

1 COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

3 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

4
5 Taken May 29, 2018
6 Commencing at 4:30 p.m.

7 Pages 1 - 168, inclusive

8
9 Taken at
10 Carlson Center
11 2010 2nd Avenue
12 Fairbanks, Alaska

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20 Reported by:
21 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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:

Mitch Ellis
Deputy Refuge Regional Manager

Steve Berendzen
Arctic Refuge Manager

Hollis Twitchell
Natural Resource Specialist

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

2 For EMPSI:

3 Chad Ricklefs
4 Project Manager

5 David Batts
6 Principal

7 John King
8 Principal

9 Molly McCarter
10 Planner

11 Lindsay Chipman
12 Biologist

13 Andy Spellmeyer
14 Planner

15 Taken by:

16 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

17

18 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken
19 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before
20 Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary
21 Public within and for the State of Alaska.

22

23

24

25

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

2 MR. DAVID BATTIS: All right. Let's take
3 our seats, and we are going to get started. It's 4:30.
4 So wonderful. On behalf of the Department of Interior and
5 the Bureau of Land Management, welcome to the public
6 scoping meeting on the Coastal Plains Oil and Gas Leasing
7 Program Environmental Impact Statement. You will also
8 hear us call it EIS. That's an acronym. We're doing
9 government work, so we have to have some acronyms here.

10 I really appreciate everybody's time for being here
11 with us tonight. We know your time is valuable. We know
12 it's beautiful weather out. You probably have many other
13 things that you'd rather be doing than sitting in this
14 room today, but we appreciate your participation in the
15 scoping process with us.

16 Before we get started, just a few announcements and
17 logistical issues. Most importantly, if you need any help
18 or if you have any questions, please find staff with name
19 tags. We'll do whatever we can to get you pointed in the
20 right direction and information you need.

21 Restrooms are located right outside the main doors
22 that you came in. Men's are to the left of the door.
23 Women's are to the right. If we need to vacate this room
24 for any reason, we have two emergency exits on either
25 side, also another door on the far side and, of course,

1 the doors you came in. Always look behind you. The
2 nearest emergency exit may be right behind you.

3 You are welcome to come and go as you like, but
4 please be respectful of others in the room. If you do
5 leave the building, you will still have to go through the
6 security bag check area. Of course, please silence your
7 cell phones, typical courtesies of that sort. If you need
8 to take any phone calls, take them outside.

9 If you do want to make verbal comments today and you
10 are not on our prearranged speaker list, you will need a
11 speaker card. The speaker card table is back in the
12 corner by the water. Please be sure that you grab one of
13 those cards. I'll talk much more about that in just a
14 little while.

15 This meeting will be live streamed today, so you will
16 see some cameras around the room. And it's being
17 broadcast on the Internet and it will also be posted on
18 the BLM YouTube channel in mid-June. We're shooting for
19 around June 8th or so to get that posted so you can share
20 that with friends or family or other interested parties.

21 Our rough agenda is on the screen. The times are
22 approximate. We are hoping that we can accelerate a few
23 things so we can hear more from you all tonight. We have
24 had our open house. We are going to have a quick overview
25 and welcoming remarks. Then we'll move into the

1 commenting period. We'll have that happen with some
2 prearranged speakers. I believe we have about 15 or 16.
3 We'll take a quick break, and then we will move into our
4 public speaking category.

5 When you came in, there is a number of handouts.
6 There is the PowerPoint presentation that you will be
7 seeing today. We will have a handout on that. It will
8 also be going on the public website. We have a little
9 quick fact sheet on the project, and then most importantly
10 is this comment card. You don't have to use this comment
11 card, but we want to hear from you. We love to get your
12 comments, not only verbally, but in writing. So you are
13 welcome to take this card. It also has information on how
14 to submit comments. We have email addresses. We have a
15 website that you go on and prefill it. And of course, you
16 can always fill this out and leave it here tonight or mail
17 it in. An address is there.

18 I'm going to be back up with some more announcements
19 and processes, but first I'm very pleased to introduce Joe
20 Balash with the Department of Interior, Assistant
21 Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management. Joe.

22 MR. JOE BALASH: Thank you, David. As
23 many of you know, I grew up locally here just down the
24 road in North Pole. And it's very, very nice to be home,
25 especially with wonderful weather like this. So I want to

1 thank everybody who has sacrificed a lovely evening to be
2 here. We're all gathered here for the scoping process
3 that kicks off this NEPA review that we are doing. And
4 the real purpose of NEPA is to bring transparency to
5 decision-making by the government for the public.

6 And so as we go through the process of evaluating how
7 to conduct this leasing program, we need to look at what
8 range of alternatives there are and spell it out in a way
9 that is understandable to both the public as well as the
10 people who need to make decisions, such as myself.

11 And so what we are looking for the -- for from all of
12 you is those little kernels of information or facets of
13 the impacts associated with oil and gas leasing and
14 ultimately exploration and possibly development, how all
15 of those things affect the community, the environment, the
16 social fabric, not just in the immediate vicinity, but
17 statewide and nationally.

18 So we are very excited to have the participants from
19 across the spectrum here today. We are wanting to keep an
20 eye out for both the economic opportunities as well as the
21 ecological and wildlife opportunities that are important
22 to a very great number of people here in the state.

23 I'd like to go ahead and introduce the panel that's
24 up here keeping an eye on all of this. And I'll start at
25 the far end of the table.

1 Kate MacGregor is the principal Deputy Assistant
2 Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. She works
3 with me in Washington. Steve Wackowski, to her right, is
4 the Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs to Secretary Ryan
5 Zinke. Next is Mitch Ellis; he's with the U.S. Fish &
6 Wildlife Service here in Alaska. He's the Assistant
7 Regional Director, Chief of Refuges. And then we have got
8 Ted Murphy, the Associate State Director for BLM in
9 Alaska. And finally Nicole Hayes; she's the project
10 manager for the coastal plain EIS.

11 And I just want to emphasize that, you know, Alaska
12 is my home. I want our future to be bright, but I want
13 everything that is important about Alaska and to Alaskans
14 to remain intact and available for generations to come.

15 So please keep your comments directed in a
16 constructive way, if you can. This is an emotional issue
17 for some, and we understand that. And we do want to hear
18 from you. But to explain a little bit more about the
19 purpose of tonight and the EIS process and a little bit of
20 the schedule that we will be following as we complete this
21 work, I'm going to have Nicole come up and walk through
22 some slides and explain in further detail what we are
23 trying to accomplish. So thank you.

24 Nicole.

25 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you, Joe. As he

1 mentioned, my name is Nicole Hayes. I'm a project manager
2 with the Bureau of Land Management, and I'm going to go
3 through the NEPA process. And I'm going to talk about the
4 coastal plain EIS. To start off with, I'll cover why we
5 are here, what is the coastal plain oil and gas leasing
6 EIS, what are the requirements of the agency, what are
7 BLM's responsibilities, what is the NEPA process, what
8 does that mean, and how can you participate. I'll cover
9 subsistence and ANILCA Section 810 just because that's a
10 really important component here in Alaska. And then, most
11 importantly, again, how to participate because the whole
12 point of scoping is to hear from stakeholders and the
13 public. And that's what we want to do here today.

14 So this first slide is part of our requirements.
15 Well, it is the requirements. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
16 of 2017 that was enacted on December 22, 2017 gave the
17 Secretary of the Interior responsibility through the
18 Bureau of Land Management to implement an oil and gas
19 leasing program within the coastal plain. This is the map
20 that was referenced within Section 20001 of the Tax Act
21 and the 1002 area is referenced as the coastal plain. So
22 you will hear us refer to this EIS as the coastal plain
23 oil and gas leasing EIS.

24 Within the Tax Act, the Secretary is required to
25 manage the oil and gas program in a manner similar to the

1 oil and gas leasing program within NPR-A under the Naval
2 Petroleum Reserve's Production Act of 1976. So the
3 Secretary, acting through BLM, has that responsibility to
4 implement the program within the coastal plain, which is
5 about 1.6 million acres of the 19.3 million acres of the
6 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

7 Additional requirements are that there shall be no
8 fewer than two lease sales, with the first lease sale
9 having to occur within four years of enactment of the act,
10 and then the second lease sale shall occur within seven
11 years. And each lease sale must offer no fewer than
12 400,000 acres of the highest potential acres of
13 hydrocarbon. So those are some general requirements of
14 the Tax Act and what we are focused on today.

15 There are some other requirements, such as the
16 Secretary shall offer up to 2,000 surface acres of
17 development, and those would be evaluated down the road,
18 but it is also a requirement of the Tax Act.

19 Some of the agency responsibilities for the coastal
20 plain leasing EIS, Bureau of Land Management has the
21 responsibility for the leasing program EIS. We manage
22 leasing programs. We are the lead agency for the lease
23 sales, so we will conduct lease sales. The Fish &
24 Wildlife Service, who we are working closely with, they
25 administer the surface of the Arctic National Wildlife

1 Refuge, and they are a cooperating agency. So they have a
2 lot of the resource knowledge, and we intend to work
3 closely with them in development of the EIS.

4 So this slide shows the BLM oil and gas leasing and
5 development process. It goes all the way from leasing to
6 reclamation. And you can see with that star up there that
7 we are focused on the leasing, EIS, sales and lease
8 issuance. Other things that would happen or could happen
9 would be geophysical exploration pre and post lease,
10 applications for permit to drill, which include both drill
11 and exploration and development, operations and
12 production, inspection and enforcement, and reclamation.

13 Any surface-disturbing activities or any other
14 activities beyond the lease sale would require a separate
15 NEPA analysis. So we will be having a reasonably
16 foreseeable development scenario and evaluating the
17 requirements in the Tax Act, but any actual on-the-ground
18 disturbances would not be able to be authorized as a
19 result of this EIS, and additional NEPA would have to be
20 done because we would need a project proponent to provide
21 specifics about what they propose to do and have that
22 information to analyze.

23 This slide is a very exciting slide about the NEPA
24 process. NEPA stands for National Environmental Policy
25 Act. And as Joe mentioned, the requirements of NEPA are

1 to ensure that we are evaluating information that is
2 important to understand the environmental consequences of
3 what the action or the project requirements are.

4 So the -- our NEPA process kicked off with the
5 project requirement, which was passing of the Tax Act on
6 December 22nd. When BLM issued the Notice of Intent on
7 April 20th, that initiated the scoping period. The
8 scoping period -- they are typically 30 days. They can go
9 longer. We initiated it with a 60-day scoping period.
10 That's the first major opportunity for public input, and
11 so that's what we're here doing today. The scoping is a
12 really important part of the process because it allows
13 stakeholders, all stakeholders to provide input onto what
14 should be analyzed in the EIS. So we are in the scoping
15 period now.

16 Once the scoping period closes and concludes, we will
17 develop a scoping report, and that information is what
18 drives what will go into the EIS. BLM will draft the EIS,
19 working with our cooperating agencies and other
20 stakeholders and then the draft EIS is released for
21 comment. This is another really important opportunity for
22 public input when the draft EIS goes out. So those are
23 the two major parts of the NEPA process where there is
24 public input.

25 After the draft EIS goes out for public comment, then

1 we receive all those comments, incorporate it, address
2 those comments and add it into and develop the final EIS.
3 We publish the final EIS, develop a Record of Decision and
4 then have a lease sale. So while those are the two major
5 points where the public has input, we are consulting with
6 our cooperating agencies on a regular basis, and we are
7 also doing government-to-government consultation with
8 affected tribes through the entire process. So that's the
9 general NEPA process.

10 Subsistence and ANILCA Section 810 is really
11 important here in Alaska. ANILCA, for those who don't
12 know, stands for the Alaska National Interest Lands
13 Conservation Act. It's separate from NEPA, and it's
14 unique to Alaska, but it is it extremely important. So it
15 runs concurrent with the process. The information that
16 goes into the draft EIS feeds into what the findings are,
17 the initial 810 evaluation is, and it's to evaluate
18 impacts on the program or the project on subsistence uses.

19 So information that goes into the affected
20 environment and the environmental consequences feeds into
21 that initial evaluation. That's appended to the draft
22 EIS, and then if the initial evaluation is that it may
23 significantly restrict subsistence uses, then subsistence
24 hearings are held. These hearings are held at the same
25 time as the public comment period. They are maybe -- they

1 are not held exactly at the same time. There would be a
2 public comment meeting for the draft EIS, and then that
3 would adjourn and then we would have a subsistence
4 hearing. So usually it's the same day, and it's to
5 receive input on that initial 810 evaluation. Once all
6 that information is received and taken into consideration,
7 then a final determination is made, and that final
8 determination is appended to the final EIS.

9 The decisions that BLM has to make are -- and that we
10 are looking for your input on are the alternatives, what
11 are the lease sale tracts that should be offered for sale;
12 what are some of the lease stipulations that we should be
13 considering; and what are some best management practices.
14 To help inform development of the alternatives, we work
15 with all of our stakeholders. The cooperating agencies
16 are really integral to this process, as well as the tribes
17 that we are work with through government-to-government.
18 But what we want to hear from everybody is do you know of
19 specific resources that we should protect or that we
20 should -- areas that we should identify for special
21 management somehow. Those types of specific comments
22 really help informing both our alternatives and the
23 development of the EIS.

24 To date, these are our cooperating agencies: Fish &
25 Wildlife Service, EPA, the State of Alaska, North Slope

1 Borough, Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government,
2 Venetie Village Council and Arctic Village Council.

3 Again, they really help -- they have specialized expertise
4 or jurisdiction by law, so they help with development of
5 the EIS and forming the alternatives and also looking at
6 some of those stipulations or best management practices
7 that should be applied to any lease that we should offer.

8 This is the tentative schedule that we have. The
9 Notice of Intent went out on April 20th, as I mentioned.
10 That kicked off the scoping period. Once the scoping
11 period closed, then we work with our cooperating agencies
12 on alternatives development. We work on evaluation of the
13 environmental consequences and draft the EIS. The draft
14 EIS is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2018. That
15 would put the public review of that draft EIS in the fall
16 and winter of this year. And then once that is revised,
17 based on the feedback, then we would publish the final
18 EIS. Based off of this tentative schedule, we would sign
19 a Record of Decision and hold a lease sale in the
20 spring/summer of 2019.

