that have to do with the 1002? Well,
22 those years that we are referring to, North Slope
23 production began in 1977 right before the onset of this
24 longevity study. Red Dog Mine began in 1989 production.

25 We usually hear this typical oppositional outcry when

1 projects like this are considered that there will be
2 devastation and destruction, but in fact, those things
3 don't happen. In fact, resource development has brought
4 health and prosperity to Alaskans living in these areas,
5 as well as the rest of the state.

6 As a child I often went to work with my father, who
7 was a captain for Wien Airlines. We flew to the North
8 Slope and the western part of Alaska. And I saw the
9 subsistence lifestyle in person. It was a very, very hard
10 life with very short life expectancy.

11 As an intern for Senator Ted Stevens, I accompanied
12 him to rural villages with no health care clinics in the
13 1970s. It's very different now. I don't call these
14 places villages. I call them prospering communities with
15 Internet connectivity, schools, clinics and healthy people
16 with aspirations and hope for the future.

17 This is what resource development means for Alaska.
18 That's why I stand in support for the work that you are
19 doing toward resource development in the 1002 of ANWR. As
20 you consider the impacts on the environment, fish and
21 game, water and the rest, you must also factor in the
22 socioeconomic and health impacts of jobs and prosperity
23 for the long-term benefit of the Alaskan people.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Our next

1 speaker will be Glen Solomon. And we will have two more
2 speakers before our break.

3 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: Hello again. I'm Glen
4 Solomon. I'm from Kaktovik, Alaska in the 1002 area. And
5 just to hear all these people talking about tourism and
6 rafting down the Hula Hula, the Canning and everything,
7 and you are making a bunch of profit. And I am Inupiaq.
8 I am not Gwich'in. This is where I'm from. This is where
9 my ancestors were buried. This is where I was brought up.

10 And just to hear the Gwich'in people trying to say
11 that they are the caretakers of the ANWR, the Arctic
12 National Wildlife Refuge, it's where I'm from. I live on
13 the coastal plain of the 1002 area, and the 1002 area is
14 my land. And just to have them try to develop back in
15 the '80s, they leased out 180,000 acres of their land for
16 oil and gas development, and it was a bust.

17 And just to have them try to put a stop to us
18 developing on our own land just kind of stabs you right in
19 the back because we would like to live like everybody
20 else, get to have resources to make profit, to make
21 infrastructure in my village, to have jobs like everybody
22 else. And just to have these people say no, you can't
23 develop on your land, that hurts. That really hurts.
24 That's like stabbing somebody in the heart and saying you
25 can't live.

1 I don't want to live in a third-world country. I
2 have done that before. Getting honey buckets, spilling
3 them into 55-gallon buckets growing up, going and getting
4 water. We got running water. We got flush toilets,
5 thanks to oil and gas. We got schools. We got clinics.
6 It helps out a lot for our communities throughout the
7 whole North Slope.

8 And you know, I love my people. I love my land. I
9 love my animals. I'm a whaling captain. For the past
10 three years I have caught a whale for my community to feed
11 my people. And also, the Porcupine herd will never be
12 hurt. It's growing. You know, they go through the Eagle
13 Plains up around Canada where they did oil and gas
14 development for the Gwich'in people. So why can't we do
15 it for the 1002 area for us Inupiaq people because we are
16 the caretakers of ANWR?

17 I have an elder in Kaktovik. The oldest elder in
18 Kaktovik got tired of smelling diesel because he says it
19 stinks. He wants natural gas in our community like
20 everybody else. You know what I'm saying? We are
21 Inupiat. We are not Gwich'in. We want to be like
22 everybody else. We don't got timber. But we love to try
23 to develop on our land to get the resources so we could
24 profit off of it. We don't profit off of tourism. We
25 don't see any of that money at all. Does it come to our

1 village? No, it doesn't. It really hurts. We don't got
2 jobs. I'd love to see my people have jobs.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Our next
5 speaker will be Mayor John Hopson.

6 MR. JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Good evening,
7 everyone. My name is John Hopson, Jr. I am the city
8 mayor for Wainwright, Alaska, which we are from the North
9 Slope. I'm also an assembly member for the North Slope
10 Borough, and we represent almost 13,000 people who live up
11 there.

12 You talk about economics and what oil and gas does.
13 We hear the opposition saying it's short-lived. We use
14 oil and gas property tax to benefit our people. We have
15 been able to build schools and we have been able to build
16 the health clinics that the senator has spoken of. My
17 parents went to school elsewhere because there was no
18 infrastructure. I got to grow up at home and graduate at
19 home because of oil and gas property tax. It's -- it's a
20 job that we have to financially sustain ourselves in our
21 own communities.

22 My friend Glen that just got done speaking, him and I
23 aren't that old, but we were old enough to have to haul
24 out honey buckets from our homes and dump them in drums
25 outside. Then our parents would haul them out to the

1 landfill. Well, today we now have flush toilets because
2 of oil and gas. We are capable -- we are able to tax the
3 property. So new development brings new infrastructure,
4 brings new revenue, long-term revenue, for our people.

5 I have six kids living with me at home, and the
6 youngest one just -- he's going to be three years old in
7 June. And I want him to be able to live where he wants
8 to, at home being able to do his subsistence, while at the
9 same time have the economic opportunity to go on a
10 vacation wherever he so wishes, like each and every one of
11 us would love to do, whether it be Hawaii or Disneyland or
12 to another country. And we want to see that continue for
13 our people.

14 We need -- we need new development. We are
15 supporting your program. And we would actually ask that
16 you can expedite it so we can hurry up and build new
17 infrastructure. That's what we would actually like to see
18 happen.

19 These are simple things that everyone else in Alaska
20 takes for granted that we have to constantly fight for.
21 We have to fight for our right just to be equal with
22 everybody else. People that have spoken this evening
23 don't even live up there. They are never going to see the
24 hardship that we do.

25 I'm a whaling captain, as well. I'm an avid hunter,

1 a subsistence hunter for my family and my community. But
2 it takes -- it takes money to be able to do that. I have
3 to buy gas. I have to buy my bullets. I have to buy
4 whatever snacks we may need to get up there. I have to
5 pay my bills, my diesel heating bill. I have to pay for
6 my lights and water, while at the same time trying to
7 provide for subsistence food for my people. But it's what
8 oil and gas has done for us.

9 95 percent of our budget for the North Slope Borough
10 is property tax from oil and gas, just in the oil and gas
11 area. So we are employing -- 95 percent of our employees
12 are oil and -- have jobs because of oil and gas.

13 These guys that come up here and speak say there is
14 very little benefit for Alaskans. Well, we are the
15 Alaskans they are talking about, and it's benefitting us
16 gratefully [sic].

17 Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Our final
19 preapproved speaker will be Joey Merrick.

20 MR. JOEY JERRY MERRICK: Thank you. My
21 name is Joey Merrick. I'm the business manager of
22 Laborers' Local 341 here in Anchorage and the president of
23 the Alaska Laborers' Union. The Alaska laborers represent
24 about 5,000 working men and women in Alaska. Originally
25 we were a construction union, and today our union

1 represents service contracts, healthcare workers, tourism
2 industry workers and pipeline workers from Kenai to the
3 North Slope. I also serve as the president of the Alaska
4 Petroleum Joint Crafts Council representing about 20,000
5 workers in Alaska, including Teamsters, pipefitters,
6 laborers, operating engineers and electrical workers.

7 In addition to proudly representing our union
8 members, I'm speaking from personal experience working on
9 the pipelines from Valdez Marine Terminal to the North
10 Slope.

11 The Alaska Laborers' Union is requesting that the EIS
12 include analysis of economic and social benefits of the
13 coastal plain oil and gas leasing from the lease sales to
14 the post-lease activities, such as seismic drilling,
15 exploration, development and transportation from the
16 coastal plain. Development of this area means economic
17 opportunity.

18 That's why the Alaska Laborers' Union is also
19 requesting the EIS process to include research and
20 analysis on both the economic and social benefits of using
21 project labor agreements for major construction that would
22 most likely result from the coastal plain leases.

23 By enhancing labor/management cooperation, project
24 labor agreements enhance safety and compliance with the
25 highest environmental standards. The thousands of workers

1 represented by the Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council
2 support development that brings jobs to Alaskans.

3 Today Alaska has the highest unemployment rate in the
4 country, over seven percent. As the Alaska workers
5 struggle and unemployment in our state climbs even higher,
6 it is more important than ever to consider the immense job
7 gains from the oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain.

8 Coastal plain development could also bring the U.S.
9 closer to energy dominance. The proposed leasing would
10 allow development of up to 2,000 acres of the 1.6 million
11 acres of the coastal plain, .01 percent of the entire
12 refuge.

13 Thanks to the advances in technology and best
14 management practices, there is an exceptional record of
15 safe and responsible oil and gas development in northern
16 Alaska. Over the past 40 years, work on the North Slope
17 has shown that energy development and stewardship can and
18 do coexist.

19 And I could speak to you from personal experience
20 working in the field. I have built the -- I built the
21 caribou crossings and other mitigation measures, and I've
22 witnessed caribou and other Alaska wildlife thriving
23 around responsible oil development.

24 Based on the collaboration with agencies and local
25 communities, I've seen firsthand that industry has

1 achieved a record of responsible development in sensitive
2 areas, including the Arctic. Responsible development in
3 this sliver of the refuge will help ensure energy security
4 for the United States.

5 Not only will coastal plain development enhance our
6 country's energy security and bring jobs to Alaska, it
7 will fuel Alaska's economic engine, the Trans-Alaska
8 Pipeline. The pipeline is now running three-quarters
9 empty, and new production on the coastal plain will add
10 throughput in the pipeline, which is a critical component
11 of our country's energy infrastructure.

12 Alaskans stand to win from oil and gas development on
13 the coastal plain. Leasing on a fraction of the coastal
14 plain would create thousands of jobs around the country,
15 generate billions of dollars in revenue and keep energy
16 prices low for consumers.

17 By extending the life of the pipeline, coastal plain
18 development will generate jobs and economic activities
19 benefitting Alaskans and their families.

20 That's why the Alaska Laborers' Union is requesting
21 the analysis in the EIS of the job creation and other
22 economic and social benefits of leasing on the coastal
23 plain.

24 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

25 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. All right.

1 This concludes our prearranged speakers. We are going to
2 take a brief break. If you have a speaking card numbered
3 one through ten, I'd appreciate it when you come back if
4 you could please come down to the front. If you have an
5 even number, come on the right-hand side and see Chad.
6 Can you stand up or raise your hand there, Chad? If you
7 have an odd number, please see Molly. So again, if you
8 have cards No. 1 through 10, please come down and we will
9 get you cued up and ready for speaking.

10 It is right now 6:10. We are running a little ahead
11 of schedule, which is great because it gives us more
12 opportunity to hear from more of you. So we're going to
13 take a brief ten-minute break and come back at 6:20 and
14 begin the public comment.

15 Thank you.

16 (A break was taken.)

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: Okay. Folks, if you
18 take your seats we will get started with our public
19 speaking portion. Just a couple of things to go through
20 real quickly to help our speakers tonight. If you are
21 planning to speak, you should have a card at this point.
22 If you don't, please see the table at the back of the
23 room. We are going to be calling up speakers to the
24 microphone in groups of ten based off the numbers on your
25 cards. So you should have a blue card or a white card,

1 and in the upper corner it should have a number on it.
2 When your number is called, please proceed down to the
3 indicated microphone.

4 And we are going to have odd numbers go over to the
5 left side with Molly on microphone No. 1. We will have
6 even numbers come down onto the right side with Chad. And
7 we will line you up appropriately.

8 If you are not able to come up to the front and
9 speak, just please raise your hand when we call your
10 number. We have a roving mic and we can get back to you.
11 You also need to be present when your number is called.
12 It's like winning the lottery.

13 When you comment, we need the comment to come from
14 you. We have a lot of technology these days, but we don't
15 want comment to come from Facebook, Skype, Facetime or
16 other measures. We want to at least hear it directly from
17 you. When you come up to the microphone, please speak
18 directly into the microphone. Speak slowly and clearly,
19 stating your name and any organizations that you
20 represent.

21 And one more plea. If you are reading off of your
22 testimony, we would really appreciate getting a copy of
23 that. Hard copies can be left at the table with Mary, or
24 we can provide you with her email address if you are
25 reading it off of your electronic device. You will have

1 three minutes to speak, although I would encourage people
2 to please try to speak within about two minutes just so we
3 can accommodate more people through the evening.

4 We have a long stretch of commenting tonight. When
5 Mary gets tired, we will take a break, a short break for
6 her to stretch her hands. Panelists may need to use the
7 facilities or stretch themselves, so they may get up and
8 walk around. Please don't consider that to be rude. They
9 are just tending to their business so that we can keep the
10 commenting process moving forward.

11 And then lastly, again, if you have any other written
12 comments tonight, please be sure that you leave them with
13 us in one of the commenting boxes.

14 So with that, we're going to begin the comment
15 process. We'll start with speaker No. 1 on microphone
16 No. 1. Again, if you can just please speak your name and
17 affiliation.

18 MR. BILL SHERWONIT: My name is Bill
19 Sherwonit, a nature writer and, yes, a long-time Alaska
20 resident. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on
21 behalf of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and its many
22 wild residents.

23 I'm among the Alaskans who wholeheartedly believe
24 that the coastal plain should be preserved as wilderness
25 for many reasons. Among them is this fact: The coastal

1 plain's true importance has nothing to do with us humans.
2 Its lands and waters are breeding, nesting, spawning,
3 calving, feeding and denning grounds for caribou, polar
4 bears, musk ox, wolves, voles, loons, ducks, shorebirds,
5 snowy owls, Arctic grayling, more than 250 species in all.

6 There is a reason that many people, including
7 scientists, consider the coastal plain to be the Arctic
8 Refuge's ecological heart. As the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
9 service has noted, the plain has the greatest wildlife
10 diversity of any protected area in Alaska above the Arctic
11 circle.

12 Alaska's Gwich'in Athabascan people, as you have
13 already heard, have an intimate relationship with that
14 wild heart, and they are the people who stand to lose the
15 most if the coastal plain becomes industrialized. While
16 putting together the EIS, I urge you to consider the many
17 impacts of industrial activities on the refuge's wild
18 heart and the Gwich'in people.

19 I would also urge you to consider the impacts of
20 climate change which, as you know, is affecting Alaska's
21 landscapes and communities of plants, wildlife and people
22 far more than any other part of the nation.

23 Among the animals likely to be most harmed by climate
24 change and by the industrial development of the coastal
25 plain are polar bears. As recently as the late 1990s,

1 Alaska's polar bear population was considered to be
2 healthy and stable, perhaps even slightly increasing, but
3 its status has changed dramatically. The southern
4 Beaufort Sea population is now considered to be falling,
5 and the scientific consensus is that climate change and
6 associated declines in sea ice present the greatest
7 damage.

8 It's also critical to note that recent polar bear
9 research confirmed much of the species terrestrial
10 maternity denning occurs within the Arctic Refuge's
11 coastal plain. Unique is sometimes used too casually, but
12 in this case it fits. A place of immense natural
13 vitality, the refuge's coastal plain is the only large
14 swath of Alaska's, and thus the nation's, Arctic coastline
15 that has remained off limits to development, and yet it
16 accounts for only a tiny percent of Alaska's North Slope
17 coast.

18 Meanwhile, the arguments for oil and gas development,
19 especially in a remote and fragile place during a time of
20 climate upheaval, have diminished. Our nation needs to
21 put its focus elsewhere in different energy resources.
22 Opening the Arctic Refuge to oil drilling would only feed
23 an increasingly harmful human addiction.

24 Instead of seeking to develop the Arctic Refuge's
25 coastal plain, our state's congressional delegation and

1 the current administration should help to protect the
2 sacred place where life begins. It would be a grand
3 gesture, especially during a time of climate upheaval,
4 when leaving the coastal plains' oil and gas in the ground
5 is not only the right, but the sensible thing to do,
6 considering all that's at risk, including the well-being
7 of Alaska's future generations.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
10 No. 2, please.