21 This is the schedule of our scoping meetings to date.
22 We have already had one in Arctic Village last week. Here
23 in Fairbanks today, in Anchorage tomorrow. Both of these
24 meetings in Anchorage and Fairbanks are being live
25 streamed, so if people are interested in seeing what

1 scoping is about and hearing some of the public comments,
2 then they can go on our BLM website and see that. On
3 Thursday we will be in Utqiagvik and the week of June 12th
4 we will be in Venetie, Kaktovik and Washington, D.C.

5 There is a variety of ways to provide comments, as
6 David had mentioned. Our web form, you can go directly to
7 that web form and provide comments online. You can email
8 them to that email address, or send them to that mailing
9 address below. There is comment forms over here. There
10 is actually a couple of laptops set up over here if you
11 want to go over to the laptop and submit comments online
12 today. And of course, there is public speaking
13 opportunity that will start as soon as this concludes.

14 And that's all I have. Thank you.

15 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you, Nicole. All
16 right. Well, this is the important part of the meeting,
17 and this is where we get to hear from you all. Again, my
18 name is David Batts, and I've got two jobs here tonight.
19 Number one is to make sure that your voice is heard and
20 that your concerns are brought into the EIS process. We
21 look forward to hearing your verbal comments tonight, but
22 again, please provide written comments if you have them.
23 My second part of my job tonight is to make sure that we
24 conduct this meeting in a civil and inclusive manner. All
25 comments are very, very important to us.

1 Please remember that it can be very stressful and
2 uncomfortable to present in front of large groups like
3 this, especially when microphones are involved. So I ask
4 that we agree on a few ground rules before moving forward.
5 First and foremost, to respect one another and the diverse
6 opinions that we may hear tonight. It's okay to disagree.
7 That's fine. But personal attacks aren't going to be
8 tolerated. Please no clapping or jeering. Besides being
9 rude, it does take up valuable time for us to be able to
10 hear from everybody. And again, if you have any special
11 needs or requests, please notify any of the staff people
12 here today.

13 As Nicole mentioned, this is in support of the EIS.
14 It is part of the scoping process. And by providing
15 comments, it helps us define the scope of the EIS. So
16 helpful comments are those that really provide data and
17 information and those that articulate specific concerns or
18 issues for assessment in the EIS.

19 No decisions are coming out of this meeting tonight.
20 We are at the beginning of a long process. A lot of
21 information will be collected. You will have another
22 chance to comment as we move forward before any final
23 decisions are made. All comments count in our eyes. So
24 everything gets looked at. Everything gets processed.
25 All input that we receive through this meeting and through

1 written comments will be analyzed and distilled into a
2 scoping report. This will be a stand-alone report. It
3 will be made available on the BLM website probably in
4 mid-summer time frame. So you can see your comments and
5 comments of other people and how they were made.

6 Now, before moving forward, I'd like to introduce
7 probably one of the most important people here tonight.
8 That is Mary Vavrik. She is our court reporter. This
9 meeting, besides being live streamed, will be captured by
10 the court reporter so we have an accurate transcript of
11 all the comments. So when you make comments, please make
12 sure that the court reporter can see you. We have the
13 microphones aimed directly at Mary. Speak into the
14 microphone. Speak slowly and clearly. If you have a
15 written testimony that you are reading from and you can
16 leave a copy with us, we would appreciate that. That
17 helps Mary accurately make sure that she captured
18 everything you said into the record.

19 Moving into the speaking process for tonight, we want
20 to accommodate as many people as possible. So we have it
21 broken down into two phases. We have our prearranged
22 speakers. These are representatives of government
23 entities or stakeholder groups. If you are a prearranged
24 speaker, if you could please go ahead and move on down to
25 the front row so we can start to cue you up, I'd

1 appreciate that.

2 The second part will be public speakers, those of you
3 that came in and received a speaking card. We will be
4 going through first come, first served based off the
5 numbers on the cards. If you do not have a card and wish
6 to speak, please be sure you go back and grab one of the
7 cards and keep them with you because we will need those to
8 move forward this evening.

9 We are asking that you please keep your comments
10 within our time limit. We would love to be here all night
11 and into the morning visiting with you, but we need to
12 respect each other's times. I know many of you probably
13 have day care going on, other commitments that you need to
14 get back to, et cetera. So in the interest of trying to
15 accommodate people, we are asking folks to speak -- for
16 our prearranged speakers for up to five minutes. For the
17 general public up to three minutes. And of course, if you
18 have something that somebody else has already said, if you
19 want to just say ditto, I agree with what other speakers
20 said, that will help us move along this evening.

21 If you have any comments and if you go over your time
22 limit, we will open it up at the end of the evening, if we
23 have time, and you would be able to speak again and finish
24 up any comments at that point in time.

25 So with this, I'd like to bring up our prearranged

1 speaker list, please. And we will have our prearranged
2 speakers speak. When you checked in, you should have
3 received your order to speak. And I'd really like to be
4 able to read that to you, but I don't have my glasses on.

5 So we will have John come up. Is John here? What we
6 are going to ask, because of the court reporter, we are
7 going to run all of our prearranged speakers over to
8 microphone No. 2, which is the microphone over on the
9 right-hand side, your right-hand side.

10 MR. JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Good evening. Is
11 it good right here? Thank you. My name is John Hopson,
12 Jr. I am the city mayor for Wainwright, Alaska. I also
13 sit as the assembly -- North Slope Borough Assembly
14 president for our region. And when it comes to talking
15 about our area, development plays a big hand in what we --
16 in what we do.

17 Oil and gas property tax is what pays for our
18 services when it comes to police and fire and schools and
19 public works. Because of that we are -- we don't get --
20 we get very little state or federal funding. We are all
21 self-sufficient. And we want to make sure that continues.
22 Oil and gas and property tax basically paid for my
23 education and continues to pay for our children's
24 education. As we go along, we are capable of bonding and
25 paying for bonds to rebuild schools and refurbish them.

1 We take care of our own police department. We have our
2 own health system. And we get very little state and
3 federal funding because of this capability.

4 Now, when people decide to talk about opposing
5 development in our area, you are basically telling me I
6 can't live up there anymore because there is no funding
7 that will take care of what we do today. In our region,
8 we have a 400-million-dollar budget that takes care of all
9 of our eight communities. And we have no timber. We have
10 no fisheries. And the tourist numbers aren't high enough
11 to create that type of funding to take care of what we do
12 today.

13 So I would just urge each and every one of you to
14 think about what you are going to say when you are you
15 talking about my life, my community and my children's
16 community, as well, and for the foreseeable future. We do
17 need to have development continue so that we can have the
18 resources we have and need to do what we are doing today.

19 We take care of our wildlife. It's all about
20 responsible development. We help shape that in our area
21 with stipulations and so on. We have a wildlife
22 department that does a lot of research and studies for us,
23 and that helps us make comments on areas of interest, like
24 ANWR or NPR-A.

25 So I do urge you guys to take a serious note in

1 knowing that I do live in my community. And when you want
2 to take away development, it's basically taking away my
3 resources, as well. So take that -- take that with you,
4 as well.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. I forgot to
7 mention one small detail. And I apologize to the mayor
8 for the little distraction. We do have a timer up on the
9 screen to help you manage your time as a speaker today.
10 So just know that that's up there to help you as you go
11 through with your speaking, organize your thoughts.

12 Next up will be Glenn Solomon.

13 MR. GLENN SOLOMON: Hello. My name is
14 Glenn Solomon. I am a Kaktovik resident. I am from
15 Barter Island. I am from the 1002 area. I'm a whaling
16 captain. I've got a family of four. And just to hear a
17 bunch of stuff that the NARF are helping out the Gwich'in
18 people saying that they have burial sites up there, where
19 are these sites? I haven't seen them. My ancestors lived
20 up there. I have a family there, born and raised.

21 And just to hear all these comments and everything
22 like that that the Gwich'in people own ANWR, the coastal
23 plain, where the caribou migrate, you know that's --
24 that's my land. That's where my people come from. And
25 just to have things like -- it's really hard to say

1 because we have the right to development on our own land.
2 It's been 40 years since we tried, and we have been shot
3 down. Everybody else could develop on their own land, and
4 here we are surrounded by federal land and state waters,
5 and just to have the Gwich'in people saying that's their
6 land, that's their coast, where are they? Tell me. Where
7 are they?

8 The only people I see up there is Inupiats, where I'm
9 from. That's where my mom was raised. That's where I was
10 raised. So just to be -- have the Gwich'in be coached by
11 the NARF people -- why don't you advocate for us, you
12 know. We have the right to develop in our region like
13 everybody else. And here you guys are trying to stop us?
14 That's not right. Here you guys did it in the Eagle
15 Plains back in the day in the '80s. 180,000 acres that
16 you guys leased out for oil and gas. And you guys didn't
17 get anything. And here you guys trying to put a stop to
18 us. That's kind of being a bigot, you know. It's rough.

19 And here we want -- we want what everybody wants. We
20 want what everybody wants. We want infrastructure. We
21 want jobs. And we want to have the right to develop on
22 our own land. We have the right and responsibility to do
23 that.

24 So anyways, I'm sorry for being so nervous right now
25 and everything like that, but it's kind of heartbroken,

1 you know, just to have -- have people say we can't do
2 this, we can't do that on our own land. Like John was
3 saying, we don't got timber. It's all flat. 1002 area is
4 our land. Thank you.

5 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Next speaker
6 will be Lorena Hegdal. And please at microphone 2 if you
7 can state your name and who you are representing.

8 MS. LORENA HEGDAL: Lorena Hegdal with
9 Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Thank you for the
10 opportunity to comment on the development of the Coastal
11 Plain and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact
12 Statement. I'm am Lorena Hegdal, right-of-way director
13 for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. I joined Alyeska in
14 2000 and have held a number of positions in the company as
15 a contract team lead, operations and maintenance
16 supervisor, pipeline advisor, engineering director, and
17 now in my current position as right-of-way director. I am
18 born, raised, educated in Nome, Alaska with a civil
19 engineering degree from the University of Alaska
20 Fairbanks.

21 I'm Inupiaq and have lived and worked in Nome,
22 Juneau, Marshall, Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska -- and
23 Fairbanks. Alaska is and always will be my home. I spend
24 time supporting Alaska Native students and others to enter
25 science and engineering fields so they can take part in

1 controlling their own destiny and shaping Alaska's future.

2 I'm here today representing 1,600 Alyeska employees
3 and contractors who operate and maintain the 800-mile
4 Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, transporting crude oil from
5 Alaska's North Slope to Valdez where it is shipped to
6 market.

7 The Environmental Impact Statement will consider and
8 analyze the potential impacts of various leasing
9 alternatives. Accordingly -- according to the USGS
10 survey's most conservative scenario, the coastal plain
11 contains 5.7 billion barrels of oil, and production on the
12 coastal plain could top out at 560,000 barrels per day in
13 2039. The USGS mean estimate calls for 10.4 billion
14 barrels of oil, and production could peak at 880,000
15 barrels per day by 2041. This is oil that would be
16 transported through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System;
17 therefore it is of interest and importance to the Alyeska
18 Pipeline Service Company.

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

1 the nation's crude oil production.

2 We still have capacity to safely deliver large
3 volumes of oil through TAPS every day. Unfortunately,
4 TAPS throughput has declined over the years. In 2017 the
5 pipeline averaged 527,000 barrels per day, which is still
6 about 6 percent of the nation's crude oil production.
7 Lower throughput levels create serious challenges for the
8 safe long-term operation of TAPS. To keep the pipeline
9 operating safely while moving lower throughputs, we have
10 made significant investments to reengineer and adapt the
11 pipeline. The changing hydraulic profile on TAPS has
12 triggered the replacement of our mainline pumps,
13 in-station pipe replacement, additional piping for
14 recirculation to heat the oil, adding heat along the line,
15 additional pigging and an additional pig launcher and
16 receiver.

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

25 As we focus on ensuring the nation continues to

1 benefit from the investment in the critical energy
2 infrastructure of TAPS over the next several decades, we
3 fully support environmentally responsible exploration and
4 development efforts that could result in increased
5 throughput into the pipeline. This includes efforts to
6 produce oil from onshore, nearshore and offshore areas of
7 the North Slope that would be delivered to the American
8 people through the existing infrastructure of TAPS. As
9 the Bureau analyzes leasing proposals for the coastal
10 plain, we ask that you consider the ongoing benefit TAPS
11 provides for our nation's energy policy and the importance
12 the energy resource and the coastal plain may have to the
13 pipeline's continued contribution to Alaska and the United
14 States.

15 Thanks for the opportunity.

16 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Next speaker
17 is Lisa Baraff.

18 MS. LISA BARAFF: My name is Lisa Baraff,
19 and I am the Program Director at the Northern Alaska
20 Environmental Center. I will touch on just a few of the
21 myriad issues pertaining to leasing on the coastal plain.
22 The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the only refuge
23 established "for the purpose of preserving unique
24 wildlife, wilderness and recreational values."
25 Specifically, to conserve fish and wildlife populations

1 and habitats in their natural diversity including, but not
2 limited to, the Porcupine caribou herd, polar bears,
3 grizzly bears, musk ox, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines,
4 snow geese, peregrine falcons and other migratory birds
5 and arctic char and grayling; to fulfill the international
6 treaty obligations of the United States with respect to
7 fish and wildlife and their habitats; to provide the
8 opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local
9 residents; to ensure water quality and necessary water
10 quantity within the refuge; and added with the passage of
11 the 2017 tax bill, to provide for an oil and gas program
12 on the coastal plain.

13 This last purpose is incompatible with the four
14 original purposes. The draft EIS must explain how the
15 Fish & Wildlife Service and BLM will address this and
16 ensure that purposes 1 through 4 are not diminished or
17 compromised by an oil and gas program.

18 Another founding purpose is the preservation of
19 unique wildlife. The coastal plain is the biological
20 heart of the refuge. It is the vital birthing ground,
21 nursery and insect relief area for the Porcupine caribou
22 herd that migrates across northeast Alaska and
23 northwestern Canada. Nearly a dozen villages on both
24 sides of the border depend upon it.

25 Some claim the caribou can and have coexisted with

1 oil development on the North Slope for decades.

2 Coexisting and thriving are not the same. Differences
3 between the herds and geography must be considered. The
4 coastal plain near Prudhoe is up to 100 miles wide,
5 allowing caribou displaced from their traditional calving
6 grounds to find similar habitats nearby while in the
7 Arctic Refuge, the coastal plain is only 10 to 40 miles
8 wide and is fully utilized by the much larger Porcupine
9 caribou herd. Displacement similar to what occurred
10 around Prudhoe and Kuparuk would force Porcupine caribou
11 into areas of poor quality forage and higher predation.

12 BLM must fully analyze potential impacts to wildlife
13 and wildlife habitat and develop appropriate and adequate
14 mitigation measures to ensure preservation of this unique
15 wildlife complex in accordance with the refuge's founding
16 purposes. BLM must also use the best available science in
17 making determinations and acknowledge data gaps, missing
18 and unavailable information.

19 Another original purpose of the refuge is the
20 preservation of wilderness values, not exclusive to
21 congressionally designated wilderness. Oil and gas
22 exploration and development will irrevocably destroy the
23 wilderness character of the coastal plain and it will
24 impact the view shed of the designated wilderness area to
25 the south. Leasing begets development and development

1 begets roads, pipelines, pads, airstrips, gravel mining,
2 water withdrawals, housing and other infrastructure. BLM
3 must analyze potential impacts to wilderness, including
4 impacts on ecological integrity, wildlife, waters, noise,
5 air quality, vegetation, visual and recreation impacts,
6 and provide mitigation strategies.

7 The tax bill states, "the Secretary shall authorize
8 up to 2,000 surface acres of federal land on the coastal
9 plain to be covered by production and support facilities
10 during the term of the leases under the oil and gas
11 program under this section."

12 The 2,000-acre footprint is often compared to a
13 postage stamp, a dot on the tip of a nose, the size of an
14 airport. However, contrary to these assertions, there is
15 no requirement for development to be contiguous. In
16 actuality, facilities will be dispersed throughout the
17 coastal plain.

18 In addition -- and this was since corrected -- that
19 one of the information boards hung up this evening
20 interpreted this to mean that it would -- that said up to
21 2,000 acres of disturbance from production and support
22 facilities allowed per sale. And that was since covered
23 up after I spoke with Serena about that.

24 BLM must clearly define the 2,000-acre surface
25 development limitation and list and evaluate all and

1 necessary surface development and infrastructure not
2 included in this limitation.

3 Alternatives and analyses must include all possible
4 site scenarios for the 2,000-acre limit across the entire
5 coastal plain, including analyses specific to each
6 potential 400,000-acre lease sale.

7 Opening the coastal plain to oil and gas leasing will
8 irreparably and irreversibly destroy this ecologically
9 biologically and culturally important place. This is
10 neither a simple place nor a simple issue. For that I
11 urge you to request a waiver to the Secretarial Order
12 requiring EISs to be completed within one year. I also
13 urge BLM to include and fully consider a no-action
14 alternative.

15 Finally, to ensure full public participation,
16 particularly from indigenous peoples who will be most
17 directly impacted, all published documents must be made
18 available in at a minimum Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages,
19 and public meetings and government-to-government
20 consultations must provide interpreters for Alaska Native
21 speakers.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you, Lisa. And
24 thank you for leaving your testimony with us, too.

25 Next speaker will be Elaine Whitmer.

1 MS. EILEEN WHITMER: Elaine, my nemesis.
2 My name is Eileen Whitmer. I am the Fairbanks Business
3 Manager for Teamsters Local 959. Teamsters Local 959
4 supports oil and gas development in the 1002 area of ANWR.
5 Currently we represent thousands of members that work in
6 the health, railroad, airline, bus, warehousing, SCA,
7 telephone, public safety, freight and construction
8 industries. A large portion of these members directly or
9 indirectly depend on the oil industry for their
10 livelihood.

11 Teamsters Local 959 has a long history here in
12 Alaska. During the pipeline construction we were 27,000
13 strong. As with the rest of the state, over the past few
14 years we have seen work declining on the North Slope.
15 Renewable energy is a ways out, and we need new oil
16 development to fill the gap to get us there. I, for one,
17 would like to see this oil come from here rather than
18 depend on foreign countries to provide it. Development in
19 the 1002 area will put our members to work, and there is
20 no question that the state's economy would benefit from
21 its residents working.

22 On a personal note, I was born and raised here in
23 Alaska. I grew up in the village of Rampart and still own
24 a home there. I fish in the summer and hunt for moose and
25 caribou in the fall and winter. I'm a 20-year member of

1 the Teamsters, and I've worked for my local for 13 years.
2 I started out in the Alyeska materials department in 1997.
3 My livelihood has depended on the oil industry for the
4 past 20 years. I have brothers that run drill rigs up
5 north and have 20 to 30 years for Doyon Drilling.

6 Having said that, I did not take speaking in support
7 of development in ANWR lightly. I understand that some
8 Alaska Natives strongly oppose opening ANWR for
9 development. I took some time to do some research and
10 talked to some very knowledgeable people who pointed me to
11 some information distributed in 2017 by the Alaska
12 Department of Fish & Game regarding the Porcupine caribou
13 herd.

14 Here are some of the points in the newsletter that
15 helped me feel more comfortable speaking in support of
16 development in the 1002 area. The herd is currently its
17 largest -- the herd is currently at its largest
18 population, approximately 197,000, since monitoring began
19 in 1977. Caribou are known for dramatic population
20 changes. The Porcupine caribou are known for their
21 extensive and varying migration. Although they generally
22 winter in the mountains and calve along the coast, the
23 herd has not returned to the exact same location or
24 followed the same route every year. The herd has not
25 calved in the 1002 area since the '80s and '90s.

1 In closing, I reiterate the Teamsters Local 959 is in
2 support of responsible development in the 1002 area of
3 ANWR. And we thank you for this opportunity to voice our
4 support, and we are looking forward to a productive and
5 vibrant future here in Alaska.

6 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Our next
7 speaker is Ben Stevens.

8 MR. BEN STEVENS: Good evening. Thank you
9 for the opportunity to provide comments today. My name is
10 Ben Stevens. I'm a Koyukon Athabascan from Stevens
11 Village up there on the Yukon River. I am a hunter, a
12 fisherman and a traditional drummer. I fight for the
13 health and the well-being of our people.

14 This proposal will significantly impact and restrict
15 our people's traditional subsistence way of life. TCC
16 operates under tribal authority. The traditional
17 territories of the 42 tribes, villages and over 15,000
18 Alaska Native people we serve expands roughly 235,000
19 square miles, one-third of the entire Alaska land mass.
20 Our traditional hunting and fishing practices, which
21 include the ceremonies that accompany these practices,
22 provide for the social, cultural, economic, physical and
23 spiritual health and well-being.

24 TCC's resolution 17-73 affirms that 42 tribes stand
25 united for the protection of the Porcupine caribou herd,

1 their birthing grounds and their nursery within the
2 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We
3 seek permanent protection of the coastal plain. The
4 Gwich'in people have relied upon the caribou for
5 centuries, countless generations. They hold the coastal
6 plain as a sacred place. Our subsistence way of life will
7 be significantly impacted and restricted if the Porcupine
8 caribou herd and the migratory waterfowl migration
9 habitat, food and water resources and/or birthing grounds
10 are impacted. All of the tribes rely upon migratory
11 waterfowl as a critical resource in the spring.

12 Further, our people are all related, relying on
13 extensive social and trading networks to provide for their
14 well-being. We fear that you are limiting scoping, the
15 EIS process and potential impacts to Arctic Village and
16 Venetie. This does not reflect the reality of potential
17 impacts to the entire region.

18 The refuge is the largest in the nation, yet one of
19 three in the nation managed remotely. There is very
20 limited and inadequate data and information regarding the
21 refuge, its habitats, its keystone species, and the
22 reliance on critical and threatened species. The Gwich'in
23 people hold the most intimate, rich and complete knowledge
24 of their traditional territories.

25 We continue to ask that the entire EIS process,

1 including the ANILCA 810 review and the National Historic
2 Preservation Act 106 analysis, are carried out in good
3 faith, are comprehensive, holistic and thorough. We
4 repeat the request as heard in Arctic Village. Extend the
5 scoping period by 62 days and notify the cooperating
6 agencies by June 1st.

7 Second, include scoping meetings in the impacted
8 villages of Fort Yukon, Beaver, Circle, Chalkyitsik,
9 Eagle, and notify the Tanana Chiefs by June 1st.

10 Third, consult with tribes to complete the ANILCA 810
11 analysis and address subsistence impacts for all
12 communities that rely on the coastal plain. Fourth,
13 ensure that the National Historic Preservation Act 806
14 analysis is conducted with adequate tribal consultation.
15 At minimum with the tribal governments of Arctic Village,
16 Venetie, Fort Yukon, Circle, Chalkyitsik, Beaver and
17 Eagle.

18 Finally, ensure all tribal government cooperating
19 agency requests are honored, as well as
20 government-to-government consultation requests.

21 As Native peoples, without access to our traditional
22 food resources, our health, our well-being, our economic
23 security and food sovereignty are threatened.

24 Thank you greatly for your time and due diligence in
25 this process. Your actions will have significant impacts

1 on the well-being of our tribes. Thank you.

2 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Our next
3 speaker will be Adrienne Blatchford. Is Adrienne here?

4 MS. ADRIENNE BLATCHFORD: I'm here. I'm a
5 little short to see, but I'm here. (Speaking in Alaska
6 indigenous language.)

7 I'd like to acknowledge the land that we are on today
8 and the people of Tanan. I come from Unalakleet, which is
9 the gateway to the arctic. Our little village on the
10 northwest coast is known for being the first place that
11 the infamous Sheldon Jackson made his debut into Alaska to
12 introduce Alaska to the cash economy, which since then has
13 only taken from our people. Over time, the 229 federally
14 recognized tribes in our state have seen the impact that
15 this disconnect from the land and one's culture and
16 community does, as we continue to fight to meet the
17 demands of western society.

18 Historical trauma to our people have alluded time and
19 time again as systemic issues; yet the judicial system is
20 occupied with disproportionate numbers of Alaska Natives.
21 Missing and murdered indigenous women are at the highest
22 where development occurs, with no database and continued
23 disregard to their cases. And the majority of offenders
24 are nontribal members. Alcohol and drug abuse plague our
25 small communities. Our children fill the systems, from

1 private and State facilities to foster care.

2 This is the war we already face from being forced to
3 settle time and time again for the government deals which
4 only benefit the one percent. That's what brings me here
5 today to talk about the attack on the Arctic coastal
6 plain, better known as area 1002 in the Arctic National
7 Wildlife Refuge.

8 Our land has been under attack for over two
9 centuries, and our people are in constant struggle to just
10 live. Government studies and data and statistics back
11 that up. Where is the human impact studies for the
12 already incurred development in our state? BLM must
13 conduct studies prior to properly assess and support the
14 people who remain at the front lines of development.

15 But I can't stand here and only acknowledge the
16 government entities and the development for their
17 disparities our people face, but there has been a fair
18 share of Alaska Natives who have dealt their cards with
19 oil and gas companies and this administration. There is a
20 lot of false propaganda put forward from the Alaska Native
21 corporations about the support of the desecration in area
22 1002 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We have our
23 one percenters, as well. Arctic Slope Regional
24 Corporation and Doyon Limited executives have held hands
25 with this administration during the mandate of drilling in

1 the refuge, which was placed in the fast-tracked tax bill
2 last year.

3 Yet there are shareholders that have already seen
4 what they have given up for compensation checks and a
5 promise of good health and wealth. The land that's been
6 developed in the NPR-A will never go back to its original
7 state. The industrial footprint left behind and the
8 health issues that the indigenous people are left with, no
9 money can fix. The Gwich'in Nation, along with the
10 majority of Alaskans and Americans have always opposed any
11 development in Izhik Gwatsan Goodai Goolit, the sacred
12 place where life begins, due to the highly negative impact
13 it would have on the Gwich'in as people, their culture and
14 traditions, the language and overall health of their
15 communities that lie on the migration route of the
16 Porcupine herd. The Porcupine caribou rely on the coastal
17 plain for their birthing grounds, to protect their young
18 from the mosquitoes and other predators that otherwise
19 would kill their newborns.

20 But we must also keep in mind that the rich ecosystem
21 houses more than just the 40,000 caribou calves born each
22 spring. There are birds that migrate from all 50 states
23 and six continents. The walrus, whales, seals and many
24 other marine mammals and sea life make their way to the
25 coastline to also nest and give birth. This place is

1 simply majestic.

2 Indigenous people have been stewards of the land
3 since time immemorial, leaving little to no footprint and
4 maintaining a healthy ecosystem that has supported the
5 rest of the world. We stand at the front lines of climate
6 change and see the detrimental effects of development.
7 With the methane gas emissions as a result of the
8 permafrost melting, the depletion of the polar ice cap,
9 the drunken forests, the coastal erosion -- I could go on
10 with scientific facts that prove all of this.

11 What is happening here already threatens the survival
12 of the indigenous people and their cultures and way of
13 life that they have carried orally since time immemorial
14 without history books or written languages. We need all
15 of you to allow the Gwich'in to remain the stewards of
16 this pristine land to ensure survival for seven
17 generations to come, not only for our people, but your
18 children and theirs to come, as well. We ask that you
19 mandate -- reverse the mandate of the drilling in area
20 1002 of the refuge.

21 Like many others, I have experienced severe health
22 issues without the access to regular balanced traditional
23 diet. Science again proves that our DNA demands high
24 protein and high-fat foods to sustain our bodies that keep
25 us in these harsh conditions. For the Gwich'in, 60

1 percent of their diet is the caribou. Development in this
2 coastal plain would not only cause cultural genocide, but
3 also elimination of food security.

4 I encourage scientific analysis to determine the
5 human impacts to the Gwich'in as related to the Porcupine
6 caribou herd. I stand here today to defend the sacred and
7 protect the arctic to practice being a good ancestor. I
8 ask that you help us divest from this fossil fuel
9 extraction and dependency and invest into green energy,
10 creating a new regenerative economy for Alaska. We are
11 the arctic.