11 MR. SERGIO ACUNA: Good evening, all, and
12 thank you for allowing me to testify today. I want to
13 start by saying my name is Sergio Acuna. I'm a worker.
14 I'm a member of the Alaska Laborers' Union Local 341. I
15 must tell you I have worked the pipeline. I worked in the
16 oil industry for many years. I am one of those who
17 actually have seen it all the way from Prudhoe Bay down to
18 Valdez, every single piece of the pipeline. And all I can
19 tell you, I can see responsible development, progress and
20 bright future.

21 As I say, I'm a resident of the state of Alaska since
22 1991. I met my wife here in Alaska, and together we
23 decided to grow our family here. All my kids were born
24 here, grew up here, attended public schools here. And
25 they are seeking college education here, also, in the

1 state of Alaska. I would love to stay here and see my
2 kids build a better future in this great state.

3 It's getting tougher and tougher to find any other
4 good-paying jobs other than the ones associated with oil
5 and gas development. Right now the state is not at their
6 best, economically speaking, and it's because we are not
7 producing enough oil to fill out the Trans-Alaska
8 Pipeline.

9 I'm speaking today in support of the proposed oil and
10 gas leasing program that will allow the development of no
11 more than 2,000 acres of the 1.6 million acres of the
12 coastal plains. Responsible oil and gas development is
13 the key. It can be done. In fact, over the 40 past
14 years, thanks to the new technology and new practices, the
15 oil and gas development industry has demonstrated that
16 energy development and environmental stewardship can
17 coexist. The oil and gas development has a proven track
18 record of responsible development in sensitive areas,
19 protecting the environment, the wildlife and the
20 subsistence needs of local residents.

21 By allowing these leases, it will ensure not only
22 Alaska, but America's energy security for decades to come.

23 Let me cite just a few good and important facts for
24 oil and gas development on ANWR. Oil and gas is used to
25 make or powered practically ever product we touch every

1 day. Energy development supports hundreds of thousands of
2 jobs, funds public schools and community services. Oil
3 and gas industry supports thousands of Alaskan jobs, in
4 fact, about a third of all Alaskan jobs. 78 percent of
5 Alaskans favor exploration and production of the coastal
6 plains of ANWR.

7 As you can see, it's strongly supported by most
8 Alaskans. I want to stay here. I want to continue
9 staying here and grow my family here. I want to work here
10 in Alaska. Allow the new generations to find a bright
11 future here in Alaska. Please allow the proposed oil and
12 gas leases program for ANWR.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
15 No. 3.

16 MR. PETE DAHL: Good evening. Thank you
17 for allowing me to be here and say a few words to you this
18 evening. My name is Pete Dahl. I'm a lifelong Alaskan of
19 Alaska Native descent with deep roots here in the state.
20 I've worked out of the laborers' union close to 30 years.
21 Since TAPS was constructed when I was a young boy, I have
22 seen a lot of the positive influence that the pipeline has
23 had to Alaska overall. Many of my family members are
24 working in various types of industries, capacities,
25 ranging from construction, transportation, banking and

1 government, just to name a few. They have all benefited
2 from oil production in the state of Alaska.

3 Right now our Alaska pipeline is running about
4 three-quarters of the capacity of what it could be. And I
5 would please strongly urge you to consider allowing this
6 proposed leasing and gas program. It's only a couple
7 thousand acres in 1.6 million acres of coastal plain that
8 will be developed.

9 This energy production -- we are seeing a decline in
10 the U.S. down in the Lower 48 with Shell Oil, and this
11 will help offset that decline. We have U.S. Geological
12 Surveys that have been done on the coastal plain that
13 shows that there is about 10.4 billion barrels of oil and
14 natural gas, as well, and it has a chance of producing
15 about 16 billion barrels of oil because of that.

16 We also have many polls that have consistently shown
17 that Alaskans overwhelmingly support responsible oil and
18 gas development in the nonwilderness part of ANWR. So
19 there is no valid reason why we should not be able to
20 access world class resources within just a tiny fraction
21 of the coastal plain to help our economy and our State
22 overall.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
25 No. 4.

1 MR. CURTIS THAYER: Good evening. My name
2 is Curtis Thayer, and on behalf of the Alaska Chamber,
3 which represents over 700 businesses in Alaska, that
4 employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans, the Alaska
5 Chamber supports the proposed oil and gas leasing program
6 within the nonwilderness portion of the coastal plain of
7 ANWR.

8 We have conducted a statewide poll of likely voters
9 in Alaska, and this past more March Alaskans support
10 opening ANWR by 67 percent to 28 percent according to
11 Dittman Research. In 1990 we asked the very same
12 question, and the support was 72 percent to 21. That
13 tracks for the last 28 years between the 66 to 72 percent.
14 Alaskans have always shown that strong support.

15 The proposed oil and gas program is on 2,000 acres of
16 1.6 million acres of the coastal plain, which is part of
17 the refuge's 19 million acres. To put that into context,
18 those 2,000 acres is the size of Dulles Airport in an area
19 of 19 million acres.

20 The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the coastal
21 plain has 10 billion barrels of oil, with recovering of 16
22 billion, one of the largest oil fields in the country.
23 And thanks to continuing improvements in technology, the
24 environmental stewardship on the North Slope is world
25 class and second to none. There is nowhere in the world

1 that could compare to what we do here in Alaska and the
2 safeguards that we do to protect the environment.

3 Responsible oil and gas development in this fraction
4 of the refuge will ensure Alaska's energy security for
5 decades and allow Alaska to define its own economic
6 development and also protect our nation as a whole by
7 allowing energy security to be here at home rather than
8 overseas.

9 Thank you very much.

10 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
11 No. 5.

12 MR. SAM WOLFE: Hi. Sam Wolfe,
13 third-generation Alaskans representing my family. My line
14 of work I see a lot of wealth creation and wealth
15 destruction, and Alaska's primary opportunity for wealth
16 creation is the responsible extraction of natural
17 resources, which we have been doing for many, many
18 decades. Without that, Alaska would be a very nice place
19 to visit, hardly a very nice place to raise a family. And
20 that's really what this is all about, raising families,
21 putting food on the table, milk in the fridge for American
22 families and for Alaskan families.

23 Couple that with this area was set aside for this
24 express purpose, that petroleum is going to be part of our
25 human story for many decades to come, and that this is the

1 first step in a very long process with no guarantee of
2 future development.

3 For these reasons and many more, that's why I urge
4 you and strongly support to continue this process.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
7 No. 6.

8 MR. DAVID SOLOMON: My name is David
9 Solomon, Cha Zhii Gwich'in. My father is the late
10 traditional chief of Yukon Flats, Jonathan Solomon. I was
11 born and raised in Alaska. I was born in '57, one year
12 before Alaska became statehood. My grandfather, Paul
13 Solomon, was born in 1882, was here on Gwich'in land since
14 1882. He grew up on the Arctic Refuge. My grandmother
15 lived to be 13 years old. My grandfather in Venetie lived
16 to be 90-plus years old, and my other grandpa and
17 grandmother, they lived to be over 103 years old. And my
18 grandpa in Arctic Village lived to be 90-plus years old.
19 And my grandmother on Canada side, she lived to be 103
20 years old and still had black hair. I have relatives that
21 lives in Fort McPherson in the Yukon area, near Yukon
22 Territory area.

23 Why I say these age, because they lived off that land
24 and they lived off the land where they -- where they hunt
25 and fish and trap off that land. That's why they are

1 healthy. You look at nowadays what's going on, all the
2 junk food that's been brought to our villages. Why is it
3 important to protect the Arctic Refuge, because that's the
4 sacred land where the caribou migrates, where the caribou
5 have their calves, where the birds have their young ones,
6 where all the young ones -- the development is going to
7 mess all that up if you open oil development.

8 The reason I brought all that up because I'm going to
9 be turning 62 pretty soon and I still got black hair, and
10 I want to live to be 100-some-years-old, but we need to
11 protect this land here. So no oil development on that
12 country.

13 I worked up North Slope in the '70s, '80s and '90s
14 and 2000. I'm a Teamster right now. And you guys talk
15 about revenue. You talk about jobs. You see all these
16 people that's talking about working up on the Slope 30, 20
17 years, all these white people. Guess what? A lot of
18 those people that work up there, they don't even live in
19 Alaska. They live down in the Lower 48. So they make all
20 that money and they leave.

21 Here I work eight weeks out of a year, just enough to
22 pay off my credit card. Why? Because the next ten months
23 I don't work. And all these people up there talk about,
24 they brag about I made \$140,000. And when I work eight
25 weeks, I barely make 16- to \$20,000, enough to pay off my

1 credit. I got three kids I'm raising. I got my two
2 grandkids I'm raising.

3 You look up in Arctic Village, the gas price up there
4 right now is over \$10 a gallon. Fort Yukon is seven to \$8
5 a gallon. You look at Anchorage right now, it's 3.20.
6 Glennallen is 3.80. You look at these prices, you talk
7 about the milk and the eggs in the villages where it is so
8 high.

9 In closing, I want to talk about something very
10 important because it's important because if you go home
11 tonight, you turn up your furnace. The village people,
12 they have to put wood in their stove. When you go home,
13 you flush your toilet. Some people in the village are
14 still carrying honey buckets out to the outhouse. When
15 you go take a shower, you turn on your faucet. Some of
16 the Native people in the villages have carry -- they still
17 do their clothes in a washtub.

18 So it's very important to understand the way we live
19 and it's the way we live because Arctic National Wildlife
20 Refuge needs to be a sacred place where we grew up because
21 I want to see my grandkids and my other kids to be 100
22 years old, as well. So that's how important. We need to
23 have no oil development.

24 My dad Jonathan Solomon fought in Washington, D.C.
25 He walked the halls of the Congress. We walk the halls of

1 Senate, and none of them will speak to us. Where are
2 those guys now? How come they are not up here? So that's
3 how important to ask you guys to respect our land up
4 there.

5 Even in Kaktovik, yeah, they talk about earlier, but
6 still yet there is a lot of Kaktovik residents that
7 doesn't want it. Maybe two of them that say they want it,
8 but a lot of them don't want it.

9 So I thank you for this time. Three minutes goes
10 fast, man. Thank you.

11 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. I'm jealous
12 of your hair. Okay. Speaker No. 7.

13 MR. STEPHEN LEONARD: Stephen Leonard,
14 Little Red Services, a subsidiary of ASRC Corporation. I
15 support oil and gas development in ANWR. As a lifelong
16 Alaskan, as most of us here, I've seen firsthand the
17 pipeline stacking up and the pipe showed up in Valdez and
18 watching the beautiful line come through. I know
19 firsthand -- I've been to all seven of the Arctic
20 villages, met with the people. And in Kaktovik they are
21 highly supportive of oil and gas development, which
22 required -- needs a lot of the taxation of the oil
23 companies to help support them. Firsthand being part of
24 the education system seeing where statewide how the
25 industry has supported our schools and where we have a lot

1 of history and science of Alaska, watched the Porcupine
2 caribou herd. 1974 there were well over exceeding
3 100,000, five times increase in the caribou herd.

4 I have a great passion for the state. I love the
5 beauty of it. I've spent 30 years working in the
6 oilfield, and I've seen the coinhabitants and how we --
7 watching the caribou coming through.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Move to
10 Speaker No. 8.

11 MR. BEN MULLIGAN: Hi. My name is Ben
12 Mulligan, just representing myself. For what it's worth,
13 I was born and raised here, third generation. The only
14 reason my family is in Alaska is because my dad found a
15 job working when the pipeline first went in. So I
16 understand the importance of oil and gas development. At
17 the same time growing up, we went fishing. We went
18 hunting. We went hiking. We cross-country skied.

19 You know, in all things there is a balance. You
20 know, developing this area is important for the continued
21 economic health of our state, but at the same time we have
22 to mitigate and look at that and understand that there is
23 going to be -- again, there is that balance that you have
24 to consider.

25 So we know that there is going to be looking at

1 caribou migration, nesting of waterfowl, whaling -- whale
2 migration and how that's going to affect everybody. It's
3 not just going to be a blatant carte blanche, here you go,
4 just drill. There is going to be responsible resource
5 development.

6 And this is just the beginning of a process. This is
7 the beginning of the leasing program. No one is talking
8 about doing seismic. No one is talking about drilling or
9 allowing it. We are just looking at the beginning of this
10 process.

11 And look at this. You guys have been in, what, three
12 or four communities. You have got a couple more to go. I
13 feel that this is a good opportunity. I'm glad you guys
14 came here. I'm glad you guys are going to Utqiagvik.
15 It's a good thing.

16 And I appreciate the time to testify. Thank you.

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
18 No. 9.

19 MS. TERRI QUINLAN: Good evening. My name
20 is Terri Quinlan. I am also a lifelong Alaskan. I am a
21 business representative with the Teamsters Local 959. I
22 represent workers in the communication fields, AT&T
23 Alaska, Arctic Slope Telco on the North Slope, as well as
24 Safeway.

25 As we all know, in the past the Trans-Alaska Pipeline

1 transformed Alaska's economy. Most of us were around at
2 that time. In the late 1980s, more than two million
3 barrels flowed through TAPS. Today the Trans-Alaska
4 Pipeline is running at about a third capacity, and it has
5 a big impact on Alyeska Pipeline in transporting oil from
6 Prudhoe Bay at Pump Station 1 to the Valdez terminal,
7 about 800 miles in distance.

8 With the lack of crude oil flowing through the
9 pipeline, it has caused considerable challenges for
10 Alyeska Pipeline. This lack of oil has caused temperature
11 issues that have created a lack of oil flow. Projects to
12 remedy this problem have been expensive.

13 To me, the best long-term solution for our future is
14 more oil. New developments would put more oil in Alaska's
15 great pipeline and, in turn, reduce the ongoing low-volume
16 issues that continue to be a problem. ANWR Section 1002
17 has the potential to have 10.4 billion barrels of oil and
18 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The economic
19 impact on the state and industry would be great. For that
20 reason, I support it.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. DAVID BATTS: We are going to call
23 down speakers 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19, please. If you have
24 those numbers, again, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19, please come
25 down and see Molly.

1 MR. THOR BROWN: Good evening. My name is
2 Thor Brown. I work for the Teamsters Local here in
3 Anchorage. I think it's rightfully noted that the
4 majority of the discussion is based on the immediate
5 impacts that take place in the coastal plain. Having said
6 that, the economic impacts of development on the North
7 Slope are spread throughout the state, specifically in the
8 shipping industry, freight industry. This stems all the
9 way from the North Slope to Anchorage.

10 When the price of oil dropped, the economic impacts
11 of those things spread all the way from the number of
12 containers that came in on the ship to the number of
13 trailers that came up the road. That was felt everywhere,
14 from fabricators, working mechanics, truck drivers, people
15 that warehouse the freight, people that buy coats and
16 boots and everyday things that happen economically to the
17 structure of the community here. And when those things
18 drop off, it has an effect on the community itself.

19 With the development of the oil fields in this
20 particular -- we are just talking about the work that's
21 being done up there. That has a very positive effect on
22 the people that work here in Anchorage, people that stay
23 here, people that work here, people that live here, people
24 that want to raise their children here. And that's a very
25 big deal to the community as a whole.

1 So thank you for your time.

2 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Okay. We
3 are going to cue up speaker No. 11. If you have cards
4 No. 12, 14, 16, 18 or 20, please come on down to the
5 right-hand side. And I think we have some guests who
6 might like some books to maybe color in in the back. We
7 do have some noise issues coming up here where we are at
8 that's making it hard for the court reporter to hear. So
9 if we please have it be a little quiet in the back, that
10 would being great.

11 Okay. Sir, go ahead.

12 MR. JOE RINTALA: Hello and good evening.
13 My name is Joe Rintala. I work for Teamsters Local 959.
14 I represent construction workers in the state of Alaska,
15 North Slope and TAPS. We are in support of this project,
16 the proposed oil and gas and leasing program which would
17 allow development of no more than 2,000 acres of 1.6
18 million acres of coastal plain, part of the nonwilderness
19 portion of the refuge's 19 million acres. That is
20 equivalent to just 0.01 percent of the entire refuge. It
21 will strengthen our state's economy, help out and put more
22 Alaskans to work.