12 MR. DOUG TANSY: Thank you, and good
13 afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great honor to be
14 here to participate in such an important event. The
15 dialogue and discussion that we get to have here will help
16 shape our futures as Alaskans. I'd also like to thank all
17 parties involved for their leadership in getting us to
18 this point so that we can have a serious and meaningful
19 debate about our state's resources.

20 As you heard, my name is Doug Tansy, and I am the
21 Assistant Business Manager for the International
22 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547. I am born
23 and raised here in Alaska. I am a product of our
24 apprenticeship program and I'm here to voice my
25 organization's support for the responsible development of

1 oil and gas in the 1002 area of ANWR.

2 The IBEW Local 1547 was established here second in
3 Alaska in 1946. Since then we have been advocating for
4 many worker issues, like safety, worker rights, workforce
5 development, training and jobs with good wages and
6 benefits, to name a few. This has taken place in a wide
7 variety of industries and locations with varying
8 challenges and considerations. Like our state, the IBEW
9 has grown up and learned many lessons along the way.

10 Safety and environmental concerns have been a
11 mainstay with us and in the petroleum industry since
12 construction began on TAPS back in 1974. Processes and
13 techniques continue to evolve and improve regarding
14 safety, as well as impacts to the environment. We have
15 been doing projects and maintenance on the North Slope and
16 throughout the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for over 40
17 years, refining our abilities to work efficiently with the
18 utmost care for safety and the environment.

19 Our efforts to perform in this manner have been
20 assisted by science and ingenuity, making what used to
21 seem impossible now doable. Safe and sensible development
22 of the 1002 area is now a possibility for us.

23 As I mentioned earlier, we are heavily involved in
24 training and workforce development. In partnering with
25 our contractor base, we actively train hundreds of

1 apprentices around the state for careers in construction
2 and maintenance of our industries like petroleum. To
3 continue this path, we must have projects and jobs
4 available for this maturation. To that end, we ask that a
5 project labor agreement be required in the lease sale as
6 part of the conditions of the lease, requiring that
7 Alaskans get the employment opportunities first.

8 I also talked a little bit about jobs and with good
9 wages and benefits. The responsible development of this
10 1002 area will aid in that mission both directly and
11 indirectly. Each dollar spent on this industry are spent
12 many times over on local economies, and each job in this
13 industry supports many other secondary jobs. Aside from
14 the direct jobs associated with the project, there will
15 also be a large benefit to the state and their finances.

16 The first lease sale should result in an initial
17 infusion of approximately 900 million dollars for the
18 state, with production royalties coming later during the
19 life of the project. Both the construction and
20 maintenance of the infrastructure associated with this
21 project will provide employment for hundreds of workers
22 which, again, cascades throughout the rest of the state
23 supporting other jobs. With added revenue to the state,
24 there will be an opportunity to get much needed assistance
25 to the state's capital budget, which supports a great deal

1 of employment in construction and additionally will help
2 fill the holes in Alaska's overall budget.

3 The IBEW Local 1547 is in support of advancing the
4 lease sales for the development of the 1002 area of ANWR
5 with the inclusion of a PLA. Working in Alaska is our
6 bread and butter. We have the state covered with trained
7 workers and training centers throughout, and this project
8 could put many Alaskans to work.

9 Like me, my organization was born here, grew up here,
10 and plans on living here indefinitely. Our nearly 5,000
11 members also live here and want to see a reasonable and
12 balanced approach to advancing this project.

13 Over the last 45 years, organized labor in the
14 petroleum industry have proven that we can not only
15 co-exist, but we can mutually gain for the benefit of all
16 Alaskans. Today we are in a much better position than we
17 were in 1974 to provide services to a large project and
18 will continue to pursue contracts and jobs for our
19 industry, our organization and its membership.

20 Thank you for the time for speaking here today.

21 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Next speaker
22 will be Michelle Van Dyke.

23 MS. MICHELLE VAN DYKE: Hello. Thank you
24 for allowing us to come and speak to you today. My name
25 is Michelle Van Dyke. I am representing the tribe of Fort

1 Yukon, the Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in tribal government. I
2 was sent here today to inform you that we are against the
3 development, exploration of 1002 of the ANWR. And I also
4 wanted to let you know that we are standing with our
5 brothers and sisters of the tribes of Venetie and Arctic
6 Village and that we must be involved with the consultation
7 process with the environmental impact statement.

8 And I wanted to ask you guys some questions, you
9 know. We have the -- why am I -- why are we opposed --
10 why is our tribe opposed. Well, how do you measure
11 responsible exploration and development? How do you
12 measure the ethical reporting of spills should that ever
13 happen? The mission statement of the BLM is to sustain
14 the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands
15 for the use and enjoyment of present and future
16 generations. So how do we -- how do we measure all of
17 that? What's included in that process and what tribes are
18 you going to include? Because I can tell you that my
19 tribe is going to be directly affected by the decisions
20 that you will make. There are households within my
21 community that depend on this Porcupine caribou herd.

22 Although we are not directly within the area, these
23 are our sister tribes, and we will continue to stand with
24 them in a unified voice, just as we stood with the
25 Draanjik in the resource management plan. And we must be

1 included with the consultation just as the Draanjik RMP.
2 We have a lot of unanswered questions and we are in
3 agreement with TCC's statement and that of Adrienne
4 Blatchford.

5 I'd like to thank you again for taking testimonies.
6 Mahsi'.

7 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Our next speaker will be
8 Scott Eickholt. Just a reminder, if you could please get
9 the microphone close to your mouth. With the live
10 streaming, sometimes it doesn't pick up as well as in the
11 room here. Thank you.

12 MR. SCOTT EICKHOLT: Thank you. My name
13 is Scott Eickholt. I'm the Business Manager for Laborers
14 Local 942. I don't envy the job that you guys have with
15 this EIS scoping, but I'm sure you will do a thorough job
16 at that.

17 Local 942 represents around 1,000 working men and
18 women right here in Alaska. Originally a construction
19 union, today our union has grown to represent service
20 contract workers, transportation workers, tourism
21 industry, pipeline maintenance and more. We, too, support
22 the development of the 1002 coastal plain. Local 942 is
23 requesting that the EIS include analysis of both the
24 economic and social benefits of performing work related to
25 the coastal plain oil and gas leasing using a PLA, or

1 project labor agreement, as well as the best methods to
2 encourage the use of such agreements in future oil and gas
3 leasing and development.

4 From the lease sales to post sales -- post lease
5 activities, such as seismic drilling and exploration,
6 development, transportation from the coastal plain, as you
7 know, development of this area means economic opportunity.
8 Coastal plain development could also bring the U.S. closer
9 to energy dominance. While we develop these rich
10 resources, it's critical to ensure that those
11 opportunities are available for local residents, like our
12 friend Mayor Hopson from Wainwright. Our membership
13 maintains near 20 percent Alaska Natives, and some of
14 those from Wainwright and Kaktovik.

15 Project labor agreements are the most effective way
16 to ensure the coastal plain development and related
17 construction bring economic opportunities to local
18 residents. Unions enjoy relationships in most of these
19 communities throughout Alaska, an advantage most don't
20 realize.

21 By providing access to union hiring halls, project
22 labor agreements ensure access to a skilled workforce.
23 Local 942 is proud to report that well over 90 percent of
24 our membership is residents.

25 These agreements minimize risk by jointly setting the

1 rules of the game and streamlining management for complex
2 projects, this all being done prior to the work starting,
3 which ensures efficiency throughout the entire project.
4 By achieving commitment from all stakeholders and
5 assisting contractors in compliance with legal
6 requirements, these agreements further minimize risks in
7 major construction projects.

8 With the stakeholder involvement and an efficient
9 dispute resolution process, these agreements enhance
10 efficiency. For example, a study of a major project
11 performed under a large municipal construction authority
12 demonstrated that the project labor agreement had achieved
13 around 221 million dollars in cost savings in just four
14 years. Project labor agreements also enrich the community
15 by providing access to joint labor management
16 apprenticeships and other training opportunities to build
17 a path to a successful career in construction, which is
18 much needed on these coastal plains. As you heard before,
19 economic opportunity doesn't just fall in the laps of
20 these folks up there. Cooperative training has been
21 occurring for almost two decades right here in Fairbanks
22 preparing for the performance of this work.

23 For these reasons, Local 942 is requesting that the
24 EIS process include research and analysis on both the
25 economic and social benefits of using project labor

1 agreements for major construction that would most likely
2 result from the coastal plain leases, as well as the best
3 methods of ensuring the use of these agreements.

4 Thank you for the presentation and for the
5 opportunity for comment. I have written testimony that
6 I'll submit on the Internet. Thanks.

7 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you very much.
8 Next speaker is going to be Kara Moriarty.

9 MS. KARA MORIARTY: Good evening. My name
10 is Kara Moriarty, and I'm here to represent the Alaska Oil
11 and Gas Association. We appreciate the invitation to
12 provide comments tonight on the BLM Notice of Intent.

13 Who are we as AOGA? We are the private trade
14 association for the oil and gas industry. Our 13 member
15 companies are those the majority of the explorers,
16 producers, refiners, and transporters of oil and gas. On
17 a personal note, I came to Alaska over 20 years ago, and I
18 lived in NPR-A teaching in the rural village of Atkasuk.

19 The industry is happy to have this opportunity. We
20 believe we have a well-established history of prudent and
21 environmentally responsible exploration and development in
22 our state and we fully support BLM's initiation of this
23 scoping process to prepare for a full EIS. As an
24 organization representing companies who may participate in
25 such a leasing program, we very much appreciate being

1 asked to be part of the testimony this evening.

2 Because the leasing program in the 1002 area will
3 undoubtedly be vigorously contested by groups who oppose
4 development, we strongly believe it is important for BLM
5 to conduct a very thorough NEPA process.

6 To provide some history, in 1960 the area was
7 designated as the Arctic National Wildlife Range. And
8 then in 1980, ANILCA was passed which greatly expanded the
9 area, and the name was changed to the Arctic National
10 Wildlife Refuge. And in ANILCA there is a section, 1002.
11 That's how we got the 1002 area. It's the section of
12 ANILCA law. In that section, it expressly directs the
13 Department of Interior Secretary to carry out an oil and
14 gas exploration program and conduct baseline studies and
15 evaluate impacts. So the whole purpose of ANWR is not
16 just to protect wildlife.

17 In keeping with that directive, in the mid 1980s, BLM
18 did conduct over 1300 miles of seismic, and they put
19 together -- the Department of Interior put together a
20 report in 1987 recommending Congress to take action and
21 developed an EIS. In the report even 30 years ago it
22 says -- and I quote: "That the 1002 area is the nation's
23 best single opportunity to increase significantly domestic
24 oil production and most outstanding petroleum exploration
25 target in the onshore United States."

1 Ten years later, those estimates were updated, and
2 still today there is no other onshore potential oil and
3 gas development in federal land anywhere in the country
4 that has the potential of the 1002 area.

5 And why is that important? Some people say we need
6 to shift to a renewable economy, but if you look at
7 international estimates, over 57 percent of the globe's
8 demand for energy will still come from consumption of
9 traditional sources of energy, like oil and gas. So the
10 demand is there, Alaska has a lot of it, and we have an
11 amazing strong track record, and we are continuing to
12 decrease our footprint.

13 Just a couple months ago, there was a rig owned by
14 Doyon that set the record for the longest horizontal
15 lateral well. And combined -- its combined footage
16 reached over 43,000 feet. So that means they can go a lot
17 farther today and have a much less impact on the surface.
18 Doyon is also in the process of commissioning a new
19 extended reach drilling rig which should be online for
20 NPR-A in 2020.

21 It goes without saying that Alaska's economy relies
22 heavily on the oil and gas industry. One-third of all
23 jobs in the state of Alaska can be attributed back to the
24 oil and gas industry. And studies have shown by the
25 university that if we did not have TAPS, if we didn't have

1 that economic lifeline, Alaska's economy would be half the
2 size.

3 So finally, I would just say that you are preparing
4 for a lease sale. And as you pointed out in this chart at
5 the beginning, the lease sale is just the first step in a
6 very long process. And lease sales do not guarantee that
7 companies will participate to bid. But you won't know if
8 there is industry interest unless you conduct the lease
9 sale. And just because you conduct the lease sale and
10 just because companies may purchase leases does not
11 guarantee exploration, and it certainly doesn't guarantee
12 production. So we look forward to the process and
13 engaging further.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Next speaker
16 will be Steve Ginnis.

17 MR. STEVE GINNIS: Hello. My name is
18 Steve Ginnis. I'm here to represent my tribal government,
19 the Gwitchyaa Zhee tribal government. Gwitchyaa Zhee
20 Gwich'in tribal government. I'm the traditional chief of
21 our tribe. I have issues with this whole process. I
22 have -- I'm opposed, obviously, to ANWR development, and
23 I'll tell you why.

24 First of all, the process that was used to determine
25 opening ANWR in my view was an unfair process simply

1 because those people, the Gwich'in people, that will be
2 most impacted by this were never heard. And that -- I
3 don't understand how the United States government and the
4 Congress of the United States could shortcut the process
5 to do what's going on here today. In my world view,
6 that's not a democratic system at all. That's ramming
7 something through. And the least that these people could
8 have done was invite us, ask us how we feel about it.

9 Now, I think -- I don't know if I might be off base
10 on this, but it just seems to me like, oh, we don't need
11 to listen to them. They are just a small band of Indian
12 people. But again, we are the ones -- we are the ones
13 that's going to pay the price for this, big time. And
14 people that are not Indian -- and no disrespect for people
15 that are not Indian in here -- you cannot relate to a
16 people's culture if you don't live it.

17 And these oil companies saying that somehow it's just
18 going to take this little footprint, we are going to
19 develop it, I don't believe that one bit. Go up to
20 Prudhoe Bay. There is infrastructure almost all the way
21 across the tundra there. And the oil company is trying
22 tell me that it's going to take a little footprint to
23 develop this area? No way. Absolutely no way.

24 Oil business is a boom-and-bust business. History
25 has shown us that with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Look

1 where we are right now. Our state government, we have a
2 big deficit. Our economy is almost crippled. So to me
3 it's not worth the cost to sacrifice our people's way of
4 life.

5 Think of this, to move forward with this. You know,
6 I certainly hope that this will be a fair representation
7 of people's comments when it goes out wherever it's going
8 to go because it shouldn't be like a score card, so many
9 opposed it and so many supported it and kind of use that
10 as kind of a basis to make judgment on whether or not this
11 thing should proceed. I know the media would do that.
12 They would say this is how many people have supported it
13 and this is how many people oppose it and kind of use it
14 as a score card to advance the idea.

15 So again, I'm very concerned what's going to happen
16 to our people, and I certainly hope that everybody -- we
17 should never be outsourcing resources on our land. We
18 want to be protecting it and keeping it as pristine as
19 possible so that future generations can continue to live
20 the kind of lifestyle they want.

21 And my friends, it's like if you owned an auto
22 business and we boycott you, that's going to affect your
23 livelihood. That's going to affect your pocket book.
24 There is no difference here. We are talking about our
25 people's long-term survival because when it's all said and

1 done, all we have is that land and the resources it
2 provides to us for us to sustain ourselves when it's all
3 said and done.

4 So I would urge you to be very careful as you are
5 moving this thing forward. And I can assure you this:
6 The Gwich'in people will not back down from our strong
7 conviction of protecting our way of life. We will not do
8 that for any amount of money, any amount of compromise.
9 We will just not do it because we know what the long-term
10 impacts it would have on our people.

11 So I thank you very much. Mahsi' Choo.

12 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Next speaker will be
13 Michael Wald.

14 MR. MICHAEL WALD: I own a wilderness
15 guide service based here in Fairbanks, and I've spent
16 hundreds of days and nights on the refuge and have been
17 sharing the natural history and the experience of living
18 or camping on the refuge with hundreds of people for about
19 20 years. And it's wonderful to see everybody here
20 speaking their minds and exchanging ideas. And it occurs
21 to me that everyone is here advocating for their own sense
22 of what's going to benefit their family and their own
23 livelihood. And I thank you all for giving us the
24 opportunity to weigh in.

25 And mostly I'll talk about some very specific

1 concerns that I have. But I think I would be remiss to
2 not just stay -- say -- and I know it's not even really in
3 the scope of this meeting, but that, you know, in my view
4 it would be a tragedy to see large-scale industrial
5 development there. I understand that there is a mandate
6 now to have leasing. And so I hope that that will be
7 minimized as much as possible.

8 In terms of a very specific -- is this too loud? In
9 terms of very specific concerns I have about leasing on
10 the coastal plain, I have a little list here -- one of my
11 concerns, given that I recreate in the refuge and that I
12 work in the refuge and that I hunt in the refuge and
13 specifically in the 1002 is how public access will be
14 guaranteed. That's one of the mandates of the refuge and
15 certainly in areas where there is currently oil
16 development, public access is forbidden. I have been, in
17 fact, escorted out of the oil fields. You are not allowed
18 there. So if this is a public refuge, how does that get
19 handled? How do local Kaktovik residents -- is there
20 different rules for them? Can I continue to hunt in the
21 oil fields? Can I snowmachine across the oil fields? How
22 are those public access issues handled in the long-term,
23 not only in the first lease sale, but as other speakers
24 have said, we have seen in the current areas of
25 development that what is proposed one year is very

1 different from the development that is on the ground in 20
2 years.

3 Another concern that I have is harm to my own
4 livelihood. We travel across the coastal plain on
5 probably a third of the trips that we guide, and there is
6 harm potentially in two ways. There is harm in that there
7 is development in areas that we currently use where we
8 camp. I think that industry and tourism are mutually
9 exclusive. And then there is the more theoretical harm
10 where as soon as there is development in the Arctic
11 Refuge, there is a public perception that the entire
12 refuge is no longer wild and no longer wilderness.

13 And so I'm concerned on how that is managed from a --
14 from a business standpoint and from an on-the-ground
15 standpoint. And I'm sure that the folks, that Fish &
16 Wildlife, at the refuge are concerned about some of those
17 issues, as well.

18 Another concern I have is water. The Arctic Refuge
19 is unique in many ways. Ecologically one of the ways it's
20 unique from other parts of the North Slope is that it's
21 dry. And I'm no oil engineer, but from what I understand,
22 there is a huge amount of fresh water that is required for
23 development, whether it be ice roads or drilling or the
24 maintenance of a camp for workers. And we don't have big
25 lakes in the refuge. Is the water going to come from a

1 place like Shublik Springs? Are you going to dewater the
2 canyon? What's the plan there and what -- what mitigation
3 measures and stipulations are going to be in place to
4 protect those freshwater resources, both in the nearshore,
5 the freshwater lagoon environment, which is unique, and
6 onshore.

7 I'm running out of time. Get to my list.

8 And the fourth specific concern I have has to do with
9 polar bears. We have a high density of onshore denning
10 within the Arctic Refuge, and there is speculation in the
11 scientific community that as sea ice continues to decline
12 in extent and, more importantly, in thickness and in
13 topography, that more bears may be denning on shore. The
14 1002 is the logical place for them to go, and snowdrifts
15 are the habitat that's used. So I have some real concerns
16 about how endangered species requirements are going to be
17 met with oil development in this highly sensitive area.

18 I'm out of time. Thank you very much.

19 MR. DAVID BATTS: Our next speaker will be
20 Barry Whitehill or Steve Shannon. Please clarify.

21 MR. STEVE SHANNON: My name is Steve
22 Shannon, and I currently serve as the chair for our Alaska
23 State Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.
24 Backcountry Hunters and Anglers supports balanced,
25 responsible resource development. However, developing the

1 1002 area does not represent a balanced or responsible
2 approach. The National Petroleum Reserve just west of the
3 1002 area is 22.8 million acres specifically dedicated to
4 and set aside for oil development on the North Slope.
5 This area is comparable in size to the state of Indiana.
6 Why is that not a large enough area for oil and gas
7 development? This is not a balanced approach.

8 The 1002 area is a much smaller,
9 one-and-a-half-million-acre area rich in wildlife and
10 extremely important to the Porcupine herd's calving
11 grounds. The majority of the North Slope is already
12 dedicated to oil and gas development, and BHA believes
13 that a balanced approach to resource development means
14 focusing development on the massive area already dedicated
15 to oil and gas. It's in the public's best interest to
16 have some of the areas of the North Slope free from oil
17 and gas development.

18 BHA is not asking for no drilling on the North Slope.
19 We only ask that it be balanced with other invaluable
20 resources and human values.

21 We are concerned with the loss of access to public
22 land. Current oil fields on the public land on the North
23 Slope are closed to public access. Developing part of the
24 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas is the
25 equivalent of transferring publicly accessible lands into

1 private hands.

2 Two years ago we lost our opportunity to hunt caribou
3 on federal land in Unit 23 when reports of things like
4 airplane traffic changed caribou migration patterns. Now
5 only local subsistence hunters can hunt there. Who is to
6 say that developing this portion of the Porcupine caribou
7 herd's calving area won't change their habits, as well?
8 How can we ensure that we don't lose our opportunity to
9 hunt this area?

10 The 1002 area is an important nesting area for
11 migratory waterfowl. It's an area with limited water
12 resources, and as sportsmen we are concerned with how the
13 construction and operation of drilling pads and associated
14 infrastructure will be using these limited water resources
15 and the potential impacts that that usage could have on
16 sensitive populations of spectacle and Steller's eiders as
17 well as other migratory birds that nest in the area.

18 In addition to water usage, we have concerns about
19 things like vector control during construction and during
20 summer working seasons. This is a biologically rich area,
21 and mosquitoes and other insects are a staple food source
22 for many migratory birds that use this area for nesting.
23 In regards to the effects development will have on flora
24 and fauna, what steps will be taken to control and monitor
25 invasive plant species that will undoubtedly be brought in

1 with the infrastructure construction and upkeep?

2 We have heard the figure of 2,000 acres of surface
3 impacts in ANWR. The public needs clarification if this
4 figure includes surface roads for seismic exploration,
5 gravel pits, digging sites and surface roads to support
6 the drilling operation, or does it only apply to the drill
7 pads? If any of this is to be reclaimed afterwards, to
8 our knowledge, there has never been a successful
9 reclamation of tundra habitat back to what it was prior to
10 usage. If that's the case, how is this restoration to be
11 done in these areas and what is your definition of
12 restoration.

13 As sportsmen and conservationists, we know the value
14 of big, wild tracts of unmarred landscape, and we know
15 what that value is for those with the eyes to see it and
16 the heart to adventure into it. We know full well the
17 restoration that happens to us while we are out there, and
18 we need to know that the restoration of the landscape will
19 be just as complete.

20 As the Porcupine herd migrates internationally, how
21 will the petroleum industry's impacts on this calving area
22 affect our Alaskan Gwich'in and Inupiaq communities, as
23 well as Canadian portions of this herd and the Canadian
24 communities that rely on this herd for subsistence food.
25 We want to know who will be leading the Section 810

1 subsistence evaluation, and will that evaluation include
2 the communities that hunt the Porcupine caribou herd,
3 including the communities on the border and in Canada.

4 Communities across northern Canada are seeing a
5 decline in caribou numbers, and the Porcupine herd has
6 been an exception as it continues a growth trend. How can
7 you ensure that drilling activity in an important calving
8 ground won't disrupt the herd's health?

9 And lastly, we would like to address -- take the
10 opportunity to address the oil companies considering
11 leasing in the Arctic Refuge. Just because one person has
12 an ability to -- just because one has the legal right to
13 an action does not mean you should take that action. This
14 is an instance where you can show leadership and an honest
15 dedication to balanced responsible development in Alaska
16 as you guys have been touting. The majority of the North
17 Slope is already yours, and we ask that you demonstrate
18 that you are the stewards of the land that you claim to be
19 and not bid on lands where you may be trading Porcupine
20 caribou herd's future for oil.

21 Thank you very much for your time and consideration
22 of these comments.

23 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. The next
24 speaker will be Mark Wiggin. As Mark is coming up, we
25 have two more speakers and then we will taking a break and

1 moving into the public speaking portion.

2 Mark.

3 MR. MARK WIGGIN: Good afternoon. My name
4 is Mark Wiggin. I'm the Deputy Commissioner of the
5 Department of Natural Resources for Alaska. I am joined
6 here by my -- couple of fellow DNR personnel who will be
7 involved in this process, and that's Faith Martineau, the
8 director of Alaska's DNR's Office of Project Management
9 and Permitting, and Steve Masterman here in Fairbanks, the
10 Director of the Division of Geologic and Geophysical
11 Surveys.

12 I and we appreciate the opportunity to listen and
13 participate in this EIS 1002 scoping meeting. I
14 appreciate very much the opportunity to hear heartfelt
15 positions by people on both sides of the issue.

16 But I'm mostly here to share a message from Governor
17 Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott, as well as
18 DNR Commissioner Andy Mack. And that message is this
19 administration, the Walker Administration, places a great
20 importance on promoting community involvement, engagement
21 and decision making, especially on such critical issues as
22 those that we're here to speak to today. Because of this
23 governor's focus on achieving broad-based public input on
24 issues such as this, he's established over his tenure a
25 number of advisory councils. One, for example, is the

1 Governor's Tribal Advisory Council or GTAC, which actually
2 builds upon these collaborative principles and will work
3 to extend the valuable efforts such as the Alaska Whaling
4 Commission along the northern coast of Alaska.

5 The broad goal of GTAC is to reach out to tribes and
6 Native interest groups across the state to ensure Native
7 Alaskan voices are heard and their concerns incorporated
8 into decision making at the highest levels of State
9 government. Similarly, relative to this EIS process, I
10 want to relay the Walker Administration's commitment to
11 working with all Alaskans across the state in a
12 collaborative manner over the coming months during this
13 EIS process.

14 The State agencies, of which I'm one, will work to
15 ensure to the greatest degree possible a robust EIS
16 analysis, a robust EIS process, one that provides ample
17 opportunities for Alaskans to provide input and guidance.

18 The great state of Alaska has always been a land of
19 extraordinary beauty, a land graced with the bounty of
20 natural resources wealth.

21 With statehood in 1959, Alaska was founded as a
22 natural resource development state. The Alaska Statehood
23 Act describes the State of Alaska's responsibility to
24 protect fish and wildlife resources, as well as to
25 regulate mineral resource development. As Alaskans, we

1 share the opportunity and this responsibility to maintain,
2 conserve and responsibly develop these resources for the
3 benefit of all of our people. This administration, the
4 Walker Administration, sees this balance between
5 conservation and development as a guiding principle for
6 our state.

7 Just as responsible development of nearly 17 billion
8 barrels of North Slope crude has fueled our economy since
9 the late '70s, Governor Walker, Lieutenant Governor
10 Mallott and Commissioner Mack are confident that opening
11 the 1002 area of ANWR through this EIS process and
12 potentially for development could similarly produce
13 additional decades of economic growth for Alaskans in an
14 environmentally responsible manner.

15 You know, there are reasons why there can be some
16 confidence that we can mitigate some of the effects of oil
17 development, as was alluded to by one of the speakers
18 earlier when he spoke of early oilfields. Let me provide
19 one example. And I'm kind of coming off of what
20 Ms. Moriarty, or Kara, said: Great strides in extended
21 reach drilling have made it possible to produce a much
22 greater percentage of oil from reservoirs with a much
23 smaller gravel footprint. For example, when I first
24 started working up here, at Prudhoe Bay it required a
25 65-acre gravel footprint per pad to develop about three to

1 five square miles of subsurface reservoir. Now because of
2 extended reach drilling, it will be possible with about a
3 20-acre pad, a third of the size, to develop about 113
4 square miles of subsurface reservoir. It's really quite
5 extraordinary. So that's really about 30 to 40 times as
6 much of the reservoir contacted by the same -- with
7 one-third of the footprint. Just --

8 I'm about to run out of time, so I'll shove my
9 comments in.

10 Thank you again for the opportunity to share this
11 message from the Walker Administration. We look forward
12 to participating as a cooperating agency in the EIS
13 process, and we look forward to seeing how we can move
14 this forward in an economic and environmentally sensitive
15 manner. I appreciate the opportunity to speak and hear
16 everybody talk.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID BATTS: Wrapping up our
19 prearranged speakers will be Rhonda O. Pitka.