23 The coastal plain was specifically identified by
24 Congress pursuant to Section 1002 of the Alaska National
25 Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 for its potential

1 for oil and gas resources.

2 Oil and gas -- oil and gas from the nonwilderness
3 coastal plain is an important resource for meeting our
4 state and nation's energy demands and achieving energy
5 dominance. Polls have consistently shown Alaskans
6 overwhelmingly support responsible oil and gas development
7 in the nonwilderness portion of ANWR. There is no valid
8 reason tiny fraction -- excuse me -- there is no valid
9 reason why we should not be allowed to access world-class
10 resources within just a tiny fraction of the coastal
11 plain. Teamsters Local 959 also supports responsible
12 development in ANWR Section 1002.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Okay. We
15 are still looking for speaker cards No. 12, 14 and 16.
16 Anybody have card No. 12? If you have 12, 14 or 16,
17 please come on down.

18 MR. SAMUEL JOHNS: First of all, I just
19 want to say that, you know, to all of you all in here that
20 are about to speak in support of development, I wish that
21 you would actually bring up the Gwich'in people and
22 actually try to act like they exist because every single
23 person bringing up this development are acting like the
24 Gwich'in people do not exist. Not one of them have
25 brought up the Gwich'in people. They still exist. They

1 still live there. My mother is from Arctic Village. I am
2 Neets'aii Gwich'in. I still exist. Every single one of
3 these people in here that bring up the development have
4 not said one thing about the Gwich'in people, and that is
5 very disrespectful. Very disrespectful.

6 My people have survived off that land for thousands
7 and thousands of years. After contact, they still survive
8 off that land. They still hunt. They still survive off
9 the caribou that goes through that area. One thing that I
10 cannot understand is in about a month and a half you are
11 going to be celebrating Independence Day. We are going to
12 be celebrating Independence Day. Independence. But what
13 I see right now is those rights, that independence, the
14 right to live independently, is being stripped away for
15 capitalistic gain. They are not being allowed to have the
16 choice for their own land. They are not allowed to say or
17 speak for their own rights.

18 We are here, and most of the people speaking aren't
19 even Gwich'in. They are not even from that area. And
20 that is very disrespectful.

21 All I hear is for a push for capitalistic gain. I
22 don't hear any respect for the Gwich'in people, none. I
23 don't understand. Where is the audacity? Where is the
24 respect? There is none for the Gwich'in people right now
25 because every single person in this line saying they want

1 development don't even bring the people up.

2 I want to end this in a good way. When, when there
3 is an economic collapse, when there is an economic
4 collapse, my name is Samuel Johns, and I will share some
5 caribou meat with you. If you are hungry, if you can't
6 get a job and there is an economic collapse, I am
7 Gwich'in. My people will help feed your family because we
8 are living off a self-sustainable land. We can live off
9 that land. We don't need -- we are recession-proof. When
10 there is an economic collapse, remember that we will feed
11 you. But we can't feed you if you destroy that land.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
14 No. 13, please.

15 MR. PHIL SOMERVELL: Good evening. My
16 name is Phil Somervell. I'm just speaking for myself.
17 One of the reasons -- I'm not a lifelong Alaskan, but one
18 of the reasons that -- one of the reasons I moved up here
19 finally was that I have been in ANWR. I've stood on that
20 land. I've seen it close up. I think anyone that's done
21 that would have some maybe better understanding of how
22 important it really is as a resource.

23 I suppose I could brag about the fact that my late
24 father-in-law was a member of the Alaska State
25 Constitutional Convention, but I had nothing to do with

1 that, so I won't. A couple of things that have disturbed
2 me a lot, one of them is speaking of responsible oil and
3 gas development. I wonder how responsible it could ever
4 be. And by the way, all the word means is really you
5 follow the rules, which is a good thing.

6 But how responsible can it be to pump more and more
7 oil out when we know that climate change is heavily
8 impacting the state already and will continue to get
9 worse? And if there is any question, there are major
10 reports from many sources, including the US Geological
11 Survey, including the Alaska State Epidemiology Office. I
12 used to be an epidemiologist. But those are just two of
13 the major reports of the incredible impacts of burning all
14 that oil. It is not responsible to extract that oil,
15 which is only going to make our situation worse and worse,
16 which is beginning to happen already.

17 A second comment about jobs. I think Alaskans have
18 been sold a bill of goods on this. Any project creates
19 jobs. Imagine the worst possible, most destructive
20 infrastructure project you can think of. It will create
21 jobs. We need jobs, we need jobs to repair the damage
22 that's already been done by climate change, which is
23 produced by pumping the oil. We need jobs in human
24 services desperately to help people in great need. What
25 about those jobs?

1 And I'm not sure there is much more I can say about
2 that. I've worked with people in the oil and gas
3 industry. They are good people. But this is not an
4 industry that's now helping us. It's an industry that,
5 like it or not, needs to be left to leave the oil in the
6 ground where it belongs and not keep pumping it out to
7 make our -- to make our situation only worse.

8 So maybe I'll just leave it at that for now. And
9 thank you for the opportunity.

10 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Move over to
11 speaker No. 14. There was a slight mix-up in our numbers.
12 That was No. 15. We are missing card 13. If you have
13 speaker card 13, come down and see Molly, we will get you.
14 Sorry about that, sir. Go ahead.

15 MR. JEREMY PRICE: My name is Jeremy
16 Price. I'm the Alaska State Director of Americans for
17 Prosperity. I would like to testify in support of moving
18 this process forward. I represent thousands of grassroots
19 activists across this state who support opening the 1002
20 area to exploration and production. We are grateful to
21 President Trump and his administration. We are grateful
22 to Congress for providing this game-changing opportunity
23 for Alaskans.

24 For decades people like Ted Stevens, Don Young, Lisa
25 Murkowski, Frank Murkowski, Dan Sullivan, all of these

1 elected officials that we have sent to D.C. have fought
2 for us to provide for this opportunity to provide greater
3 economic prosperity for Alaskans. We have elected these
4 folks. They have done the work for us. We support what
5 they have done, and we couldn't ask for a better time.

6 Right now with the technology available, the oil and
7 gas industry will be using the best available technology
8 with a minimal footprint. And if you look at our state's
9 economy right now, we are in dire straits.

10 Here are some quick off-the-top numbers. In 2016, we
11 lost 7,500 jobs. In 2017, we lost 2,700 jobs. And just a
12 few weeks ago we found out that over 2,100 Alaskans did
13 not apply for a Permanent Fund Dividend that applied last
14 year. So in short, we are losing Alaskans. They are
15 leaving the state. They're going to the Lower 48. We
16 need this. This is a great opportunity for us.

17 At the very least of which, if you -- when you go
18 back to D.C., take this thought with you. The majority of
19 Alaskans support this, period. For decades that hasn't
20 changed. The majority of Alaskans support what you are
21 doing. The majority of Alaskans want this to happen. I
22 myself was born and raised on a homestead that my
23 grandfather started in the 1950s. I'm here with my three
24 kids trying to provide a better Alaska for my family.

25 This is another opportunity that's going to provide

1 economic prosperity for my family and other Alaskans like
2 me. So I urge you to support the project. I speak on
3 behalf of thousands of grassroots activists across the
4 state, and I stand with the majority of Alaskans who
5 support this. Let's move the process. Let's do this for
6 Alaskans. Let's do this for America.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Okay. We
9 are still looking for card No. 13. Last call for No. 13.
10 Okay. We are going to move over to No. 16, please.

11 MR. PAT LAVIN: Thank you. For the
12 record, I'm Pat Lavin. I'm a longtime Alaskan. I'm
13 speaking for myself tonight.

14 Just say a few things, and they are probably things
15 that you have heard already, so to be different, I'm going
16 to finish with a haiku. So you are warned.

17 There is a weak legislative basis for what you are
18 engaged in. It's not your fault, but what I'm referring
19 to, the tax bill that we heard about earlier included the
20 Arctic Refuge drilling provision.

21 And the manner of passing the tax bill, the way it
22 was done in Congress, devoid of any debate, kept this
23 issue from the American people at large, or at least from
24 their ability to comment, participate the way typically
25 happens with legislation in Congress. That's because

1 standing on its own, legislation to open the Arctic
2 Refuge, our largest and most iconic refuge in the nation
3 wouldn't make it through Congress.

4 And when you have kind of sneaky legislation as the
5 basis of the whole subsequent enterprise that we are in
6 now, it's a weak foundation, and it will likely crumble
7 and eventually fail.

8 The process that we are in also seems rushed and a
9 little bit arbitrary. The tax bill talked about at least
10 getting a lease sale out in four years, but we see on the
11 timeline you are thinking about a year and a half for a
12 whole NEPA analysis to put brand-new oil and gas
13 infrastructure into a de facto wilderness area.
14 Especially with what's all at stake, including the
15 cultural survival of some of our fellow Alaskans from
16 where they are coming from, I urge you to slow down.

17 It's unnecessary. This project is unnecessary.
18 Whatever the benefits are of drilling for oil in the
19 Arctic, we already have them. And they are proceeding
20 apace. There has been a lot from the industry
21 perspective, really exciting discoveries, new projects
22 coming online all the time. There is a lot going on in
23 the Arctic. A lot of drilling and the benefits that we
24 heard about are already accruing. We don't need to go
25 into the refuge to get the benefits that we have heard

1 about tonight. We already get them.

2 I'd just implore you to reconsider this. Slow down
3 and reconsider this.

4 Okay. I promised you a haiku. Primordial land,
5 sacred place where life begins, no place for oil rigs.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. That's the
8 first haiku I think I've received in comments. So thank
9 you. Okay. We will go over to No. 17.

10 MS. LOIS EPSTEIN: Hard to follow. Thank
11 you for this opportunity to testify, especially those of
12 you from D.C. who came to listen to Alaskans.

13 My name is Lois Epstein. I live in Anchorage. I am
14 a licensed engineer and the Arctic Program Director for
15 The Wilderness Society. Formerly I was a technical
16 consultant. I have been to the Arctic National Wildlife
17 Refuge once previously, not for work. And I will be
18 returning this June, again not for work. Additionally, I
19 have been to Kaktovik to listen to local concerns at a
20 public hearing on Hilcorp's Liberty Project plan for the
21 Arctic Ocean.

22 My testimony today focuses on why oil from the Arctic
23 National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain is not needed to
24 ensure the longevity of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline,
25 also known as TAPS. TAPS throughput or flow has been

1 increasing from over 508,000 barrels per day in 2015 to
2 nearly 544,000 barrel per day in 2018 to date. That is a
3 nearly seven percent increase in approximately three
4 years, a result of increased production from existing
5 operations on state lands and recent oil discoveries on
6 state and federal lands in the National Petroleum Reserve
7 Alaska, lands that are currently open to oil development.

8 Notably, more than half the NPR-A is available for
9 oil development and only its most sensitive areas, such as
10 the Teshekpuk Lake region, cannot be developed.

11 Staff at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources
12 expect TAPS throughput to continue increasing through the
13 late 2020s due to new discoveries that are now undergoing
14 permitting. These significant discoveries, which are not
15 on federally protected lands, include Oil Search's
16 Nanushuk project on state lands and the ConocoPhillips'
17 Willow and Greater Moose's Tooth projects in regions of
18 the NPR-A that are open.

19 It's clear that oil production is growing in the
20 Arctic on lands currently available for leasing, and that
21 raises important questions about why we should develop the
22 highly sensitive coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge.

23 Despite some instate and D.C.-based rhetoric, drilling on
24 currently protected federal lands and waters including the
25 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not necessary to ensure

1 that TAPS remains viable and economic for decades to come.

2 I'll end with two observations. First, when industry
3 was asked to provide official speakers at the beginning of
4 this hearing, and they chose unions, the TAPS operator who
5 is not involved in drilling, and a trade association to
6 speak for them. Oil companies appear to be afraid to
7 publicly express their interest in drilling, even in
8 Alaska, perhaps because drilling in the highly sensitive
9 refuge is much more unpopular among the public than
10 commonly believed.

11 Second, industry and labor representatives fail to
12 acknowledge flaws in oil operations, such as major spills
13 and blowouts, which have occurred in Alaska. I'd be happy
14 to detail them if I had more time.

15 Thank you very much to for your attention to this
16 testimony.

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
18 No. 18.

19 MS. JONELLE JONES: My name is Jonelle.
20 I'm Yup'ik and Navajo. I was born and raised here in
21 Anchorage, Alaska. And I'd like to convey this message of
22 natural law. This is a human condition, ladies and
23 gentlemen, the condition whether anyone has recognized it
24 or not, accepted it or not. It's slavery. I'm not going
25 to shift words here. I'm going to come out and say it as

1 it is in plain language.

2 The whole goal of true spirituality is the ending of
3 the human condition called slavery. It's never okay.
4 It's not okay now. It never will be okay. It's
5 completely immoral. And the people who continue to
6 perform the actions that hold the human condition in this
7 state or support and condone those actions are immoral
8 people. People will say there is many paths to freedom
9 and spirituality, but I'll take umbrage with that
10 statement. There are many paths that you can get to an
11 understanding of what the solution is, but there is only
12 one real true solution.

13 To say something to the effect of do you believe in
14 natural law or do you think it's some type of religious
15 dogma is as ridiculous as asking someone if they believe
16 if you hold an object up and then let it go, will it fall
17 downwards. There is no dogma over religious belief
18 required for that. It's law in the universe.

19 While behavior is also bound by law, this is a
20 problem with the human ego, though. The human ego refuses
21 to accept that behavior is bound by law, and we want to
22 think we can do anything we want as long as we don't get
23 caught. The only solution is an understanding of natural
24 law and how we are inextricably forever bound by it.

25 We have free will to change -- we have free will to

1 choose our behavior, but we do not have free will to be
2 insulated from the consequences of behavior and free will.
3 Natural law is the most [indiscernible] information that
4 needs to be understood by humanity, and there's very
5 little progress in propagating a worldwide understanding
6 of natural law.

7 To the body of humanity, that's what our work is
8 here. That's the work of the people in this room and the
9 people who do understand this. Natural law is a set of
10 universal, inherit, objective, nonmanmade, internal and
11 immutable conditions which govern the consequences of
12 behavior of being within the capacity for understanding
13 the difference between harmful and nonharmful behavior.
14 That means it applies to intelligent beings who have a
15 developed brain and nervous system like we do. It doesn't
16 apply to lesser beings, to the animal kingdom. They are
17 not going to sit there and reason. We have the capacity
18 for reason. They are instinctual creatures. They have
19 emotions as well, but we have higher thought functions.
20 That's why natural law applies to us. A worldwide common
21 sense understanding of two objective moralities and the
22 laws that govern behavioral consequences is the only true
23 solution to the chronic human conditions of slavery.

24 For as long as humanity remains ignorant of the
25 knowledge of natural law, it will remain enslaved.

1 That is the property physical -- that taking of
2 property, physical property which does not belong to you.
3 Trespassers are taking up the security of another person
4 in their domain, their dwelling place, which does not
5 belong to you.

6 Please don't take this land.

7 MR. DAVID BATTS: Is it possible for us to
8 get a copy of your testimony? Okay. So we're going to
9 move over to No. 19.

10 MR. RAYMOND EDWARD IGALOOK: (Speaking in
11 Inupiaq.) My name is Raymond Edward Igalook. I hail from
12 Nuiqsut, Alaska, the most impacted village on the North
13 Slope with which is now the epicenter of oil and gas
14 development with an oil rig three miles away from my
15 village. My son, born October 2012, came home, brought
16 him back home. A week later he ended up getting RSV,
17 which have -- which have concluded from the pollution of
18 the oil and gas development around my village.

19 With Nuiqsut being as the guinea pig, should I say,
20 of the only village surrounded by oil and gas, I want to
21 remind you, who are the true Alaskans here? Many of you
22 here came from somewhere else, but my people, the Gwich'in
23 people, the indigenous people of Alaska, were here. And
24 who came and took over with assimilation, with continued
25 genocide of not only our subsistence rights, but our human

1 rights to health, a healthy, breathing, good quality air.

2 I -- I want to say this, that through my job as an
3 oral historian for the North Slope Borough -- I'm speaking
4 on behalf of myself and not North Slope Borough -- that I
5 have learned a lot during my two years employed
6 interviewing my elders in Nuiqsut. Imagine listening to
7 your elders crying in an interview because of how much
8 destruction has been caused in my village, and nobody on
9 the North Slope can see that but my village. Even my own
10 people, my Inupiaq people, go against me just because I
11 have a voice. We are not all agreed upon or supportive of
12 oil and gas development, such as myself.

13 Over 75 historical sites that were once used for
14 subsistence usage areas are now restricted to access from
15 my people who once hunted there. And that -- and to hear
16 you can't hunt, that (Alaska indigenous word), you can't
17 hunt at (Alaska indigenous word), that hurts me because my
18 son won't ever, ever get the chance to ever hunt where my
19 grandparents hunted, where I learned to hunt, also.

20 Three minutes is not enough for me. I'm going to
21 continue.

22 My people have fought for self-determination, and I'm
23 grateful for that. But there is a time where enough is
24 enough from oil and development. We are economically
25 sustainable right now. We don't need to continue to

1 destruct our land just because of monetary greed,
2 corporate greed. The land sustains us. Again, as
3 Mr. John said, we are recession proof because the land
4 provides for us already with fruit, vegetation, mammals.
5 We rely on these animals for the sake of our nutrition,
6 for the sake of our future generations.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Okay. We
9 are going to go to No. 20, but before we do, if you have
10 Nos. 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29, please come down and see Molly,
11 and she will get you in line.

12 Ma'am.

13 MS. MARLEANNA HALL: Good evening. My
14 name is Marleanna Hall. Thank you all for being here in
15 Alaska to hear us. I know many of you are Alaskans or
16 have been Alaskans in the past, and I appreciate you
17 joining us this evening. I'm the executive director for
18 the Resource Development Council for Alaska. But before
19 and above that, I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I am Inupiaq
20 originally from Nome. I am not from the North Slope. My
21 ancestors are from Shishmaref. But I would, on a lighter
22 note, just as the testimony has become very deep this
23 evening, share that I also grew up with a honey bucket
24 myself.

25 I do believe, though, that the people of Alaska have

1 a right to develop and manage our lands in this state in a
2 way that benefits all people of Alaska and protects the
3 environment. We can and we do do it right.

4 Moving on to my formal testimony tonight, RDC is a
5 statewide trade association comprised of individuals and
6 companies from all five of Alaska's main industries: Oil
7 and gas, mining, forest products, fisheries and tourism
8 industries, as well as the 12 land-owning Alaska Native
9 corporations. My members are truly the lifeblood of
10 Alaska's economy. We believe the best approach to expand
11 our economy and generate new jobs is to produce more oil,
12 attract more tourists, harvest more fish and timber, and
13 mine more minerals.

14 This historic moment, this time in our lives that we
15 need to talk about an opportunity of opening up the
16 nonwilderness coastal plain to oil and gas leasing has
17 been a long wait for Alaskans, all Alaskans. Alaska has
18 responsibly produced over 17 billion barrels of oil from
19 the North Slope in almost 41 years. Fortunately, we still
20 have significant resources that can be developed,
21 providing jobs and improving our economy for generations,
22 as it has for the last several decades.

23 With advances in technology and a projected need for
24 oil, Alaska can and will play a key role in supplying not
25 only our state, but America, reducing our nation's

1 dependence on foreign oil, all the while without
2 significant disturbance to wildlife, subsistence or other
3 uses. In fact, wildlife populations on the North Slope
4 have grown or remained stable with the last nearly five
5 decades of activity.

6 I will close with reminding us that this is the very
7 first step in a very long process. And should lease sales
8 come -- should lease sales lead to development, I believe
9 that the industry will strive to reduce its footprint even
10 further and keep its long track of responsible development
11 in place.

12 Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today.
13 RDC will submit more detailed comments on the scoping
14 process in writing. Thank you.

15 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Great. Thank you very
16 much. We are going to go over to speaker 21. Before we
17 do, if you have numbers 22, 24, 26, 28 or 30, come on down
18 and see Chad.

19 Sir.

20 MR. CARL PORTMAN: Good evening. My name
21 is Carl Portman. And I am here tonight speaking on my own
22 behalf. I was raised on a homestead near Fairbanks and
23 proudly worked on the construction of the Trans-Alaska
24 Pipeline during summer break while attending the
25 University of Alaska Fairbanks. I remember what life was

1 like before TAPS, and I paid state income tax before 1980.
2 I lived through a shallow recession in the early '80s and
3 a deeper recession in the late '80s. I seen my share of
4 Alaska's boom and bust. Like thousands of Alaskans, my
5 livelihood depends on the oil and gas industry, yet I do
6 not work directly for the industry.

7 With the pipeline now running at three-quarters empty
8 and North Slope production on the decline, I see an
9 increasing risk of TAPS facing a premature shutdown in the
10 future. If this were to happen, Alaska would face an
11 unmitigated economic disaster, no doubt a depression
12 beyond what we have ever seen. Clearly, without increased
13 production, the state's economy is in jeopardy. Quite
14 frankly, I am worried about my future, my family,
15 neighbors' and friends' future here in Alaska.

16 According to a study by the University of Alaska
17 Anchorage, up to 50 percent of the state's current economy
18 and at least one-third of all jobs, including those of
19 public employees, are in some way connected to the oil and
20 gas industry. The same reports stress that nothing else
21 can replace oil in the state's economy. Without oil, how
22 will the state meet its long-term obligations from
23 funding essential services to public employee pensions,
24 education and healthcare.

25 According to the Energy Information Administration,

1 oil and gas development in ANWR could result in new
2 domestic production, up to 880,000 barrels per day for a
3 period extending for approximately 12 years with
4 additional production for many years following. Such
5 production would create thousands of new jobs, refill TAPS
6 and generate billions of dollars in new revenues to the
7 Alaska treasury to support, again, essential services.

8 When the 1002 area is open, not one acre of
9 designated wilderness would be disturbed by development.
10 With advances in technology significantly reducing the
11 footprint of development, I know we do not have to choose
12 between energy production and environmental protection.
13 It is possible to develop the energy reserves inside ANWR
14 while directly utilizing only a fraction of the area.
15 This can be accomplished without significant disturbance
16 to wildlife, subsistence use or the environment.

17 In conclusion, I, as well as a strong majority of
18 Alaskans, support these sales on the coastal plain.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. DAVID BATTS: If you have your
21 testimony, if we could steal that, that would be
22 wonderful.

23 Okay. Over to 22, please.

24 MR. MALKOLM BOOTHROYD: Good evening. My
25 name is Malkolm Boothroyd. I'm a lifelong Yukoner, and

1 I'm here representing the Canadian Parks and Wilderness
2 Society.

3 I set foot in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for
4 the first time when I was seven years old. I've glimpsed
5 a loon chick struggling out of an egg, and I've come so
6 close to a grizzly bear that I've heard it breathing.
7 I've hiked in the midst of the heart of 10,000 caribou.
8 I've swum in the Beaufort Sea.

9 I've spent six summers exploring the mountains and
10 rivers of the Arctic Refuge, but there is one thing that
11 I've never seen: The U.S./Canada border. It's invisible.
12 This is something that we should celebrate because in too
13 many parts of the world borders are fortified testaments
14 to exclusion, defined by razor wire and deportations,
15 machine guns and detention facilities. But on the coastal
16 plain, the border is transparent.

17 Every year it's crossed by hundreds of thousands of
18 caribou, by polar bears, seals and bowhead whales, by
19 countless millions of migratory birds. Every hoof, wing
20 and paw that passes across this border unites these lands
21 into one coastal plain, one ecosystem, one homeland.

22 That's why the U.S. government must take the most
23 comprehensive of efforts to understand the transboundary
24 impacts of oil and gas extraction in the Arctic Refuge.
25 It's critical that your agency engage with the federal,

1 territorial and First Nations governments of Canada and
2 seek the input of Canadian scientists and indigenous
3 knowledge holders.

4 Consulting with Canada is not only the right thing to
5 do; it's mandated by the Porcupine Caribou Herd
6 Conservation Agreement and the Alaska National Interest
7 Land Conservation Act.

8 I strongly believe that oil and gas extraction has no
9 place in the Arctic Refuge. I'm confident that a sound
10 and evidenced-based process will come to the same
11 conclusion.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
14 No. 23.

15 MR. CHRIS RIDER: Good evening. My name
16 is Chris Rider. I'm with the Canadian Parks and
17 Wilderness Society, Yukon Chapter. We traveled a long way
18 to get here tonight, and I hope that you will be providing
19 opportunity for Yukoners to submit in person by traveling
20 to Whitehorse to have consultations there because Yukoners
21 deserve a voice. And the reason they deserve a voice is
22 because we speak for the caribou, and the caribou don't
23 have a voice. The caribou don't know borders; neither do
24 the whales, the fish, any other wildlife that travel
25 between Canada and the U.S.

1 We speak tonight representing those animals. And we
2 speak here tonight standing with the Gwich'in people. The
3 Porcupine caribou herd have the longest land mammal
4 migration on earth. Every year they travel between the
5 Arctic Refuge, through the Yukon to the Northwest
6 Territory. It's incredible.

7 Right now they are healthy. There is 200,000 of
8 them. We are very lucky. They are one of the few healthy
9 caribou herds left in North America. They are one of the
10 last healthy caribou herds. There are victims across the
11 North America caribou of habitat loss, hunting, and of
12 predation. Yet the Porcupine caribou herd, they are
13 healthy. Why would we do anything that could risk that?

14 There is going to be people here tonight telling you
15 that the Porcupine caribou herd will be healthy, but they
16 have got so many threats that are coming together. It's
17 called cumulative effects. When you look at climate
18 change and you look at their natural increases and
19 decreases in population cycle, we are potentially looking
20 at having oil and gas exploration open at the same time as
21 the caribou are going through their natural decline.
22 Combine that with climate change, and they may never come
23 back. Caribou are resilient, but they can only withstand
24 so much. The Arctic Refuge is their calving grounds.

25 There is many people tonight who told you that this

1 work can be done safely. It can be done in ways that
2 won't impact the caribou. They can tell you that, but if
3 you had an option to have an oil rig in the maternity ward
4 at the Anchorage hospital, let me ask you, would you take
5 it? Or would you say the place where babies are born is
6 no place for drilling? And that's what I'd say for the
7 Arctic Refuge.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. DAVID BATTS: We are up to No. 24. We
10 are missing No. 24. Does anybody have card No. 24? Would
11 you like us to bring the microphone back there, or would
12 you like to come up front? Would you like to sit down?
13 Please speak this way so our court reporter can see you.
14 Would you like to stand or sit?

15 MS. MARYANN IQILAN NASUALUK NAGEAK REXFORD
16 WARDEN: I don't think I have that big a speech.

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: Okay. Go ahead.

18 MS. MARYANN IQILAN NASUALUK NAGEAK REXFORD
19 WARDEN: But I do feel funny -- maybe I don't like to
20 speak -- I would like to speak to all of you. And I like
21 to see your face when I speak. So let me do it this way.
22 Okay?

23 I'll speak in English. My name is MaryAnn Iqilan
24 Nasualuk. Those first two Inupiaq names are my names that
25 were given to me. And the last two, Nageak and Rexford, I

1 was born in the land and adopted to be a Rexford. I was
2 adopted. I was adopted by my aunt who was a Rexford. And
3 Rhoda Nageak was my birth mom. But they were leaving to
4 go to Barrow, and her sister and Mildred and Herman
5 Rexford adopted me.

6 And I was born May 15, 1942 at Barrow, Alaska to
7 Vincent and Rhoda Akootchook Nageak, both deceased. And I
8 was culturally adopted by Mildred and Herman Rexford, both
9 deceased. I grew up in Kaktovik on Barter Island. My
10 parents -- my grandparents were Susie and Andrew
11 Akootchook who settled on Barter Island and on Arey
12 Island, just north of Barter Island. You don't mind if I
13 turn around and speak. Okay.

14 MR. DAVID BATTIS: If you could speak a
15 little sideways for our court reporter, please. She's
16 trying to read your lips, so it's hard to do that when you
17 give her your back.

18 MS. MARYANN IQILAN NASOALUK NAGEAK REXFORD
19 WARDEN: This is very interesting. I never spoke sideways
20 before. Anyway, I was -- I was culturally adopted by
21 Mildred Akootchook and Herman Rexford, both deceased. I
22 grew up on Kaktovik, on Barter Island, Alaska. We are so
23 close to Canada, sometimes we have relatives in Canada.
24 And we used to go -- actually go back and forth between
25 the invisible line, our side of Alaska and the other side,

1 Canada. But we never had lines when we are growing up. I
2 was growing up, we could go anywhere without any
3 paperwork. We just had to let the dogs go.

4 My grandparents were Susie and Andrew Akootchook.
5 Susie was the sister of Paul Akudak [ph]. Some of you may
6 know that name. And Oolawak [ph]. [indiscernible]
7 Oolawak was her brother, as well.

8 Like I said, my grandparents were Susie and Andrew
9 Akootchook who settled on Barter Island and also on Arey
10 Island just north of Barter Island. Arey Island is a long
11 stretch of sand which was used also as a base for making
12 salt. Salt, S-A-L-T. The family would pick the clear ice
13 and set them up to drip the salt off the clear ice.

14 I once watched a movie about Ghandi and watched them
15 make salt just as our ancestors did on our island and sand
16 spit on the ocean. We not only use the ocean for the
17 animals, like hunting them, but also we used it to make
18 salt.

19 On the west end of the island -- that would be
20 towards Barrow -- we fished with nets, as well, both for
21 the trout and (Inupiaq word), the whitefish. I'm not
22 sure -- I forget what the -- what you would call it. It's
23 a different kind of fish. Good fish.

24 The island is also a nesting area for all the species
25 of birds which we also gathered for food. A aahaliq -- I

1 always forget the English name for aahaliq. It's a black
2 and white bird which we call in Inupiaq aahaliq.

3 MR. DAVID BATTS: If you could please wrap
4 up, we need to move on. If you could please wrap up, we
5 need to move on, too.

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I'll give
7 her my time.

8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Yeah, respect
9 the elder, man.

10 MS. MARYANN IQILAN NASUALUK NAGEAK REXFORD
11 WARDEN: I'll get rid of -- I'll just do the last page
12 here.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: No. Say your
14 whole thing.

15 THE WITNESS: I'll speak as fast as I can.
16 Okay?

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: That's fine.

18 MS. MARYANN IQILAN NASUALUK NAGEAK REXFORD
19 WARDEN: I'm sorry. (Speaking in Inupiaq.) Because they
20 were named for the noisy noise they made aah, aah, then
21 aahaliq means noise. Aah, aah, aahaliq. Aah, aah,
22 aahaliq. Maybe some of you have the same name for them,
23 but I don't know. We also have other species of edible
24 fowl: geese, swans and many kinds of birds. Some we
25 cannot hunt as children. You see, we also killed the

1 small brown birds for our elders since the smaller birds
2 have softer meat.

3 We used to have more elders living in our land in our
4 village, but nowadays most of our elders no longer live
5 long or live in the villages. We still take care of our
6 elders, but they are -- there are facilities for them to
7 live in and be cared for as a group. But if they still
8 have family, they are cared for by them.

9 We as a village also living by the Brooks Range to
10 the south, we also have access to the Dall sheep, which is
11 a delicacy for Christmas and Thanksgiving feasts we have
12 as a village. Thanksgiving, Christmas, 4th of July and
13 whaling season events.

14 I am supposing that many of you have families that
15 get together for the holidays. On our island, we get
16 together as a family when we first settled on Barter
17 Island, Kaktovik. We were out somewhere, and when we came
18 back, we smelled the diesel, and we went by it. They had
19 already started dipping the diesel into many empty drums.
20 The diesel came from the camp, the Air Force camp that was
21 built on an island. They built it. They just built it.
22 I don't think there was anybody to make any -- any -- any
23 say on it.