20 MS. RHONDA PITKA: Thank you. Hi. I'm
21 Rhonda Pitka. I'm the Chief of the Village of Beaver.
22 I'm also a resident of the Village of Beaver. Beaver is
23 located on the north bank of the Yukon River, about 110
24 miles north of Fairbanks, and we live within the Yukon
25 Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Our relatives live within

1 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Much of our
2 livelihood is dependent on those resources. Beaver has a
3 population of about 60 people right now of Gwich'in,
4 Koyukon and Inupiaq descent. I'm Koyukon and Inupiaq.
5 Much of my family lives in Arctic Village right now. They
6 are all Gwich'in.

7 The village was established as a mining supply for
8 the Chandalar area, but our ancestors have lived in the
9 area for thousands of years. I'm also the Vice Chair of
10 the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments. We are a
11 consortium of ten tribal governments in the Yukon Flats.
12 We span Yukon Flats, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
13 Yukon-Charley. We live within areas that are heavily
14 impacted by federal land.

15 Our chiefs are requesting that you come and consult
16 with us. I'm requesting government-to-government
17 consultation in the Village of Beaver. I also sent in a
18 letter requesting that the materials be translated to
19 Gwich'in for our Gwich'in speakers and that you also bring
20 along translators.

21 CATG's tribal consortium strongly opposes development
22 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on the coastal
23 plain. We have several resolutions going back years to
24 document this. The scoping period is much too short to
25 address our needs as governments. We need proper

1 consultation. We need proper scoping meetings in our
2 villages. I sent in a letter requesting a scoping meeting
3 in the Village of Beaver on May 21st to Nicole Hayes, and
4 I'd like to ask that I receive a reply soon.

5 Our tribal members right now are getting ready for
6 our subsistence season. I am actually missing out on
7 getting my grandma's fish camp ready for the fishing
8 season, which we hope will be successful this year. Many
9 of our people still depend heavily on the Chinook salmon,
10 and we trade heavily with Arctic Village relatives. So
11 the development in the coastal plain will affect all of
12 our people. We fully believe that that development cannot
13 be done in the -- I heard it like ten times today --
14 responsible manner. I'd like to see that. That would be
15 nice.

16 We are also going to be requesting cooperating agency
17 status for the Village of Beaver. And we would like the
18 proposed timeline. I have submitted my letter already,
19 and I hope that I get a response shortly. Usually when I
20 send a letter I get a response right away that somebody
21 has received it. Perhaps you guys are busy right now.
22 But I would like to have that meeting in the Village of
23 Beaver.

24 Our people there, they told me that, you know, even
25 though we are -- we are south of the refuge, we still need

1 to support our relatives. We all have family ties. Some
2 of us even have family ties in Barrow.

3 We would also like to request that the scoping period
4 be extended at least 120 days. Our fishing season is
5 coming up, and we are not going to be available at least
6 until the beginning of August. So I think requesting that
7 season -- that scoping period be extended is only
8 reasonable.

9 This process has been very divisive for a lot of
10 people. I have not felt very divisive about it myself. I
11 just feel like, you know, we need to support the people of
12 Arctic Village and Venetie, and their needs, too, for the
13 Porcupine caribou herd. I've heard some people testifying
14 about it.

15 I also am a member of the Federal Subsistence Board,
16 and that's actually the last healthy caribou herd in the
17 world, and it's because it's mostly in a pristine area. I
18 think having any of this development will hurt it
19 horribly. I've heard hours of testimony on caribou herds
20 from around the state that have been impacted, and I think
21 having those issues seriously looked at in your EIS
22 process requires a lot of time.

23 I think my time is up. But I also wanted to say that
24 CATG has been involved in the Draanjik process, also, and
25 that took eight years. It took eight years, and the book

1 was like this thick [indicating] when it was done. I'm
2 not sure how that -- how that process can be accomplished
3 in this short of time, especially with the number of birds
4 and wildlife that live up there and make those areas
5 nesting areas.

6 So my time is seriously over, and I'd like to thank
7 you all.

8 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. We are going
9 to take a ten-minute break. So I appreciate all the
10 comments that our first panelists went through. I think
11 all those comments were excellent comments. We have heard
12 a lot. I know our panelists' hands are probably cramped
13 from writing a lot. But I just want to commend everybody
14 for the way that you commented.

15 So we will come back at 6:25. We will start the
16 public scoping again. We are going to go by the speaker
17 cards. So if you don't have a card, please grab one at
18 the speaker table at the back corner.

19 If you have a card with a number of 1 through 10, if
20 you could please check in with Molly or Chad -- can you
21 please stand up -- when we come back from the break, we
22 are going to get you seated up front so we can begin with
23 your testimony right away when we come back. So please
24 come back in ten minutes at 6:25. Thank you.

25 (A break was taken.)

1 MR. DAVID BATTS: All right. Welcome
2 back. We are going to begin the public comment period. A
3 few notes on running the process. It's going to be a
4 little bit different from our prearranged speakers.
5 Everybody should have a speaker card at this point if you
6 wish to speak. If not, please go ahead and grab one from
7 the table. Speakers are going to be called up in groups
8 of ten based on the number on your speaker cards. So if
9 you pull out your speaker cards, you will see in the
10 corner it has a number on it. We have already brought up
11 our first group, Nos. 1 through 10, although we are still
12 looking for No. 1, No. 5 and No. 2. So come on down here
13 to the front row. We will get you cued up.

14 When your numbers are called, if you can come down
15 here. Molly and Chad will help you find your seat in
16 order. We have two microphones, you will notice. We have
17 No. 1, which is on your left-hand side; No. 2, which is on
18 your right-hand side. The even cards are kind of a
19 whitish color, and the odd number cards are blue. So they
20 match up with our microphone so you can help find your
21 location there.

22 What we will do is we are going to start off with
23 speaker No. 1. They will be speaking into microphone No.
24 1. They will have three minutes on the timer there. Then
25 we will move over to microphone No. 2, work with person

1 No. 2. It's going to be kind of a little bit of a
2 back-and-forth process. That way we can be very efficient
3 in getting people and not wasting much time in between.

4 If you are not able to come up front and speak at the
5 microphone, when we get to your number, just please raise
6 your hand or let me know ahead of time. We do have a
7 roving mic and we will bring that to your seat or
8 accommodate you wherever you might be.

9 You need to be present when your number is called, so
10 please make sure that you are here in plenty of time to do
11 your speaking. No comments from cell phones, Facetime,
12 Skype. It's got to be your own voice that we want to hear
13 from today. Just a reminder to please speak into the
14 microphone, speak slowly and clearly. Also be sure to
15 speak your name and any organization that you are
16 representing.

17 Please do face the panel. I know that some people
18 may want to address the audience here, but again, our
19 court reporter does need to see your lips. Part of this
20 is lip reading, also.

21 Again, we will have the timer to help you manage your
22 time as we move forward. We do have quite a few speakers
23 tonight that we want to get to, and our agenda time is
24 9:00. So again, please help us make those time frames.
25 We do want to hear from everybody so that we can get

1 everybody through here tonight.

2 So I believe that does it with all the rules. So we
3 are going to begin right now with our first speaker on
4 microphone No. 1. Again, please state your name and
5 organization. Thank you.

6 MR. FRAN MAUER: My name is Fran Mauer.
7 I'm representing myself. I worked as a wildlife biologist
8 at the Arctic Refuge from 1981 to 2002. Before that I
9 worked to support passage of the Alaska National Interest
10 Lands Conservation Act with special emphasis on boundaries
11 and provisions dealing with the Arctic Refuge. Through
12 the long prolonged debate over oil development in the
13 refuge, I've often been struck by the notion that many
14 proponents of development in the refuge believe that the
15 North Slope is all the same.

16 When it comes to the refuge, nothing could be further
17 from the truth. One need only to look at a topographic
18 map to realize the conditions on the refuge and coastal
19 plain are significantly different from areas to the west.
20 In the refuge, the coastal plain is only 15 to 30 miles
21 wide, while at Prudhoe and NPR-A it's over 100 miles from
22 the mountains to the coast.

23 Because of the proximity from the mountains to the
24 coast, the refuge has relatively few lakes and ponds
25 compared to the area to the west. The rolling tundra

1 uplands of the refuge coastal plain are often scoured by
2 prevailing east/west winds during winter, creating uneven
3 snow cover and extensive areas that are vulnerable to
4 long-lasting damage from seismic and other oil development
5 activities.

6 In the refuge, ten times as many caribou give birth
7 on one-fifth as much available habitat as the situation in
8 the existing oil fields. The potential consequences of
9 development on calving caribou may be much more severe
10 with serious consequences for subsistence users throughout
11 northeast Alaska and northwest Canada.

12 The coastal plain is an integral link to the rest of
13 the refuge and an expansive area beyond in Canada. What
14 happens on the coastal plain can threaten the ecological
15 integrity of a vast area beyond. The EIS must address
16 this aspect.

17 And also there are wilderness resources to address.
18 The original wildlife range was established in 1960 "to
19 preserve wildlife, wilderness recreational values." Those
20 values and purposes remain. And in addition, adjacent to
21 the southern and eastern border of the coastal plain is
22 designated wilderness. Impacts of exploration and
23 development will affect vast portions of the adjacent
24 wilderness. Wilderness is a fundamental value to any
25 wilderness area, and the Arctic Refuge is one of the last

1 truly wild places remaining in the U.S. The American
2 people deserve an honest appraisal of what will be lost.

3 The 2,000-acre development limitation in the statute
4 is one that has been used for years to hoodwink the public
5 on how oil fields expand over time. When it comes to
6 disturbance of sensitive wildlife, noise, visual stimuli
7 and odors can emanate from a small point of activity like
8 a great shadow of influence.

9 I've only scratched the surface of the enormity of
10 the issues and concerns that must be addressed. At the
11 very least, an additional 60 days must be added for a
12 public comment period so that this process can achieve
13 some semblance of legitimacy.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Move over to speaker
16 No. 2.

17 MR. FRANK KEIM: My name is Frank Keim,
18 with a K, from Fairbanks. For 34 of my 57 years in Alaska
19 I've testified in defense of the integrity of the Arctic
20 Refuge coastal plain. With its original populations of
21 birds, fish, insects, plants and large animals, it's one
22 of the few places on earth that I regard as true
23 wilderness, and therefore worthy of fighting for against
24 the fraudulent wishes of the Trump Administration.

25 I've hiked and floated in the refuge, including the

1 coastal plain, more than 20 times, so I know the area is a
2 special place and should be left untouched by the clutches
3 of the oil industry and their political minions.

4 The coastal plain is home for part of the year to the
5 Porcupine caribou herd, which is now 218,000 strong and
6 needs the nutritious cotton grass there to nourish their
7 newborn calves so they have a healthy start in their lives
8 in the harsh Arctic climate they must survive in. Oil
9 drilling will compromise this ancient balance and lead to
10 the ultimate decimation and destruction of the herd.

11 Another major reason not to drill in the coastal
12 plain is to prevent further intensification of climate
13 change which I believe to be, along with overpopulation,
14 the gravest environmental threat facing us today. Leaving
15 the oil in the ground is the moral thing to do if we wish
16 to stop contributing to the devastation of biodiversity on
17 this unique planet we call home and to preserve what
18 remains for future generations of living things and a
19 healthy environment to survive and flourish in.

20 The Arctic Refuge has not only been a source of
21 solitude and spiritual growth for me and many of my
22 friends and family; it's also given me the opportunity to
23 learn more about the untarnished rhythms of nature and
24 about the area's historic significance for Native people.
25 I now understand much better why so many Gwich'in and

1 Inupiaq Natives also regard the refuge as a spiritual
2 place that connects the to their roots as human beings. I
3 say to those who wish to plunder and pillage and lay waste
4 to this wilderness for a few drops of oil and a few extra
5 dollars of instant wealth, come up and camp on the coastal
6 plain for four days and feel what you have missed all of
7 your lives.

8 To finish, I include a paraphrase quote by my mentor
9 Wallace Stegner. Something will have gone out of us as
10 Americans if we ever let our remaining wilderness,
11 including the coastal plain, be destroyed. We need that
12 wild country, as much of it as we still have left. We
13 need it when we are young because of the sanity it can
14 bring to our insane lives, and we need it when we are old
15 simply because it's there.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: We are going to bring up
18 speaker No. 3. That written testimony, if you want to
19 submit it, that would be wonderful.

20 MR. CHAD HUTCHISON: For the record, my
21 name is Chad Hutchison. I'm here representing State
22 Senator John Coghill. Senator Coghill is an enthusiastic
23 supporter of development on the 1002 area. He, along with
24 many others, have been supportive over the years when it
25 comes to the state legislature. If you think about what's

1 happened over the last year just in 2017, the legislature
2 passed House Joint Resolution 5, which was overwhelmingly
3 supportive of responsible development in the 1002 area.
4 Senator Coghill was supportive of both the leasing and the
5 activity post leasing. That may include the
6 transportation, that includes development, that includes
7 exploration.

8 There is many to believe that responsible resource
9 development will assist with some of the problems the
10 State is encountering right now. One of the problems that
11 we have, the State is trying to remedy on State land in
12 the past, is production and throughput through the
13 Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. The State has tried the
14 mechanisms that it can to try to resolve that problem. A
15 lot of it is done through taxation on the State lands, but
16 many believe that some development, reasonable
17 development, in the 1002 area could add to throughput
18 through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System by having simple
19 infrastructure built to hook onto Point Thomson.

20 It's in the interest of the State and the federal
21 government to have a healthy TAPS System. If not, and if
22 we go backwards and production ends up going too low --
23 and fortunately, the last two years production has gone up
24 because of tax policy. But the expectation is that maybe
25 perhaps it cannot be sustained but for more oil production

1 in other areas.

2 Well, the 1002 area is perhaps a good mechanism to
3 solve that problem. The State and the federal government
4 have an interest to make sure that TAPS survives. If it
5 does not, then there is a high probability that the State
6 may go back to the way it existed pre-1959 where it was
7 essentially a ward of the federal government.

8 If you look at the statehood compact, one of the
9 reasons why we became a state is because of our natural
10 resource development state. And if we do not have a
11 certain degree of production, if we do not have a certain
12 degree of throughput when it comes to the Trans-Alaska
13 Pipeline System, a lot of the mechanisms that we have that
14 run state government may could suffer.