24 The spill was bad. It was bad. And the spill came
25 from the camp, the Air Force camp. When we came -- come

1 to the island, the first thing we smelled is the land, but
2 when we came in, we smelled the diesel, and it was biting
3 into our nose and eyes. It was bad. That was the Air
4 Force.

5 The Air Force when -- and Russia was alive when
6 everybody was thinking that USA was going to be in war.

7 We always made something good out of something
8 disastrous. We dipped our drums to clean it up. That's
9 the side of the island where we could set our nets for the
10 cisco, the fish, and where the ducks came around. And
11 that's where the whale would come, too.

12 It's hard to lose a way of life when the English
13 came. That's what we called them. Or the white man.
14 Some of those people were not very nice to our men.
15 Inupiaq men. And we are not -- we were not -- we are
16 not -- we will not be violent.

17 There was a man who kept bugging my dad, and he --
18 the only violence my dad did to him was he took his hat
19 off and he banged his -- the top of his head. That's all
20 he could come up with for that man to treat him like that.

21 And I'm not sure if you will have another -- another
22 chance to hear somebody talk about how it was in my
23 village. So I didn't put down too much in here, but I
24 would invite you, if you have any questions, to raise your
25 arm and I can try and answer.

1 We did -- we did have education. We had English. We
2 had to learn English. Anybody that came to our village
3 didn't have to learn our language, but we learned English.
4 And that became our language. Writing -- and we learned
5 how to write. We learned how to argue. We learned how to
6 argue with the ones that came and spoke of -- we spoke
7 their language and we were able to answer back at them,
8 even though we were taught not to answer back at people
9 older than us.

10 There were -- the ones that could speak English were
11 us, the younger ones. And if somebody need it, my mom
12 would always want to know what they say. What did they
13 say? Sometimes it was very hard to translate what you say
14 in English. What you say in English, sometimes it's
15 really hard to translate to Inupiaq because in Inupiaq we
16 have soft language. It's not -- it's not harsh.

17 You have to respect -- you have to respect. And so
18 we -- I don't have my -- I don't have much to say anymore,
19 but we did -- we did learn English. We went to -- I went
20 to high school in Sitka, and after that I went to the
21 University of Alaska in Fairbanks. And then after that I
22 went to the Dubuque seminary school.

23 So I have all the -- I have all the degrees that any
24 of you may be able to get yourself. But my parents were
25 proud I could do it. And I was thankful -- I was thankful

1 to the people that helped me achieve my highest -- the
2 highest I could go. I did not want to try for the Ph.D.
3 I'd rather live than get another degree.

4 So I praise any of you who I -- it's not is struggle.
5 It's something you can achieve, even if you have to
6 struggle for it. Even if you had to struggle for it, you
7 can do it. You can do it. Okay. If you have any
8 questions --

9 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you very much.
10 That was very interesting.

11 Okay. We're going to go over to speaker No. 25.

12 MR. GEORGE PLETNIKOFF, JR.: (Speaking in
13 Alaskan indigenous language.) My name is George
14 Pletnikoff. I'm from St. Paul Island, Alaska. I'm
15 Unangas, also known as Aleuts. And I come here today as
16 myself and alongside indigenous peoples all over this
17 continent, what we call Turtle Island, to oppose oil
18 drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

19 When I think of oil drilling, I think of North Dakota
20 and the struggles that they have gone through. Standing
21 Rock was a big part of that. The great resistance shown
22 of people coming together for water, to stand for water.
23 Not even just against oil. For water. And that is what
24 we are fighting for is our very livelihood. And when you
25 bring oil to our lands, you also bring your people and

1 your ways.

2 And our women, our women are taken and they are
3 raped. Drugs are brought to our children and alcoholism
4 plagues us due to these ways. You want to put oil in our
5 lands, you put oil in us. What you do to your land is
6 what you do to your women, and that is what is going on.
7 Our women are getting raped as the land is getting raped.

8 And I know this isn't the type of setting that we are
9 used to. We had our elders speak to you for longer than
10 you would like, but we have to sum this all up for you
11 just to be accustomed to your ways. Now, this isn't the
12 way of our land.

13 There is harmony. We could all be in harmony, all
14 four directions coming together to stand for water, stand
15 for life and for that food out there that grows the land
16 and goes through the waters that sustain our lives. They
17 are being killed due to the oil, the gas, the coal.

18 And we are not even able to have a good diet because
19 we are being so driven out by your way. You bring your
20 food to us, and that is what we have to eat. You bring us
21 your clothing. There is no room for our traditional ways
22 when it comes to your governments and your corporations.
23 And I get the feeling -- you know, I wouldn't doubt there
24 is a lot of these people getting paid for your vote. I
25 wouldn't doubt it was one of you.

1 And that is what we face. But we stand strong. As
2 long as this food stays here and we can be here to protect
3 it, we will keep moving and we will stop your pipeline.
4 (Speaking in Alaskan indigenous language) Water is life.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. We are
7 looking for No. 26. If we could have you come on No. 2
8 here, please. Thank you.

9 MR. DANA TIZYA-TRAMM: (Indigenous word.)
10 I'll be as quick as possible. I'm here to address some of
11 the things that were said and make some more requests.

12 As I said, I'm a living library of information, as
13 I've studied with biologists, as well as talking to elders
14 who can tell you where to find wooly whole mammoth bones
15 where the giant beavers lived. And I'll just say that
16 there is a couple of inconvenient things here that I'll
17 point out, the elephant in the room.

18 All those people that are for development and all
19 those people that spoke here tonight know that these words
20 are most certainly not disrespectful, as we are brothers
21 and we must work together. And I understand that you want
22 the oil and I understand that you feel that you need it.

23 But let me tell you something, is that not one person
24 has offered any way in which they are going to address the
25 human rights issue, the one that the government is party

1 to with the U.N. declaration of rights, how they are going
2 to address our subsistence rights issues. And as the
3 first peoples of a continent that have struggled to
4 express themselves for millennia and under these new
5 systems, I find that very problematic. Even some
6 senators, leaders in this room, not addressing human
7 rights, which is a fundament that becomes -- predecesses
8 [sic] oil. That's the very reason that we are here.

9 And if we're trying to have these fundamental
10 conversations, then maybe this isn't about oil and gas.
11 Maybe we should reconceptualize this a little bit clearer
12 on indigenous rights.

13 When are our people going to be seen as a people,
14 treated as a people and heard as a people? My people are
15 still recovering from intergenerational trauma, which we
16 now know even metastasizes in genes. And as we're doing
17 this, we constantly have to defend our land and water.
18 That's something that simple.

19 But let me bring you to this. Come to my community
20 in a village of 250 people where we've undertaken the
21 largest solar energy project in the Arctic north, where we
22 will be completely off diesel fuel from early March to
23 September on sunny days.

24 Do we have diesel generators? Yes. And as the
25 gentleman had alluded to and other leaders who have even

1 said that we have 227 wells on the Canadian side is simply
2 not true. There has been development from the '50s
3 without our consultation where they went around our land
4 drilling, which is what led to the 1988 gathering over
5 protection of caribou, and here we are again today because
6 planes were flying into our territory without asking us.
7 And this is another generation that comes and speaks the
8 exact same words.

9 Also the fellow did not mention the city council
10 resolution from the community of Kaktovik that is against
11 development. Also not mentioned was a letter written to
12 the Energy, Mines, and Senate Committee from Robert
13 Thompson that said that the corporations are hijacking the
14 public voice and that they don't -- they do not support
15 this en masse. This is a very delicate balance here, and
16 it needs to be struck. So I very much recommend that the
17 BLM takes into account the resolutions. Not only that,
18 how this fits into the greenhouse ceiling and how this is
19 going to navigate climate issues as well as human rights
20 issues.

21 Again, thank you for your time. I appreciate it.

22 MR. DAVID BATTS: Our next speaker will be
23 No. 27.

24 MS. DEANTHA CROCKETT: Thank you. Good
25 evening. My name is Deantha Crockett, and I'm the

1 Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association, and I
2 appreciate the opportunity to express support for the
3 coastal plain lease sales.

4 AMA is a membership trade organization established in
5 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. Our
6 members include individual prospectors, geologists,
7 engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines,
8 large mines, Alaska Native corporations, and the
9 contracting sector that supports our mining industry.

10 While the mission of AMA is to promote responsible
11 minerals development in Alaska, we are here today in
12 support of lease sales on the coastal plain because we
13 believe it's good policy for all of Alaska and the people
14 that depend on our state's resource economy.

15 A healthy oil and gas industry is crucial for a
16 healthy mining industry, and it's our belief that it's
17 vital for Alaska to have an oil and gas policy that
18 incentivizes the industry to invest in our state.

19 An environmental impact statement will consider and
20 analyze potential environmental impacts, including human
21 rights issues, of various leasing alternatives, so it only
22 makes sense to perform these analyses and determine the
23 best route forward. In this process, lease stipulations
24 and best management practices will be applied to leases
25 and associated activity to properly balance development

1 with existing uses and to limit the footprint of
2 facilities on federal lands. A lease sale is the first in
3 a very long process and does not guarantee development.

4 What is absolutely critical to Alaska's miners is
5 that this area that's considered for leasing was
6 specifically set aside in ANILCA for future oil and gas
7 development. ANILCA is a compromise and a promise that
8 for land designated as open for development, proponents
9 will be allowed to do so as long as they can meet the
10 requirements under federal, state and local environmental
11 laws and regulations.

12 Alaska's resource industries have an impressive track
13 record of responsible development and have continued to
14 make strides to reduce its footprint. For these reasons,
15 AMA urges you to allow access to the world-class resources
16 within just a tiny fraction of the coastal plain.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Great. Thank you. If
19 you have your testimony, if we can grab it, that helps her
20 get her record straight.

21 Okay. No. 28.

22 MR. ANDY MODEROW: Thanks for the
23 opportunity to testify. My name is Andy Moderow, and I've
24 lived here in Anchorage my whole life. I grew up
25 exploring many of the remote corners of our state by dog

1 team, and even had the good fortune to run Iditarod in
2 2001. And I will make no mistake about it. I have been
3 to the Arctic Refuge twice sent then, and we are talking
4 about one of the wildest corners left in our state, and we
5 need to keep it that way.

6 I'm here testifying as State Director for Alaska
7 Wilderness League. We have 5,000 active members in the
8 state and 100,000 around the country. In short, we are
9 testifying here today in a needlessly rushed process where
10 the Trump Administration is continuing to cut corners
11 following Congress, who cut corners and snuck in two pages
12 into a tax bill, and that two pages authorizes oil and gas
13 leasing on the coastal plain. What Congress did was
14 sloppy and what continues today is needlessly rushed and
15 sloppy, as well.

16 I get a little solace out of that of that sloppy
17 process, though, because I don't think our democracy is
18 going to let this stand. I think that the two pages won't
19 determine what the future of the Arctic Refuge will be.
20 And as this process moves forward, it's critical that the
21 multiple laws that govern the Arctic Refuge management are
22 reviewed and thoroughly gone through, and that includes
23 ANILCA, NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act,
24 state, local and federal laws and regulations, management
25 guidelines that agencies have that are internal,

1 management plans, treaties, government-to-government
2 conversations that I know are forthcoming.

3 And it's from that that I think that our democracy is
4 going to move past it and future administrations and
5 future congresses will undo what we are seeing here today.

6 Make no mistake about it. There should not be
7 drilling on the coastal plain of the Arctic National
8 Wildlife Refuge. We should learn from the thousands of
9 years of history of the Gwich'in Nation that has been
10 spoken so eloquently about tonight. We should accept that
11 challenge today to imagine a future of the state not
12 defined by a decade of profit, which is what the tax bill
13 did, but instead 100 times longer of what our next
14 thousand years look like.

15 Thanks for the opportunity to testify.

16 MR. DAVID BATTS: No. 29.

17 MR. MICHAEL JESPERSON: Hello. I'm
18 Michael Jesperson, J-E-S-person. I'm here testifying on
19 behalf of myself and my family. My wife and I have three
20 children ranging from college to elementary school. In
21 1980 when the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
22 Act set aside the 1002 area, I was in middle school and
23 didn't care anything about the world except for how far I
24 could run that night at track practice. Now that I have
25 three kids, I care about a lot of things. I need the

1 world to be here for them and future grandchildren some
2 day when I'm really old. But they also need to have jobs.

3 There are people in the room tonight and on TV that
4 tell you you have to choose between animals and oil,
5 between natural resources and animals. They are all
6 natural resources. You don't have to choose. You can
7 have both. If you do it properly, there is no reason that
8 people can't hunt and fish and people can have oil. And
9 the oil produces jobs, jobs that will keep my kids in
10 Alaska instead of thousands of miles away.

11 Please, let this process go forward as it's set up.
12 The leasing is just one step. It's still going to be 20
13 years before anything is drilled up there. Let the
14 process go. Please.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. We will go
17 with this next speaker, then we'll take a break.

18 MS. DEBBIE MILLER: I'll be submitting
19 written testimony, so you don't have to worry so much
20 about catching every word.

21 COURT REPORTER: I do. It's my job.

22 MS. DEBBIE MILLER: Thank you so much for
23 coming and listening to all these wonderful people
24 tonight. We appreciate that. My name is Debbie Miller.
25 I've lived in Alaska for 43 years. I started out in

1 Arctic Village as a teacher there. And I feel -- still to
2 this day I feel honored to live with these people and
3 learn about their traditional culture, their way of life
4 and how profoundly bound they are to the caribou, seeing
5 them going out on the hunts, camping with them on hunting
6 trips, watching people with their spotting scope looking
7 for the first caribou to come back by the village and
8 letting those caribou go by because that was the
9 tradition. If you shot the first ones, they would turn
10 around and go away.

11 Over the years I have been very fortunate. I've
12 traveled extensively through the Arctic Refuge and written
13 many books about the Arctic and the wildlife and the
14 natural history of the area. I'm going to leave one with
15 you to read on the airplane, a book called Midnight
16 Wilderness, which has a picture of the Porcupine caribou
17 herd on the cover in the 1002 area so you can see what
18 this area looks like and how special it is.

19 Right now at this very moment as we are sitting here,
20 the caribou, the Porcupine herd, 200,000 animals, are
21 migrating through the snow -- patchy snow right now. It's
22 melting -- through the Brooks Range, around the Brooks
23 Range, following the valleys, following the rivers, going
24 to the coastal plain.

25 In the next two weeks, approximately 50,000 calves

1 will be born. These are pregnant cows that are walking
2 thousands of miles each year, and they have come to this
3 coastal plain, some scientists believe, for two million
4 years. The ancestors of these caribou have journeyed to
5 this place. You might ask why. Few predators when you
6 get out on the coastal plain. It's wedged between the
7 mountains and the sea. And so the farther you get away
8 from the mountains, the fewer predators. Insect relief
9 habitat when the mosquitoes get bad. Many good reasons.
10 Forage, plant life. It's a nursery for these animals.

11 And the 2,000-acre myth makes no sense, because if
12 you have a box of Legos it's a very small box, but if you
13 open it and you put those Legos all over the floor in this
14 room, you can imagine what it looks like.

15 The 2,000 acres that have been proposed are not
16 consolidated. You can have a few acres here and a few
17 acres there, structures, pipelines going all the way
18 across the coastal plain an infrastructure that would
19 destroy the Wildlife Refuge and the wilderness values, and
20 that's the primary purpose of why we have the refuge is
21 for the wilderness, the wildlife and the recreational
22 values and to protect subsistence.

23 These are the purposes that are violated by the tax
24 bill new purpose that allows for oil and gas on the
25 coastal plain. That purpose is a problem, that new

1 purpose, because it is not compatible with why we have
2 this beautiful wildlife-rich refuge.

3 Thank you very much, and I'll give you the book.

4 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Okay. We
5 are going to take a short break. So it's 8:05 right now,
6 so if we just come back in about five minutes, we will get
7 started again. And if you have cards No. 31 through 40,
8 31 through 40, please come down and see Chad and Molly,
9 and we'll get you lined up and ready to go.