15 So that's the perspective of many in the legislature.
16 There has been many years where we passed resolutions
17 supportive of development in the 1002 area. They have
18 passed both houses, and over the course of -- over the
19 last few months, the legislature itself, the Senate
20 majority has been very supportive about Senator
21 Murkowski's efforts to insert some of the language into
22 the 2017 tax bill. So with that, we remain supportive.

23 Thank you.

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

1 MS. DIANE PRESTON: Thank you. My name is
2 Diane Preston, and I was born here when this was a
3 territory, and I have been a long-time resident of Alaska.

4 I was disappointed in the passage of this law because
5 of the speed with which it was done in the dark of night,
6 attaching it to a bill for which had it had no real
7 purpose other than to develop this land. I'm also
8 disappointed that there aren't more hearings going on in
9 the Native villages around Alaska and also in the other
10 states and communities of the U.S. This is an area of
11 land that theoretically belongs to all of us, and more of
12 us need to have an opportunity to speak to you about
13 what's going on. I particularly would like there to be
14 more opportunities for village people with language
15 translation and translators available to them.

16 My biggest concern is about climate change. The
17 climate is changing rapidly, and here in Alaska we are in
18 the forefront of climate change. It's been said that the
19 two things that will contribute to the end of mankind are
20 nuclear war and climate change. And there is a lot of
21 push now for there to be a change. Renewable energy, even
22 in Fairbanks, Alaska, is becoming commonplace and
23 well-documented as effective. And we need to move away
24 from drilling and the use of fossil fuels towards
25 renewable energy.

1 We particularly need to move away from drilling in
2 what is one of the last great wilderness areas on the face
3 of this earth. The Porcupine caribou herd is the largest
4 herd, I do believe, in the world and one of the last great
5 migrations on earth. And there is something special about
6 that, that place and that herd and the people who depend
7 upon it. And it is unconscionable that we would wipe it
8 all out for a few months of U.S. oil production. There
9 are values that are important that are not easily
10 quantifiable.

11 It was once said that if you can't -- if you can't
12 quantify what is valuable, you will value what is
13 quantifiable. And I think that is the situation that's
14 happening right now. In fact, clean air, clean water,
15 migratory birds, polar bears, the ability to be someplace
16 where the soundings around you are natural and wild and
17 you can be connected with your roots -- and that includes
18 for us, those of us who live in more urban areas, as well,
19 are values that we have a real hard time putting a dollar
20 and cents on and ones that we really still need to
21 consider. I don't know how you can pull that into there,
22 but if you keep in mind that climate change and drilling
23 is the last thing we need to be doing right now, we need
24 to be looking at -- as an Alaskan, we really need to be
25 looking at other ways to diversify our economy, to come up

1 with a new economy that's not oil-based, and to find other
2 sources of income besides taxing the oil industry.

3 So I appreciate my ability to comment for you. Thank
4 you very much for your time.

5 MR. DAVID BATTS: Speaker No. 5. Do we
6 have speaker No. 5? Do we have speaker card No. 5 out
7 there? Okay. We are going to move over to speaker No. 6,
8 then.

9 MR. SEAN MCGUIRE: My name is Sean
10 McGuire. I want to talk about something a little bit
11 different than what we have talked about here today so
12 far, and that is the overarching background to what is
13 going on in the country with the election of Donald Trump.
14 I mean, I don't think there is anyone in this room that
15 isn't aware that this is the most corrupt administration
16 we have had, certainly in my lifetime, probably more
17 corrupt than the last four or five presidencies put
18 together. The amount of people that have resigned or had
19 to resign under pressure from corruption is -- it's
20 incredible.

21 The people that Trump has put in there, like Zinke
22 or -- in the -- in what is it -- the EPA, these are not
23 people that are trying to help the environment. These
24 are -- these organizations, EPA and the Department of
25 Interior, were set up to protect the environment, and

1 we've got people in there that are literally trying to
2 undo what we have done -- the progress we have made in the
3 last 50 years. So I don't think that can be ignored in
4 this process. This is a huge scandal, and we literally
5 have people that spent their whole lives attacking the
6 environment that are now running them. So that cannot be
7 ignored in this debate.

8 You saw with the Bears Ears National -- not national
9 park, but the Bears Ears National Monuments, these were
10 monuments established in the past. Trump or Zinke is
11 trying to undo them. And somebody leaked a map of the
12 Bears Ears that showed what the oil industry wanted. And
13 guess what happened? That is exactly the map that Zinke
14 used to undo the national monuments. And that, I think,
15 cannot be ignored in this debate. We are dealing with a
16 lot of corruption here on a national level.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID BATTS: Move over to speaker
19 No. 7.

20 MR. JOHN CALLAHAN: My name is John
21 Callahan. I'm from Fairbanks. I'm 75 years old, and I've
22 lived here all my life. I'm very devoted to the state of
23 Alaska. And I think that this plan with development up in
24 the Arctic Refuge is actually crazy. I think we are
25 being -- we have lost complete perspective of what's

1 important in life. And to drill up there and destroy that
2 Arctic herd of caribou and that natural wilderness up
3 there, which is pristine and there is none like it in the
4 world left -- possibly some in Arctic Russia, possibly.
5 And to think that we are willing to sell it out for a few
6 dollars, just -- I just -- it just astounds me.

7 And, you know, the thing is we have completely left
8 our children and our grandchildren, future people, out of
9 this whole debate. Global warming, like they have talked
10 to before, is happening, and it's happening faster than
11 scientists have ever thought. And this is just going to
12 add to the problem.

13 We need to change our whole perspective on this oil
14 industry, which is a trillion-dollar monster, which is
15 running our country. And there is no doubt about it that
16 the oil industry has bought our government. This is no
17 longer a democracy in America. This is an oligarchy.
18 They run America, and they essentially run the world. And
19 it's going to take people like yourself and people like us
20 to change it. We need to stop this oil industry
21 destruction of the earth.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Okay. Thank you. Go to
24 speaker No. 8, please.

25 MR. BARRY WHITEHILL: Panel, my name is

1 Barry Whitehill. I'm a member of Alaska Backcountry
2 Hunters and Anglers Board, and that's an organization, a
3 hunting and fishing organization that -- whose mission is
4 to ensure hunting and fishing in a natural setting, and
5 key to that is our public lands and waters.

6 So as an organization, we -- we try to have those
7 opportunities, and coming -- since coming to Alaska, the
8 Arctic North Slope was a place I naturally gravitated to
9 as a hunter and had the opportunity to hunt with mushing,
10 I've backpacked in and packrafted out; I've floated the
11 Kongakut, the Canning several times, the Ivishak, Lupine,
12 a lot of the rivers up there. And it's provided the meat
13 on my table for my family.

14 And so the importance of that really started to
15 strike home when I had a son that studied in Stockholm
16 University in Germany. And so we started getting Swedes.
17 We started getting Germans, Austrians. They would come,
18 and naturally I would take them up on the arctic and we
19 would float down through there. And to see from their
20 eyes and their transformation of having a landscape that
21 they can go visit that's still there, and seeing it from
22 their eyes you just see the international significance of
23 a place like that.

24 And then that culminated, two years ago I was asked
25 to contact this nonprofit organization, Soul River, Inc.

1 And it's a unique one in that the founder, Chad Brown, was
2 a PTSD veteran, and realized matching PTSD veterans with
3 urban teenagers could be a natural link of working with
4 each other. So I agreed, with my expertise of floating
5 these rivers -- initially we went down the Ivishak. And I
6 remember in particular one Vet. He had white in his
7 beard. I thought he was in his 40s. Turns out he was
8 only 26. And his best friend had been killed in his arms,
9 died in his arms. He earned the Purple Heart.

10 And he had a smile on his face, and it was like day
11 three. We were on an eight-day float. The other Vets
12 started to come to me and say, we have never seen him
13 smile before. And he had a perpetual smile.

14 So to me, I see the value -- it's intangible to put a
15 smile on a face of an injured Vet. And from that I just
16 know that that landscape is going to be the big thing.
17 Once the boom and bust of oil is gone, that is going to be
18 really what's key to the future of our generations and our
19 society. So I hope it stays.

20 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. We will go
21 to speaker No. 9.

22 MS. SUZANNE RICH: My name is Suzanne
23 Rich, and I have been in Alaska for about 35 years. I
24 came up here partly for the clean air and beautiful
25 nature, and found I'm in a very polluted city. And it's

1 largely because of fossil fuels. I'd like to see -- I
2 think these are really changing times, and it's hard for
3 us all to imagine how much we need to change, but we need
4 to leave the fossil fuel in the ground. It costs a lot of
5 money. Renewable energy is a lot cheaper. There is a lot
6 more jobs in that area.

7 And we need to look to places that are already
8 changing. The capital City of Vermont is about the size
9 of Fairbanks. It's completely off of fossil fuel. There
10 are places all over the world that are getting off of
11 fossil fuel, and that's where we need to go. We need to
12 think of our future generations.

13 I could be a great grandmother next year, and I worry
14 about future generations. Another place that I have been
15 is Findhorn, Scotland, which is off of fossil fuel. It
16 was voted by the United Nations as one of the lowest
17 carbon footprint on the planet. And people from all over
18 the world -- they get 14,000 visitors to learn. They have
19 a college there to learn how to live. And it's a
20 beautiful place. It's not primitive. They have -- you
21 know, they have electricity. They have all the modern
22 conveniences, but it's healthy. I've never been in a
23 place where I felt so calm and so -- it felt so right. I
24 wish everybody had the experience to visit Findhorn.

25 Anyway, I just think we are trampling on Native

1 areas. We have done that from the beginning of this whole
2 nation. When are we going to stop doing it? We keep
3 thinking -- we have no business trampling on these
4 grounds. And if you want to go ask them, then you need to
5 do it in their language. You need to have meetings in
6 their language so they can give their voice. There are
7 villages that are having to be moved because of climate
8 change.

9 And they have a lot to say. Speak to them. They are
10 the -- they have the right. They have been around, Native
11 people, for thousands of years. So let's start paying
12 attention to them and let's search our hearts and our
13 creative minds on how we can change.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. We are going
16 to cue up No. 10. What I'd like to do is dismiss our
17 odd-numbered folks. Thank you very much. And ask if you
18 have cards 11, 13, 15, 17 or 19, if you can please come
19 see Molly, and she will get you situated and primed up and
20 ready to go. So we are going to jump back over to speaker
21 No. 10, please.

22 MR. PHIL OSBORN: Hi. My name is Phil
23 Osborn. I have been here since 1968. I'm opposed to
24 drilling in ANWR because there are reasons it was
25 designated a refuge, for gosh sake. These reasons have

1 not changed, and it's still important to recognize the
2 very unique and fragile nature of our national treasure.

3 I worked on the Sagavanirktok River from January
4 of '68 as a seismic drilling helper. And I won't tell you
5 what it was like when we finished working in a certain --
6 we were in a Nodwell train, so we were cross-country. I
7 won't tell what you it was like at each campsite after a
8 week or so, but it wasn't pretty. I'm sure they've
9 improved their footprint by now, but it was nobody is
10 going to see this, forget it, don't bother it.

11 We should not allow development in our national
12 parks, certainly not in areas designated a refuge, for we
13 are responsible for such sensitive ecosystems.

14 One final note. This is going to be a short one.
15 This bill had to be slipped in at the last minute to a tax
16 bill benefitting the wealthy. We should not be proud of
17 such legislation. I urge you to outlaw drilling in ANWR.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. DAVID BATTS: We are going to call up
20 our even number folks, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Please see
21 Chad. And we will get No. 11 cued up there.

22 MR. SAMUEL DEMIENTIEFF: My name is Sam
23 Demientieff. I was born here -- I was born in Holy Cross,
24 Alaska, an Athabaskan village on the lower Yukon River.
25 My mother and father started a river freighting business

1 on the Interior rivers. We traveled all the way up and
2 down the Yukon, Tanana, Koyukuk, all the rivers associated
3 with the Yukon. Been to as many villages.

4 I was employed by the oil companies on the North
5 Slope. Worked for Trans-Alaska Pipeline. I have been
6 employed by village corporations, the regional corporation
7 in Interior and other nonprofits related to the Native
8 tribes. I served on the State Board of Fisheries for a
9 term. I retired from the federal government as a
10 superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which
11 established -- which serves all of the northern half of
12 the state.

13 My wife Mary and I live in Fairbanks and have raised
14 our children here. I am here to oppose any oil drilling
15 in ANWR. Gwich'in and many people along the two
16 countries, Canada and Alaska, the United States, the
17 longest migratory route, depend upon caribou for their
18 existence. This is a deep and real situation. It is
19 their life. Animals, birds, living beings seek safety and
20 natural protected areas to give birth. This is natural.
21 The caribou have done this for generations. It is called
22 instinct.

23 If development ever occurs on the North Slope in this
24 area we are talking about, it must be done and should be
25 done in consultation with the tribal people and tribes of

1 the area. With planning maybe something can be done, but
2 it must be consulted with them. Some areas should be off
3 limits, like national parks.

4 Look at our historic trail of the United States.
5 What happened to the buffalo? Extinction. What happened
6 to the whales in the Atlantic and Pacific? Depleted. In
7 Alaska recently on the Yukon River, we could not fish for
8 salmon.

9 I testify because this affects me and disturbs many
10 others. When something like this comes up, one must speak
11 up. So I say protect ANWR. Preserve the sacred calving
12 area. Think and show respect now for us and for future
13 generations, like other people talked about, their
14 grandchildren and great grandchildren. So I support -- I
15 do not support oil drilling in ANWR.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: Speaker No. 12.

18 MR. DANA TIZYA-TRAMM: My name is Dana
19 Tizya-Tramm of the Vuntut Gwich-in government. I had to
20 travel from my home in the Yukon down to Seattle up here
21 today to speak because, in direct contravention with a
22 document that your government supports and signed onto,
23 which is the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous
24 Rights and Sovereignty, I can tell you that this is not
25 free, prior or informed consent.

1 As well, you have signed an international agreement
2 with the Canadian government that speaks directly to
3 consultation with the Gwich'in, my people. There are
4 thousands of us in Canada, thousands of us who wait with
5 bated breath during the entirety of this process. But no
6 matter what you hear tonight, what you have heard said
7 about Gwich'in, or what you said for and/or against, I'm
8 going to use my voice today, one that has traveled across
9 this land for thousands of generations, for my people were
10 the first in this area.