10 (A break was taken.)

11 MR. DAVID BATTS: We are going to get
12 started again. Please come on up so we can get you
13 seated.

14 Okay. It is just a quick time check. It's about ten
15 after 8:00, a little bit more. Again, this venue closes
16 at 10:00, and we have to have everything broken down and
17 taken out. The security does leave at 9:30, and they
18 request to sweep the building before they leave. So we're
19 going to work as efficiently as we can here to get as many
20 comments in. And I'll give you a little status update as
21 we move forward with this next group.

22 We're going to go with No. 31 on microphone No. 1.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. PANGANGA PUNGOWIYI: Hi. My name is
25 Panganga Pungowiyi, and I represent my ancestors and the

1 next seven generations.

2 I come from an island that was once populated up to
3 an estimate of over 10,000 people. Upon the depletion of
4 the whale population, 99 percent of our population was
5 eradicated, over 9,000 human beings on one island killed
6 for economic gain.

7 The driving motivation behind European whale harvest
8 was oil and baleen. As a result, in the late 1800s we
9 witnessed the collapse of the sea mammal population, which
10 caused the famine.

11 During the colonization process in Alaska, it is
12 estimated that between 75 and 99 percent of the indigenous
13 population died. The process of colonizing our land and
14 people continues to this day.

15 I was given the honor of sitting in the audience of
16 Ricky Tagaban recently who said words that resonated so
17 well that I carry them with me, that the first step of
18 colonization is always genocide. When this does not work,
19 the next step is always assimilation.

20 Genocide and assimilation continue today, covert
21 genocide by institutional racism, symbolic annihilation,
22 and ongoing historical trauma grief with no
23 acknowledgement or support to heal.

24 The pursuit of resources on current and historic
25 indigenous land is genocide. The stifling of woke

1 indigenous voices and the uplifting of internally
2 oppressed voices who have justified the unigenerational
3 comfort of compromise is continued genocide. I stand in
4 the strength of seven generations behind and seven
5 generations forward, and with the love for my fellow human
6 beings on the panel to say we care for you and we are
7 correcting you because we care for you. If I did not care
8 for your humanity and for your ancestors and children, I
9 would not speak to you. Please care for mine.

10 MR. DAVID BATTS: We are missing No. 32.
11 Does anybody have card No. 32?

12 MS. DARLA MUNGUIA: It's not so ironic to
13 me that where oil corporations seek oil they most likely
14 find it, and once they find it -- science is the study of
15 nature. Science is also the mockery of nature. Science
16 will never exceed beyond the capacity of what nature can
17 do. The ones in power have portrayed that. But within
18 time, we have seen the side effects. Once you take nature
19 away from herself, she no longer has the same attributes,
20 and it's never for the good, basically turning natural
21 resources into toxins. So it's natural resources for the
22 chemically dependent or for the indigenous. You are the
23 ones who oppress power to use it to see how you see fit;
24 yet you have not made a way for it to be fair.

25 MR. DAVID BATTS: Speaker No. 33.

1 MS. CHARLENE APOK: (Speaking in Inupiaq.)
2 Uvanja Charlene Apok. Inupiaqsisga Aqpik. uvva uvva igniga
3 Evan Lukluan. My name is Charlene Apok. My Inupiaq name
4 is Aqpik. Over there is my son, Evan Lukluan. I am from
5 the Inupiaq Nation.

6 I stand here in solidarity with Gwich'in Nation. The
7 health of the people is directly tied to the health of the
8 land. I want to take this time to call attention to the
9 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
10 People because the Gwich'in people are a sovereign nation.
11 Inupiaq tribes are also sovereign nations.

12 To be sovereign and to have human rights is an
13 inherent right. It is not given.

14 I specifically want to draw to Articles 24, 25 and
15 26. Article 24 of the United Nations Declaration on the
16 Rights of Indigenous People, which the United Nations --
17 which the United States did join sides with states, that:
18 Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional
19 medicines and to maintain their home practices, including
20 the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals,
21 such as the caribou, and minerals.

22 Article 25 states: Indigenous peoples have the right
23 to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual
24 relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise
25 occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal

1 seas and other resources to uphold their responsibilities
2 to future generations in this regard.

3 Article 26: Indigenous peoples have the right to the
4 lands, territories, and resources which they have
5 traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or
6 acquired.

7 These are just three articles that the indigenous
8 people, such as the Gwich'in Nation and Inupiaq people,
9 have inherent rights, human rights to.

10 One of the purposes of this gathering is to create an
11 environmental impact statement, but I call for you to
12 consider, what about a cultural impact statement? What
13 about a health impact statement? The Yakutia people in
14 Russia have insisted on the same thing because of their
15 caribou have been impacted by oil development.

16 For Alaska Native people who support this drilling,
17 who support this exploration, who support development,
18 please listen. Please think about, who are we without our
19 land and animals? Who are we as Alaska Native people
20 without our connection to the lands, the waters and the
21 animals? We will cease to exist as a people if this moves
22 forward.

23 Thank you. Quayanaq.

24 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Speaker No. 34. We are
25 missing cards 37 and 39.

1 REP. CHARISSE MILLET: Thank you. Good
2 evening, and thank you for being here. My name is
3 Charisse Millet. I'm Inupiaq. I'm also a State
4 Representative. I represent House District 25 here in
5 Anchorage. I have been in the legislature for ten years.

6 What I'd like to say tonight, this is a long process,
7 the first step in leasing in the area 1002. I've spent a
8 lot of time down in Washington, D.C. advocating for
9 opening the area 1002. It has great potential, as you
10 have heard tonight. I've also worked and talked to folks
11 that have been very happy and encouraged by the
12 development under the Trump Administration about opening
13 up domestic energy supplies. I think this is a good step
14 forward.

15 As I've worked in the legislature, I've watched and
16 seen the improvements that have happened between industry
17 and stakeholders. In the area and the regions that have
18 been developed, the footprint is much smaller. The
19 technology is so fast-moving, and expanding the footprint
20 has been reduced in oil and gas drilling. I believe, as
21 we move forward, ANWR has the greatest potential for not
22 only domestic energy, but also for regional energy
23 throughout the state of Alaska. We are energy rich, but
24 also energy anemic in some of our more remote villages
25 that rely on diesel to make their communities work, and

1 it's expensive. My dream, of course, is to have some day
2 have natural gas to all of Alaska, and we are working
3 through that process now.

4 But area 1002 has been set aside. It was part of
5 ANILCA. It was part of a promise to Alaska as a resource
6 state to put that aside for potential drilling. I'm
7 hopeful so see that happen.

8 Thank you all for being here, and I definitely
9 support moving the process forward and exploring 1002 and
10 go through the leasing process. Thank you.

11 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. We will move
12 on to No. 35. And again, if you have cards 37 or 39,
13 please come forward.

14 MR. ROMAN DIAL: Hi. My name is Roman
15 Dial, and I'm not an oil worker and I'm not a wilderness
16 guide. I'm not a professional conservationist. I'm not
17 Gwich'in. I'm not Inupiaq. I'm a 40-year resident, a
18 husband, a father, and I represent myself and my wife.
19 She said I could speak for her, too.

20 I have visited the refuge seven times in the last 30
21 years, and each time I went to the 1002 area. I skied
22 across it from east to west, took three weeks and froze a
23 bottle of whiskey. Once two of us rode our mountain bikes
24 from Kaktovik to Arctic Village. We got in trouble for
25 that.

1 The most memorable trip for me, though, was when I
2 was having sort of a hard time in my marriage, and my wife
3 and I went up there with our kids. They were ten and
4 eight, and we kind of worked it all out watching the
5 caribou calve there on the 1002 area and walked back to
6 Kaktovik. Our marriage held together. I'd like to think
7 that that time as a family together in the wilderness
8 helped our family to stay strong.

9 I'm concerned about wildness as a resource. We have
10 plenty of oil and plenty of greed. We have got a lot of
11 hands out to go around. Why do we need more? So the
12 people who leave when the oil is gone can stick around a
13 little longer?

14 It's really impossible to overstate the future value
15 of the Arctic Refuge. It's complete. It's intact. It's
16 pure. It's like virginity. Once it's gone it's really
17 gone.

18 Sure, I use oil. I occasionally have sex. But just
19 because I have sex doesn't mean I condone rape. The oil
20 pad will only have, somebody said, like one-one hundredth
21 of a percent of the Arctic Refuge. Well, you know, would
22 a father sell that one one-hundredth of a percent of his
23 daughter's skin that would command the highest price? I
24 hope not.

25 Oil is plentiful. It's cheap. Wildness is neither.

1 It's going fast. That's the resource that concerns me.
2 That's the resource that I feel we need to keep for our
3 children's children's children. The availability of
4 wildness to Americans should be added as an amendment to
5 the Constitution. Wildness is as American as freedom of
6 speech, as freedom of religion, as the freedom to bear
7 arms. This tax bill add-on, it feels really unAmerican to
8 me.

9 I would like to go on record as against oil
10 development in 1002.

11 Thanks for your time.

12 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Okay. We
13 are going to go to No. 36.

14 MS. SUSAN CULLINEY: My name is Susan
15 Culliney. I work as the Policy Director for Audubon,
16 Alaska, which is the state office for the National Audubon
17 Society, which has about 400,000 members nationwide and
18 over 4,000 here in Alaska.

19 Audubon is strongly opposed to oil and gas
20 development in the Arctic Refuge. The 1002 area of the
21 refuge is an important bird area for 14 species, including
22 golden eagle and red-throated loon and is globally
23 significant for several shorebirds, including the American
24 golden plover.

25 The Arctic Refuge is also an excellent example of a

1 wholly connected and intact Arctic ecosystem, consisting
2 of boreal forest, mountains, foothills, coastal plain and
3 lagoons and islands. The coastal plain, more broadly, is
4 an ecoregion of vibrant and ecologically unique habitat
5 type critical to Arctic wildlife species, and it serves as
6 a nursery for birds that fly from areas around the globe.

7 The only place that the coastal plain ecoregion can
8 be found in the United States is in Alaska in the Arctic
9 between the Brooks Range mountains and the Arctic Ocean,
10 spanning from the coast of the Chukchi Sea in the west and
11 going east through the NPR-A and Prudhoe Bay and into the
12 coastal plain of the refuge. So the coastal plain
13 contained within the Arctic Refuge is only 5 percent of
14 that entire coastal plain found in Alaska. And
15 development has occurred for decades on the coastal plain
16 outside the refuge and has resulted in ecological damage,
17 the long-term impacts of which is not yet known.

18 There should be places on the coastal plain that we
19 as a nation leave undeveloped, and the Arctic Refuge is
20 one. These undeveloped places leave space for humans and
21 wildlife to adapt to coming changes in climate, and these
22 places act as scientific baselines, meaning we can compare
23 these undeveloped places to developed areas to better
24 understand what the impacts are over the long run. So
25 this issue of risking the scientific baseline and risking

1 this area of climate resiliency, these are just two of the
2 many issues that the agency must grapple with in this
3 upcoming EIS.

4 And I want to be clear that Audubon is opposed to oil
5 and gas development in the refuge, but we are also very
6 concerned with the rushed process that the government is
7 using to get there. We urge the agency to slow down,
8 fully consider the impacts which we believe in the end
9 indicate that oil and gas development does not belong in
10 the refuge.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Go over to
13 No. 37. And we are missing No. 40. If you have No. 40,
14 please come down and see Chad.

15 MS. JULIE RAYMOND-YAKOUBIAN: My name is
16 Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. I live in Girdwood, Alaska. I
17 have spent a lot of time thinking, talking and writing
18 about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the
19 proposed lease sale area. I'm very fortunate to have been
20 to the coastal plain of the refuge, specifically in the
21 1002 area proposed for the oil and gas leasing. I've also
22 written a master's degree thesis about the Arctic Refuge
23 and the reasons why it is important to and valued by so
24 many diverse groups of Americans.

25 I'm opposed to the proposed leasing in the coastal

1 plain of the Arctic Refuge. I personally value the
2 coastal plain of the refuge as it is and for what it is.
3 It is a wild place that has mostly only seen the light
4 touch of humans. It is calving grounds for the Porcupine
5 caribou herd. It is a bird sanctuary and nesting ground.
6 It is an idea. It is a symbol. It is a cultural
7 landscape that provides for indigenous communities. It is
8 a landscape imbued with spirituality. And it is many
9 other things to many people.

10 As part of your process, there are many things that
11 you need to fully and meaningfully consider. For example,
12 climate change is a reality and the effects of it can
13 already be felt and seen across Arctic Alaska. Our
14 country and our state need to be moving away from fossil
15 fuels, not further entrenching ourselves in our dependence
16 on them. This lease sale would do nothing to get us
17 towards sustainable energy independence.

18 I'm also assuming, or rather hoping, that formal
19 government-to-government tribal consultation has already
20 begun with all potentially impacted tribes. This work
21 should be prioritized in both your timelines and your
22 decisionmaking.

23 Related to tribal consultation, but also independent
24 of it, I expect that the environmental justice portion of
25 your EIS will be quite substantial and will involve tribal

1 governments as well as a variety of anthropologists,
2 social scientists and others that are experts on these
3 issues.

4 There needs to be substantial and meaningful
5 discussion of the values that Americans place on the
6 refuge and on the coastal plain. This should happen in
7 your discussion of the human environment and sociocultural
8 impacts from proposed leasing.

9 The coastal plain has numerous documented and
10 undocumented archeological and historic sites, and impacts
11 to those needs to be assessed under Section 106 of the
12 National Historic Preservation Act.

13 The entire coastal plain of the refuge could also be
14 considered a traditional cultural landscape of the
15 Gwich'in Nation. An analysis of the area through
16 framework should be explicitly included in your work.

17 I don't envy you or your colleagues being the agency
18 and individuals that may become responsible for the
19 defilement of a biologically, historically and culturally
20 important sacred landscape, and I encourage you to take
21 steps to prevent that from happening.

22 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. We will go
23 to No. 38. We're still missing cards 39 and 40. Please
24 come down if you have those numbers.

25 Sir.

1 MR. BRENDEN RAYMOND-YAKOUBIAN: Hello. My
2 name is Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian. I live in Girdwood,
3 Alaska.

4 I am speaking here against any leasing for oil and
5 gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as well as any
6 form of development in the Refuge. I have been to the
7 coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, and I want to speak
8 here about the importance of the Refuge as wilderness and
9 what that concept means to me.

10 Taking steps towards developing any part of the
11 Arctic Refuge would be a choice, and it would be a wrong
12 choice. That wrong choice is also a symptom of a broader
13 wrong turn we have taken on this planet.

14 Oil and gas development on the coastal plain will
15 degrade the wilderness of the refuge, both de facto and
16 designated. Wilderness, in both its concrete and abstract
17 senses, lies, I believe, at the center of the soul of all
18 things. It is the freedom at the heart of not only the
19 world we live in, but within ourselves, as well. It is a
20 birthright we had on this planet which we have largely
21 forsaken. We see this in the way we have alienated
22 ourselves from nature and from each other, in the perverse
23 scaffolding we have erected around us which requires
24 competitive and violent relationships with people and the
25 environment.

1 We see this perhaps most clearly in the constant
2 assault on subsistence and on the wilderness of our
3 planet. With the Arctic Refuge, we have a chance not only
4 to make a choice to not forsake one of the most important
5 remaining special places in this world which embodies the
6 wilderness that is fundamental to the environment we were
7 born into, but also to not forsake that same wilderness
8 that also lies inside of ourselves and that seems to move
9 further and further from the grasp of most human
10 experience as each day goes on. We should choose
11 wilderness.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. DAVID BATTS: Again, if you have your
14 testimony, it does help our court reporter capture your
15 input more accurately.

16 Okay. If we do not have 39 or 40, we're going to
17 call down Nos. 41 through 50. If you could come down, we
18 will get you situated.

19 Sir, are you No. 41.

20 MR. LAWRENCE MOONEY: Yes, sir.

21 MR. DAVID BATTS: Wonderful. Go ahead and
22 start, please.

23 MR. LAWRENCE MOONEY: Hi. Thank you for
24 the opportunity to testify. My name is Lawrence Mooney,
25 and I am the president of Laborers Local 341.

1 The reason why I'm here tonight is, our union is a
2 pretty diversified union. We have 500 nurses at Alaska
3 Regional Hospital. We represent construction workers here
4 in Anchorage and all over the state, and we also represent
5 oil and gas workers down in Valdez and as far as
6 Glennallen. We actually represent the people that put
7 these chairs out here tonight that work here in this
8 establishment. So we are pretty diversified.

9 Now, the 2,000 members of Laborers Local 341 have no
10 beef with any of the wildlife or any of the people that
11 live on the North Slope. The reason why I'm here to speak
12 on their behalf is because we need jobs. The state that
13 we are in right now, I can give you all the statistics and
14 bullet points, but some of them are pretty negative.

15 We are pretty close to the top on quite a few
16 negative issues: Suicide, domestic violence, alcoholism
17 and related crimes. Right now I think Anchorage is number
18 one or close to number one in the country for crime. We
19 have a lot of problems here. If you go out and you look
20 at the mountains, it's beautiful, but there is a lot of
21 stuff that's here that needs to be fixed. And what's
22 going to fix it is revenue that comes from oil.

23 I understand these people's plight, to some degree.
24 I can't say I totally understand it because I don't walk
25 in their shoes. But I do understand that this is my

1 backyard and I don't want this there, but unfortunately,
2 there is a bigger picture.

3 The bigger picture that's out there, this state is
4 two and a half times the size of Texas. It's 264 times
5 the size of Delaware. It has a population of less than
6 750,000 people. There is wilderness in Alaska. If you
7 take a look at the map, we have three roads. One goes to
8 the North Slope, one goes fishing, and one goes to Canada.
9 That's the -- that's the development that we have here.

10 I personally have worked on the North Slope, and I've
11 worked in Valdez, and I know responsive -- responsible
12 development. Let me give you some examples. I worked on
13 a job where a loader, a piece of equipment, did not move
14 for two months because seagulls had nested on the roof
15 overnight. Don't move it. It stays there. Do not
16 disturb the birds or the wildlife.

17 I have worked on a pipeline where there was rust on
18 it and it was sandblasted. We used to joke about the rice
19 and ice crew because that's what it was sandblasted with.
20 It was dry ice and rice. So nobody would use sand to
21 sandblast it.

22 The point I'm trying to make here is that it can be
23 done and it has been done responsibly. Please take a look
24 at the statistics and get yourself an educated opinion
25 about what's exactly at stake here. Thank you.

1 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. We are
2 missing cards No. 42 and 50, 43 and 49. Anybody have the
3 cards? Which one are you?

4 MS. KRISTI WILLIAMS: 42.

5 MR. DAVID BATTS: 42? Okay. Please give
6 it to him.

7 If you have a blue card, go see Molly. White cards,
8 go see Chad.

9 No. 42, please.

10 MS. KRISTI WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.
11 Thank you for being here. My name is Kristi Williams, and
12 I'm here today to speak on behalf of myself and my family.
13 My son and I are both tribal members of the Gwichyaa
14 Gwich'in tribal government of Fort Yukon. I'm the first
15 Gwich'in tribal attorney, first licensed attorney. And
16 I'm proud to say I was born in Fairbanks, Alaska and I'm
17 an Alaskan. I live in Anchorage now.

18 The President and the Interior Secretary have
19 repeatedly stressed a commitment to making America energy
20 dominant. It has been reported that almost 40 percent of
21 employers in the oil and gas industry plan to increase
22 their workforce by at least 5 percent in the coming years
23 to expand production. So let's assume that along with
24 that goal of energy dominance, the administration also
25 hopes to create jobs. What kind of future jobs are we

1 looking at with ANWR development? You are right. We do
2 need jobs.

3 The petroleum industry supports a third of all jobs
4 in Alaska, but it's no secret that extracting oil is
5 dangerous. Whether it's done onshore or offshore, the
6 dangers are real. An accident on a drill rig can quickly
7 escalate into a fatality.

8 According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the
9 fatality rate for oil and gas extractive industries is
10 seven times higher than other fields. In fact, in 2016,
11 20 workers per month were hospitalized or lost a body part
12 on the job.

13 But let's make this about Alaska. Near the peak of
14 Alaska's oil production, a 24-year-old man was checking
15 mud pump hours on a tiger tank when he was asphyxiated by
16 nitrogen and fell into the tank. He was found drowned in
17 a pool of waste oil at the bottom of that tank. He died
18 on Doyon drilling rig No. 15 on Endicott Island, a manmade
19 gravel island in Prudhoe Bay. There were no safety bars
20 on the tank. He left behind a three-year-old daughter.
21 Troy Williams. He was a Gwich'in man, an Alaskan, and he
22 was my brother.

23 But Troy wasn't the only Gwich'in man to die on Doyon
24 rig 15. A 56-year-old man named David James died in April
25 2012. He was killed at midnight on manmade Spy Island.

1 David died due to crushing injuries he received that were
2 caused by a pipe elevator falling on him. The OSHA report
3 listed the penalty for that death at just \$6,300.

4 Now, you might have the impression that I'm opposed
5 to oil development. Well, I'm not. I support responsible
6 balanced resource development, but I also support safety
7 in our workplace. I think that we can be more creative in
8 our jobs that we create for our economy and Alaska and for
9 our children. I don't want my child going to the North
10 Slope, and I'm sure you can understand why.

11 I can't help but think that the NPR-A is right next
12 door. Why are we opening up this pristine land in ANWR
13 when we have NPR-A right next door? According to a 2017
14 Petroleum News article, the Prudhoe Bay wells are still
15 productive. And with all of the recoverable oil on the
16 North Slope, some estimating at five billion barrels or
17 more, that's a 14 percent increase in U.S. proven
18 reserves.

19 So I'll just say again, the Alaska Native tribal
20 health system produces as many jobs in Alaska as the oil
21 and gas industry, more even. That was a current report
22 done by the Alaska Native Health Board.

23 We can have jobs in Alaska that don't rely on oil and
24 gas development, and I hope that the BLM will consider
25 that.

1 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. No. 43.

2 MS. KACEY HOPSON: (Speaking in Inupiaq.)
3 I said, hello, my name is (Inupaiq word) Kacey Hopson. My
4 family comes from the village of Wainwright, Alaska on the
5 North Slope of he Alaska. Thank you for being here today
6 to hear our comments.

7 I am here to say that this is not just a debate about
8 protecting animals. This is not a debate between jobs and
9 animals or wildlife. This is much bigger. This is
10 about -- this is about the identity and the future of our
11 country. This is about the kind of country America wants
12 to be. We have a history of making treaties and breaking
13 them again and again and again with the indigenous peoples
14 of this continent. I don't need to read them to you.
15 They are readily available for research.

16 Broken when abiding by them was too inconvenient and
17 when it didn't align with the needs of Congress.
18 Indigenous peoples have been on the receiving end of the
19 forcible theft of land, life, language, our entire
20 existence. And I do not exaggerate.

21 This history has taught us, those of us who have been
22 on the receiving end of this betrayal again and again, not
23 to trust these processes. We know that promises are too
24 often empty and broken just as easily as they are made.

25 Treaties are no longer made, of course. Now we have

1 processes like this and convention centers like this. But
2 that mistrust is still there. That history is there and
3 reparations have not been made.

4 Now, if you are going to come into communities like
5 mine, you need to be aware of this mistrust. You need to
6 be aware of this history. That Congress slipped this
7 topic into a tax bill is testament that this process is
8 being rushed.

9 If this development is going to move forward, I
10 challenge you to think deeply, seriously, earnestly about
11 this history, our history as a country. What will you do
12 to put a stop to this history? What will you do to
13 meaningfully address the human rights issues that have
14 been raised today? What will you do to honor the concerns
15 that have been raised and what tangible, meaningful steps
16 will you take?

17 Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Move over to 44.

19 MS. ANN RAPPOPORT: Thank you for this
20 opportunity. My name is Ann Rappoport. I retired from
21 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a supervisory
22 biologist where my 33-year included nine years
23 implementing Section 1002 of ANILCA. This included
24 monitoring the carefully planned 1983-85 seismic and
25 surface geology exploration program, public meetings and

1 affected villages, and leading the environmental
2 assessment team for the EIS.

3 More recently, while with a national non-profit
4 organization, I worked with the Bureau of Land Management
5 on their Regional Mitigation Strategy for oil development
6 in the NPR-A, attending multiday public meetings in
7 Fairbanks and Utqiagvik.

8 Neither the biological importance nor the geology of
9 the refuge coastal plain have changed since the 1980s
10 studies. But in a clause on an unrelated bill and without
11 careful debate Congress recently passed legislation to
12 open the coastal plain.

13 Others have spoken to the diverse, numerous and
14 international species for whom the coastal plain is an
15 essential habitat. You've also heard about the importance
16 of this place to the Native Alaskans, including the
17 Gwich'in who have called this place home and who have
18 subsisted off these renewable resources for thousands of
19 years. All these resources have been protected under the
20 purposes of the Arctic Refuge as initially established
21 nearly 60 years ago and updated in the 1980 Alaska Lands
22 Act. Then, after extensive analysis in 2015, the U.S.
23 Fish & Wildlife Service recommended a wilderness
24 designation here.

25 Changes throughout the North Slope over the past

1 several decades make it even more imperative for BLM to
2 not rush into an irreversible development program. These
3 include: One, adjacent State lands to the west are now
4 crossed by an extensive infrastructure spider web and
5 activities of oil and gas production; two, on the
6 BLM-managed NPR-A, drilling and leasing with some initial
7 production extends west from State lands.

8 Three, people of Nuiqsut did not worry when Prudhoe
9 Bay developments were 70 miles away, but now that drilling
10 is within sight and sound, they are concerned about asthma
11 their children suffer, cancer rates, and decreasing
12 availability of subsistence resources; and four, our
13 warming climate is exacerbating all these changes, and at
14 a faster and faster rate.

15 Polar bears spend more time on land and have greater
16 difficulties finding food. Invasive species are moving
17 north. Freeze-up is later and snowmelt earlier,
18 shortening the period when ice roads and winter
19 exploration can occur without damaging the tundra.

20 Coastal erosion, melting permafrost, and the changes in
21 rivers freezing and thawing all affect the ability of
22 Kaktovik, Arctic Village, and other North Slope residents
23 to safely travel and obtain subsistence.

24 Mitigation of climate change will only come from slow
25 down of oil and gas production and use and transition to

1 clean, renewable energy resources. This extensive
2 development on State lands and development opportunities
3 now extending into NPR-A together cover about two-thirds
4 of the North Slope, leaving the coastal plain of the
5 Arctic Refuge as the last undisturbed wildlife and
6 subsistence Arctic ecosystem and migratory corridor within
7 the North Slope of Alaska and the United States.

8 For the 1987 EIS, I was a witness to how appointed
9 officials at the highest levels influenced and modified
10 the recommendations from the field. If the recommendation
11 is changed as this process moves up the decision ladder,
12 it should be transparent so that all Americans can weigh
13 in on the future of this important national treasure.

14 There must be no action alternative because there is
15 no alternative for effective litigation for the fish,
16 wildlife, habitats and subsistence users of the Arctic
17 Refuge coastal plain if oil and gas development proceeds.
18 I recommend that BLM slow down, properly consider and
19 analyze all the issues. The conclusion must be selection
20 of a no action or no leasing alternative.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. DAVID BATTS: No. 45.

23 MS. SARA THOMAS: (Speaking in Inupiaq.)

24 Good evening. My name is Sara Thomas and I am an
25 Utqiagvik resident. I am here tonight because I happened

1 to be heading down to California for the celebration of
2 life of my grandmother. I wasn't able to go to the
3 meeting in Utqiagvik, like many, many other people in our
4 community. The meeting did happen during whaling. We
5 were -- it's a very busy time in our community, as you
6 probably know.

7 My grandmother died from cancer. She fought hard.
8 For me, this issue is -- this is the easy path. This
9 lifestyle that we have become accustomed to, this is the
10 easy way, and it's not the best way. This is cancer,
11 cancer in our -- you know, fracking -- what the effects
12 are of that fracking, of putting those chemicals deep into
13 the earth. I've heard that the earthquake -- that Nuiqsut
14 had its first earthquake in memorable history.

15 For me, this impact of this continuation of this easy
16 lifestyle, it's not worth it. My family, my husband is an
17 Inupiaq. My kids -- I'm a mother of five children that
18 I'm raising in Utqiagvik. They -- we live on subsistence
19 foods. We -- we are learning Inupiaq language. We are
20 fighting to hold onto this culture that is so beautiful,
21 so amazing. And it is in direct conflict with this type
22 of action.

23 My parents are wildlife biologists for the North
24 Slope Borough, and I'm well aware of the impacts on the
25 caribou, on the Porcupine herd.

1 I'm standing here today in solidarity with the
2 Gwich'in people, with our neighbors over there to the
3 east, with our many, many people in my community and on
4 the North Slope that are not -- my kids are ASRC and they
5 are not pro drilling in ANWR.

6 You know, money is confusing for people. I know. I
7 worked at Shell for a very short time, and I saw it's very
8 confusing for people. No amount of money will be worth
9 the loss of the Porcupine caribou herd. No amount of
10 money is worth any person who has died from cancer. ANWR
11 is not the answer to America's problems. The easy way is
12 not the best way.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Okay.
15 No. 46, please.

16 MS. SU CHON: Hi. My name is Su Chon, and
17 I'm here representing myself as an individual. I lived
18 here my whole life. I'm a born-and-raised Alaskan. And
19 to me, this is not just a territory or a state. This is
20 home.

21 And today you have heard the environmental, social,
22 personal, spiritual and economic arguments, and I hope
23 that you will be thorough about incorporating these
24 comments into your decisionmaking process. I hope you
25 understand that this is a multifaceted issue; economic,

1 environmental and, most of all, it's a human rights issue.
2 My heart stands with the Gwich'in people. And even though
3 I may not be indigenous, I understand the importance of
4 the voices needing to be heard unbiased from corporate
5 manipulation.

6 And like the elder who had testified earlier, she
7 made a point that many indigenous people don't have
8 English as their first language. And that brings the
9 question, how accessible is the process being made so that
10 indigenous people are able to be informed and give solid
11 input on the process.

12 The traditional wisdom that indigenous people have is
13 a resource, and that is critical to preserve for the
14 future. And I hope that you will do a thorough study for
15 this EIS.

16 You know, I've seen the Pebble Mine EIS and to me it
17 appeared very inadequate. And if there are people who are
18 handing out fact sheets at these public comment hearings,
19 then I think it points to an inadequacy that -- on the
20 research being done and that a decision isn't ready to be
21 made.

22 There is lives that depend on this and, you know, a
23 lot of the arguments that I hear for development want to
24 advertise new technology as being foolproof. But that's
25 still no guarantee. Is the risk really worth it? Does

1 the mitigation plan really solve the problem? If there
2 are accounts being told about the fish and caribou stocks
3 changing for the worse, then it needs to be thoroughly
4 investigated. It's not enough to raise it off as just
5 being a count. There needs to be studies being done on
6 it. And there are economic arguments known that are being
7 made. We know that oil is a finite resource.

8 Let's look at the bigger picture. What will carry us
9 through? The fickle oil economy? I don't think so.

10 So I stand here today to advocate for a thorough EIS.

11 Please investigate also the health impacts. These
12 industrial sites don't end with the lifetime of the
13 project. Many of the toxic chemicals used in the process
14 stick around. The last testifier mentioned that this is
15 cancer. It is cancer because a lot of those chemicals are
16 highly toxic. Only 5 to 10 percent of childhood cancers
17 are attributable to inherited genetics.

18 So I think that's something that we need to look at,
19 you know, what are the public health impacts? What are
20 the social impacts? Cultural, health, food security. And
21 what are the direct impacts? It's been mentioned tourism,
22 climate change. This project -- opening up the 1002 area
23 is setting a precedent for other projects. And also the
24 long-term economic impacts, so not only how much is
25 this -- how much is the future, you know, project in the

1 1002 area going to bring, but also comparing that to
2 tourism for a much longer period of time or fishing, or
3 all those other things.

4 Please take all those long-term economic impacts into
5 account, those indirect impacts, the social impacts and
6 the [indiscernible] impacts.

7 And I just also want to stress that the no action
8 alternative, as the other lady had mentioned, is a real
9 alternative, so please consider that. I think like many
10 of the arguments have been made, that really is the only
11 alternative to go with. So I really hope that you will
12 take these accounts into serious consideration. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. DAVID BATTIS: So we are on the last
15 few cards. So I think we have four more speakers, and I
16 believe that's going to take us well beyond our 9:00 time.
17 Is it okay if we just do all the speakers up here?

18 No. 47.

19 REP. CHRIS BIRCH: Good evening. My name
20 is Chris Birch. I'm a professional engineer, and I'm also
21 serving in the State Legislature as a representative for
22 House District 26 in South Anchorage.

23 First of all, I want to thank you for your endurance
24 and your patience and being available this evening. This
25 is a remarkable effort. It is great to see the turnout

1 and the engagement of the public in this important
2 process.

3 I'm here to speak in support of oil and gas leasing
4 on the coastal plain. Alaska has a proven track record, a
5 long-term track record from Swanson River to today in oil
6 and gas development in our state.

7 This is really about jobs. It's about hope, and it's
8 about opportunity. And what we are embarking on here is
9 nothing to be afraid of. It's something where we can meet
10 the challenge. When we look at the growth and the
11 endurance of the caribou herds that exist in the Arctic,
12 the Central Arctic and the Porcupine, I'm very familiar
13 with this. This part of the world was home to our family.

14 I actually grew up in the Brooks Range near Chandalar
15 Lake. That was home from the time -- late '50s till the
16 early '70s. The Porcupine caribou herd actually made a
17 substantial -- provided a substantial portion of our
18 protein there. It's a very good subsistence there. And
19 it was very positive. It was good family engagement and a
20 very positive childhood and upbringing.

21 Oil and gas development has been the best thing
22 that's ever happened to Alaska. When we look at the --
23 whether it's the communities we serve in, the schools that
24 are supported -- and I can tell you from a legislative
25 standpoint, when you start looking at -- whether it's the

1 Permanent Fund or the construction of the communities and
2 the lifestyle we enjoy, it's largely been the result of
3 resource development, management and competence.

4 And again, I think this -- you know, I look forward
5 to that. I think we have a positive road ahead of us.

6 My first job in Alaska on the Slope was actually in
7 1968 with Colorado Oil and Gas. I worked up there. My
8 son worked up there when he was in college. It's a safe
9 environment. The oil industry has one of the safest track
10 records in the country, and certainly in the world for
11 producing oil and improving our economy in a responsible
12 manner.

13 This effort and your initiative here is much
14 appreciated by many, certainly in our community and our
15 state, and I appreciate your efforts this evening and your
16 patience in taking this testimony and this commentary.

17 Thank you very much.

18 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Next up will
19 be No. 48.

20 MR. BRADLEY WILLIAM HILL: Hello. My name
21 is Bradley William Hill. I'm a lifelong Alaskan, and I
22 grew up in Palmer on a farm. And for the last 25 years
23 I've lived in Kenai and worked in the oil and gas fields
24 there. I've also worked on the North Slope since 1988 off
25 and on.

1 I've always been amazed, particularly on the Slope,
2 every time I've visited the variety of wildlife in the
3 established oil and gas fields there. It's amazing. And
4 I certainly understand the people's ties to that land.
5 One of my favorite places to recreate is on the Kenai
6 Peninsula at Swanson River, whether it's hunting, fishing
7 or just being there. It's fantastic. And of course, that
8 was where gas -- oil was first discovered in Alaska.

9 This proposed oil and gas leasing program is
10 important to the people of the state of Alaska in many
11 ways. Let's talk about jobs. Many of the jobs in the
12 petroleum industry are high-tech jobs: Engineering,
13 safety and environmental professionals, electricians,
14 computer information systems analysts, along with skilled
15 labor positions. These jobs are important in a state
16 where we are seeing people leave because these jobs have
17 been going away.

18 According to the United States Energy Information
19 Administration, in 2017 the United States imported
20 approximately 7.9 million barrels per day of crude oil.
21 This is oil that we have and we can produce it responsibly
22 and safely, and we can benefit from doing so.

23 The oil and gas companies and the many companies that
24 support them currently working on the North Slope educate
25 their workers in safety and environmental stewardship.

1 Environmental protection is quite literally a condition of
2 employment. What that means for those of us working in
3 the field is we have to learn, understand and use the
4 procedures and equipment to prevent damage to the
5 environment.

6 We do things that I have never seen before on any
7 other job, simple things like using containment or catch
8 basins under all parked vehicles and equipment, inspecting
9 equipment for leaks every time before you use it, planning
10 and executing your work to prevent a single drop of oil
11 from hitting the ground. If an accident happens, it means
12 reporting it immediately.

13 No harassing of any wildlife. That means you have to
14 come to a complete stop on the road and let wildlife pass
15 or wait until they do. All these things that we do are a
16 condition of employment, and our employers enforce them
17 with zero tolerance.

18 I'm proud to be an Alaskan oil field worker and I
19 believe we can produce oil and gas in the coastal plain
20 without causing harm.

21 And thank you for your time.

22 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. No. 49.

23 MS. ROBIN MILLER: Hi. My name is Robin
24 Miller, and I'm just speaking for myself. My mom is here
25 tonight. She spoke as well, Debbie Miller, who wrote

1 Midnight Wilderness. And has been fighting since I have
2 been born to keep this area protected and spent a lot of
3 time there. My dad is actually out in a Supercub. He's a
4 Bush pilot surveying the Porcupine caribou herd as we
5 speak. Well, maybe not as we speak, but this morning he
6 was. So I know a lot about that, as well.

7 They would take us up there for about a month every
8 summer. And that's where I learned to walk, in the Arctic
9 National Wildlife Refuge and remember being surrounded by
10 thousands of caribou just sitting on a rock walking all
11 around me. They will do that with people, but not with
12 infrastructure and a bunch of noise. That's really not
13 possible.

14 I also -- Jimmy Carter came up there, the president
15 Jimmy Carter, and met with my mom in the refuge, as well,
16 to just see the area. And when he came up there, he was,
17 like, couldn't imagine that there could ever be any
18 drilling there. It just didn't make any sense to him.

19 In my mind it's simple. There is really no
20 responsible way to drill there. That's the calving
21 grounds for the Porcupine caribou herd, and they are not
22 going to have their babies around all of this oil
23 development and infrastructure and noise. It's so simple
24 to me. I don't understand why it's a conversation,
25 honestly. It's inherently going to affect them. And

1 threatening that caribou herd threatens the Gwich'in way
2 of life and indigenous people. And I don't understand why
3 we would risk that either.

4 The U.S. government needs to stop making the same
5 mistake over and over again that we have done with
6 indigenous people. We have done it for hundreds of years,
7 and it's time to make things right and start making the
8 right decisions and supporting indigenous people and their
9 way of life. So I stand with the Gwich'in people and with
10 the Porcupine caribou herd.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. No. 50.

13 MS. CHRISTINA TALBOTT-CLARK: My name is
14 Christina Talbott-Clark. I speak for myself. This is not
15 my ancestor's land, and I do not have the authority to
16 speak for the land that others here have. But Alaska is
17 my home, and all those who call this land our home have
18 the responsibility to respect it, to preserve it, and to
19 protect it for our children, for our children's children
20 and for generations to come.

21 Many tonight have mentioned Alaska's economic
22 dependence on the oil industry and revenue. This is true.
23 The majority of our state's revenue comes from the oil
24 industry. But our state government's shortsighted refusal
25 to diversify our economic sources is not your

1 responsibility. Wise stewardship is the Bureau's mandate.
2 Oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not wise stewardship.
3 It endangers the region, it endangers the global arctic,
4 and it perpetuates the global climate change that
5 endangers all of us.

6 Tonight I ask you to fulfill your mandate to be good
7 stewards of this land for the sake of those who have
8 depended on it for generations, for the sake of those who
9 depend on it today, for the sake of all of us and for
10 those who will come after us.

11 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. I realize
12 that there are some out there that still have not had a
13 chance to speak tonight. I do apologize that we do not
14 have time to take your verbal comments. Our panelists
15 will stay around this evening if you would like to visit
16 with them and have some one-on-one conversations with
17 them. Again, we also encourage you to please submit your
18 written comments.

19 MR. JEFF CHEN: My name is Jeff Chen, and
20 I didn't get a chance to speak tonight. I live in
21 Anchorage. And I request further hearings in Anchorage.

22 MR. GABRIEL TEGOSEAK: My name is Gabriel
23 Tegoseak. I'm from Barrow. I live here in Anchorage.
24 And I also did not have time to speak tonight, and I
25 request another hearing hear in Anchorage, as well.

1 MR. OLEKS LUSHCHYK: My name is Oleks
2 Lushchyk. I live in Anchorage, Alaska, and I did not get
3 a chance to speak earlier on. Thank you for having this
4 hearing, but I hope you can have another one so more
5 people get the chance to get their voices heard.

6 MR. DAVID BATTIS: So if you have a card,
7 please tell your number so we can track it to your name so
8 we can capture the spelling properly. And if not, if you
9 could just please spell your name. When you come up, just
10 give us your card number and please give us your name.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. PAMELA A. MILLER: My name is Pamela
13 A. Miller. My number is 58. I didn't have the
14 opportunity to speak because I gave my time to the elder,
15 but I do want to say when I was three years old I had
16 these flash cards: Musk ox, wolf, vole, collared lemming,
17 porcupine. You have heard about a porcupine. That's the
18 porcupine animal. Least weasel, pika. I think the next
19 one is beluga -- walrus and then beluga. About the
20 caribou it says: They are shy, but curious. Their
21 eyesight is fair, but they have a hearing and keen sense
22 of smell. They are a good swimmer. They are found in
23 great herds. They migrate. They snort when alarmed.
24 Economic importance: In many areas of the north, humans
25 need me and hides of caribou to survive.

1 I learned about this when I was three years old.
2 There is not a single picture of an animal in this room.
3 There is not a map that shows the disembodied coastal
4 plain of the refuge.

5 This is about a National Wildlife Refuge. We have no
6 information in this process about what the refuge is
7 about. So I wanted to say that as far as the process. I
8 recall write written comments.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Sir.

11 MR. EVAN ANDERSON: My name is Evan
12 Anderson. I'm No. 84. I did not have a chance to testify
13 tonight, and I would like to request additional hearings
14 here in Anchorage, as well as additional hearings in all
15 North Slope villages so that folks can have the
16 opportunity to have their voices heard in this process.

17 MS. JESSICA THORNTON: My name is Jessica
18 Thornton. I am No. 88. And I didn't get a chance to
19 speak. I would like to request additional hearings,
20 hearings that -- where translators are provided. I think
21 it's absolutely shameful that there was no translator here
22 today. People should be able to speak and testify in
23 their own languages.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. MEGAN RESCHKE: My name is Megan

1 Reschke. I'm No. 59. I'm from Anchorage. I didn't have
2 the chance to testify today and would like to request
3 additional hearings.

4 MS. JAN BRONSON: My name is Jan Bronson.
5 I was card No. 54. I did not get a chance to speak,
6 either, and would like that chance. Please have another
7 hearing here in Anchorage.

8 MS. JOSEPHINE BEAVERS: My name is
9 Josephine Beavers. I oppose opening ANWR to drilling.
10 And I am card No. 83. And I think that the number of
11 people whose voices didn't get to be heard demonstrates
12 the need for more hearings.

13 MR. SCOTT SAMMONS: I'm Scott Sammons. I
14 have No. 76. I would like to have been heard and would
15 encourage further hearings if there is opportunity.

16 Thank you for your consideration.

17 MS. ZOE FULLER: Hi there. My name is Zoe
18 Fuller. I'm a lifelong Alaskan. Thank you for the work
19 you are doing. I would like to request further
20 opportunities. I did not get a chance to testify. My
21 number is 72.

22 MS. EMILY KLOC: Hi. My name is Emily
23 Kloc. I don't have a number, so my name is spelled
24 E-M-I-L-Y, last name, K-L-O-C. And I did not have a
25 chance to testify, and I would like to request additional

1 hearings, not just here, but throughout the state, and
2 also encourage you to provide translation services.

3 MS. MAGDALENA OLIVEROS: Hi. My name is
4 Magdalena Oliveros. I was No. 82. I didn't get a chance
5 to testify. I oppose opening up ANWR to drilling, and I
6 hope you guys have more hearings here and in the North
7 Slope villages.

8 Thanks.

9 MR. AARON TRITT: My name is Aaron. I'm
10 No. 51. I'm from Arctic Village. I'm a Gwich'in. And
11 I'm wondering if you can squeeze me in. Can I say
12 something?

13 MR. DAVID BATTIS: It will have to be
14 brief.

15 MR. AARON TRITT: Well, my name is Aaron.
16 I'm from Arctic Village. Arctic is a subregional tribal
17 traditional village and a native village with a tribal
18 government.

19 I come before you guys as a -- as a Native American,
20 full-blooded Native American, not as a simple person, but
21 as a citizen of the free world. All free nations, all
22 free people, all free Native Americans are all citizens of
23 the free world.

24 If I remember correctly, in May of 1775 when John
25 Adams was returning to our nation's capital in

1 Philadelphia to testify before the second congress, I
2 don't think Mr. Adams was thinking about himself. I think
3 he was thinking about us, all of us. I think he was
4 thinking about what kind of country and what kind of
5 nation and planet do we leave behind for our children.

6 Sometimes I wonder who are we to deny or even inspire
7 our children on this continent. They might stand on one
8 of these majestic mountains here in the great State of
9 Alaska in the future and be proud of being American, or
10 even look back at our efforts and hard work to reinforce
11 and renew the American spirit, the American tradition, the
12 American dreams and the American values and be proud to be
13 in the 22nd century.

14 The Gwich'in people and the Native Village of Venetie
15 Tribal Government are not vindictive people. They are not
16 hostile people. They want a country to be like any
17 citizen in this country. They want to be able to hire and
18 employ nonNative people, to be part of every fabric of
19 their lives for a healthy family and healthy future.

20 We know there is challenges that lies ahead of us.
21 We know that. We know there is challenges that lies ahead
22 of this country. But as Gwich'in people, we welcome the
23 challenge. We welcome it. So do you -- well, I guess
24 strike that from the statement.

25 Do we choose confrontation, knowing that when we

1 speak about the future of our children, there is no room
2 for animosity. There is no room for discrimination.
3 There is no room for contamination. There is even no room
4 for us to be divided among each other around this
5 so-called conference table to prevent us from going 50
6 years backwards but to go forward as civilized Americans,
7 formulate some kind of an alliance with the federal
8 government, the State of Alaska and the Native Americans
9 to speak as one voice and go before Congress and the
10 President of the United States.

11 The late president John F. Kennedy once said, we
12 choose to go to the moon in this decade and do other
13 things because -- because it's not easy. Blessed are each
14 and every single one of us among nations, ladies and
15 gentlemen, because if you look back at the history of this
16 country and the future of this country, this country is at
17 a crossroad. It is your responsibility. You, your
18 children and your grandchildren may one day look back and
19 say they did good. They did really good.

20 Thank you so much.

21 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you.

22 MS. CHANTAL DEALCUAZ: Good evening. My
23 name is Chantal DeAlcuaz. I live in Anchorage, and I
24 wasn't able to speak tonight and request additional
25 hearings. No. 89.

1 MR. DAVID BATTS: All right. I would like
2 to thank everybody for their time this evening. I know
3 many of you have traveled very far to be here. We respect
4 that. We wish you safe travels back home.

5 Joe, any closing remarks you would like to make?

6 MR. JOE BALASH: No, thank you.

7 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Safe
8 travels.

9 (Proceedings adjourned at 9:16 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of June 2018.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020