11 Before written history my people were living
12 sustainably with these caribou. And this voice has
13 traveled down to me, and I will use it today to tell you
14 that whether or not you support this process, it is a
15 complete representation of the complete degradation of
16 your democracy.

17 From the forefathers to the constitutions to the
18 documents that we are all so proud of was an inconvenience
19 and it was pushed through. And I should know because I
20 was there at the Senate and Energy and Resources Mines
21 Committee where anything of reason put forward to Senator
22 Murkowski, whether it be that there be ten-year clean
23 records of any company that's going in there, she shot
24 every one of them down. And I really wonder why if, as an
25 Alaskan leader, that you do not want any kind of stop

1 checks or systems in this process.

2 I think everyone here can see what is happening.
3 This is about money. This is about oil and gas. Because
4 it definitely is not about honoring agreements with
5 international or even through the U.N. For the first
6 peoples of this area there is not integrity. I don't know
7 exactly how my words are going to take root in this, but
8 it has to be said because no matter how you feel about
9 today, whether it's just another day, whether I'm an
10 inconvenience, this is living, breathing history that we
11 are a part of. And we will all be on one side of it.

12 Which side are you going to be known to stand up for?
13 Was it for oil and gas in the sixth extinction age in the
14 Anthropocene era? When 5,000 scientists are writing about
15 climate change, this is the conversation we are going to
16 have. I wanted to use my voice to the truth to call that
17 the emperor does not have clothes. For the very tales
18 that we tell our children, let's at least recognize what
19 we are in here.

20 But for my time and for listening to me today, on
21 behalf of all of elders and the future generations, I give
22 thanks.

23 MS. KIMBERLY ARTHUR: (Speaking in
24 Navajo.) I am a member of the Navajo Nation, and I stand
25 with the Gwich'in. They are my northern brothers and

1 sisters. And I believe that all materials and all
2 consultations should be conducted through their Native
3 language, through the Inupiaq Native language. What I
4 would like the BLM to address is how they are going to
5 conduct tribal consultation with all members of the
6 affected tribal nations.

7 What are the mitigations that will be required for
8 noise related to oil and gas exploration and extraction?
9 Currently the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal
10 plain is home to vast numbers of nesting and migrating
11 birds. And it is the home, it is the birthing grounds of
12 the Porcupine caribou herd.

13 It is a vital land for subsistence use, and the
14 introduction of noise, heavy machinery, mining
15 infrastructure, all of this has potential to permanently
16 destroy these homelands, to destroy these life cycles.
17 And so I say keep it in the ground because drilling is
18 risky. Major and minor spills occur almost daily in
19 Alaska oil fields. And indigenous peoples have the right
20 to the full enjoyment of life, for the full fundamental
21 freedoms as recognized in the charter of the United
22 Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the
23 international human rights law.

24 We are free and equal, and we have the right to life,
25 physical and mental integrity, spiritual connections and

1 connections with our own ancestors and the lands they have
2 lived on for generations. We have the right to live in
3 peace and in serenity, and we have the right to subsist
4 off of the lands that have fed us for so long.

5 Tearing up the land for oil and gas exploits
6 threatens our lifeways. This is cultural genocide. By
7 cutting up the sacredness of birthing grounds of
8 motherhood, of the beauty and strength of motherhood will
9 forever destroy our lifeways.

10 So I ask the BLM to consider all these things,
11 consider the voices of our Native brothers and sisters.
12 Consider the mental health of those who left cities.
13 Consider those who need nature.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DAVID BATTS: Go to No. 14.

16 MR. STEPHEN HARVEY: Hello. My name is
17 Stephen Harvey. I'm from Washington state and relatively
18 new to Alaska, so I'll comment on what I'm familiar with.
19 In 2006 along the Oregon and Washington coast, wild and
20 farmed oyster larvae started dying. Between 2007 and 2009
21 oyster seed production in the Pacific Northwest dropped by
22 80 percent. It was later determined that acidic ocean
23 water was the reason. Carbon-rich ocean water from
24 upwelling currents was entering the intake pipes of
25 hatcheries. Basically, shellfish were unable to form a

1 shell because of this corrosive acidic water. This water
2 is acidic from carbon dioxide absorbed 30 to 50 years ago.
3 Emissions from 50 years ago are now harming shellfish of
4 the ocean. Therefore, I ask that this EIS look at least
5 50 years into the future and that ocean acidification be
6 included.

7 A blue ribbon panel on ocean acidification was
8 formed, and according to their reports, ocean
9 acidification events over the next 100 years going to
10 increase in intensity and frequency. Oceanographers used
11 to believe that corrosive waters wouldn't impact
12 Washington state until the end of the 21st century. But
13 like many climate change effects, ocean acidification is
14 happening earlier than expected.

15 Two strategies the blue ribbon panel made are
16 Strategy 4.1 to take action to reduce global, national and
17 local emissions of carbon dioxide. Strategy 6.3 and
18 enhance resilience of native and cultivated shellfish and
19 the ecosystems on which they depend.

20 In learning and applying lessons from this case, I
21 see three points. One, impacts of climate change may be
22 unexpected and happen earlier than anticipated; two, to
23 buffer against these impacts, protect ecosystems that are
24 strong; and three, stop creating fossil fuel
25 infrastructure.

1 Humans have impacted such a vast area of earth's
2 surface. We must leave alone undisturbed wilderness and
3 ecosystems to protect against future and current
4 consequences of climate change, loss of biodiversity,
5 et cetera. I ask that EIS looks at no action alternative
6 and uses this as a baseline to measure impacts on
7 provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural
8 ecosystem services as defined by the Food and Agricultural
9 Organization of the United Nations. Alaska is special in
10 that it has large areas of undisturbed land. This asset
11 should be left alone. The long-term value it holds is too
12 great to jeopardize.

13 Lastly, I ask that environmental impacts be looked at
14 at the national and global level. I ask that greenhouse
15 gas emissions from extraction, processing, distribution
16 and consumption be included in the EIS. I was recently in
17 Peace Corps in Zambia working and living with subsistence
18 farmers whose food security depends on rainfed
19 agriculture. Due to climate change, rainfall patterns are
20 changing, making food security more difficult to achieve.
21 To turn a blind eye to such impacts as this would be
22 irresponsible and unjust.

23 Thank you for your time and consideration.

24 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. No. 15.

25 MS. SERENE ROSE O'HARA-JOLLEY: Hello. My

1 name is Serene Rose O'Hara-Jolley, and I live in
2 Fairbanks, Alaska. I am here to stand with the Gwich'in
3 people and many others around the globe in opposition to
4 drilling in the refuge. It is reprehensible that we are
5 considering violating a balance that has existed between
6 the Gwich'in and the Porcupine caribou herd since time
7 began. It is immoral for us to require a people to
8 relinquish their sacred lands so that a few make profit
9 off what lies beneath the soil.

10 Make no mistake. It is greed that drives this
11 policy. The passing of P.L. 115-97 was done outside of
12 public process after decades of input against development.
13 70 percent of people oppose development in the refuge. 70
14 percent. This is not something contrary to the narrative
15 that all Alaskans want. NonNative, Native, indigenous, we
16 stand together in opposition to economic choices that deny
17 our children a healthy world to live in.

18 Those outside of Alaska may not understand the sacred
19 connection the Gwich'in have to the caribou. Many of us
20 that call ourselves Americans have been forcibly removed
21 from the land and animals our ancestors lived in harmony
22 with. But all of us understand the connection we hold to
23 our families. We all tell our children stories that weave
24 out of our past and send them hopeful into their future.

25 Regardless of where we live, we all fight fiercely to

1 protect the land we live on. Across the globe, we are all
2 fighting the same fight, the fight for us to maintain our
3 ways of life, to have clean water, healthy food, air to
4 breathe. From Alaska to Flint to India, we fight the
5 greed of a few who seek to profit from overextracting the
6 earth's resources.

7 We all understand the feeling of connection;
8 connection to family, to land we live on, to communities
9 we are a part of, and here is no different. When we stand
10 in solidarity with the Gwich'in to preserve their way of
11 life, we stand with ourselves to protect our communities,
12 to preserve our way of life for future generations.

13 Given the importance of the caribou to the Gwich'in
14 way of life, I ask that you research not only the
15 environmental effects on the caribou, but the cultural
16 effects on the Gwich'in people of altering a way of life
17 and sacred rights that have existed for generations.

18 The Porcupine caribou herd is one of the last that
19 still maintains their birthing grounds. It is the last
20 place on earth where balance exists. I stand with the
21 Gwich'in people in protection of their way of life. As an
22 Alaskan, I say we must transition our economy off of
23 fossil fuel extraction and to work toward a just
24 transition focused on regenerative energies and economies.
25 We must stop development on sacred lands.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. DAVID BATTIS: No. 16. Just a
3 reminder, one of the ground rules we did have is we don't
4 to be clapping or jeering. We want to be respectful of
5 people. So if we could please allow our speakers to speak
6 and we will be able to move quickly through here.

7 MS. NAN EAGLESON: I always think clapping
8 is respectful. My name is Nan Eagleson, and I've lived in
9 Alaska 39 years. I have a background in wildlife biology
10 and worked as a biologist over in the Yukon and Northwest
11 Territories for seven years, and I have been guiding
12 birding trips in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for
13 the last 20 years.

14 I just simply think we need to stop wrecking the
15 planet for the profit of an industry that is archaic. And
16 it is appalling the way that that bill -- that rider on
17 the bill got passed that will make the whole Arctic Refuge
18 vulnerable if oil development was to ever happen in the
19 coastal plain.

20 And I wish there was a map somewhere in this room,
21 somewhere in a newspaper in the U.S. that not only showed
22 the little footprint in the Arctic Refuge, but the entire
23 Prudhoe Bay field just to the west, and to the west of
24 that the National Petroleum Reserve so we have got the
25 entire Arctic Slope. And it is so misleading when we see

1 these maps with just that tiny little footprint that
2 doesn't include the millions of gravel pits that will have
3 to occur for the building of roads and the disturbance of
4 habitat.

5 And I -- in my heart of hearts, I cannot believe we
6 can renege one more time on an agreement with the
7 indigenous people that hold that land sacred, as they
8 rightfully should.

9 Our history here in the U.S. is just one unfortunate
10 disaster after another with how we have dealt with
11 indigenous people. And there is nothing that rectifies
12 disturbing the coastal plain where we know that it's the
13 most important denning area for polar bears in the south
14 Beaufort Sea, where we know that there is birds from all
15 over the world that migrate to breed and nest there, where
16 we know that it's one of the last healthy herds of caribou
17 around the circumpolar north for birthing grounds.

18 How could that possibly be vulnerable for oil and gas
19 that is an archaic dying industry that won't make a
20 penny's worth of difference on the world stage for the
21 price of fuel and that we should be supporting alternative
22 energy? And if it wasn't for corporate socialism that has
23 maintained the oil and gas industry, we would be farther
24 down the line with alternative energy.

25 And I appreciate everyone here, the most eloquent

1 speakers from the Gwich'in people. I really commend you,
2 and I feel privileged to be part of your fight.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. No. 17.

5 MR. JAMES P. WARREN: Wow. My name is Jim
6 Warren. I am a retired college professor of English. And
7 I live in Fairbanks. I had a whole talk I was going to
8 give. Everybody here has been doing such a good job ahead
9 of me, I'm not going to do that. I'm going to read
10 Section 1002. Purpose: The purpose of this section is to
11 provide for a comprehensive and continuing inventory and
12 assessment of the fish and wildlife resources of the
13 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; an
14 analysis of the impacts of oil and gas exploration,
15 development and production; and to authorize exploratory
16 activity within the coastal plain in a manner that avoids
17 significant adverse effects on the fish and wildlife and
18 other resources.

19 My analysis of that one sentence would read this way:
20 First, fish and wildlife are clearly primary in 1002.
21 Second, analysis of impacts, impacts on whom or what?
22 First, on the fish and wildlife. But then second, the
23 Gwich'in and the Inupiat peoples.

24 Third, authorize, but only if we avoid significant
25 adverse effects. Only if we avoid significant adverse

1 effects. Thank you.

2 MR. DAVID BATTS: No. 18.

3 MR. EDWARD ALEXANDER: Mahsi'. (Speaking
4 in Gwich'in.) Edward Alexander, co-chair, Gwich'in
5 Council International. The Gwich'in Council International
6 represents all the Gwich'in of Alaska, the Yukon
7 Territory, and the northwest Territory to the Arctic
8 Council.

9 I'm here on behalf of the Gwich'in people to
10 unilaterally condemn the sale of oil leases within the
11 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We oppose oil lease
12 sales in the Arctic Refuge. We oppose oil lease sales
13 because they are contrary to the ethics, the morality, the
14 established legal principles, and the security interests
15 of the United States of America and Canada and our
16 fundamental threat to Gwich'in human rights.

17 As Gwich'in, we are greatly dependent on the Arctic
18 Refuge. There is no place else on the continent of North
19 America where so many mammals migrate to, where so many
20 birds of so many species find refuge to give birth and
21 continue their kind. This place is world renowned as an
22 American icon of our values. It would be immoral and
23 unethical to destroy such a place. And it is unethical
24 not to heed the Gwich'in in a rushed and expedited leasing
25 process that may destroy our Gwich'in way of life.

1 The Gwich'in of the United States and Canada are
2 federally recognized tribes and First Nations. Canada and
3 the United States are obligated to ensure that our ways of
4 life continue through internal laws such as the U.S.
5 Indian Self-Determination Act and Canadian Aboriginal Law,
6 as well as through international agreements, such as the
7 agreement between the government of Canada and the
8 government of the United States of America on the
9 conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd. This
10 agreement was signed into force July 17, 1987, and the
11 proposed oil lease violates this international treaty,
12 particularly Section 3, Articles a through g concerning
13 the conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd.

14 I formally request that the BLM address these issues
15 and these concerns by canceling the potential leases or
16 taking a no action alternative.

17 The proposed lease sales may violate portions of the
18 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
19 People, of which the United States is a signator, I will
20 remind you. We have a right to participate in decision
21 making and consultation through representation chosen by
22 our own people in Article 18 and Article 19 of the same
23 declaration, rights that may be violated right now by how
24 this very consultation is being conducted. Violating
25 domestic principles and international agreements is

1 contrary and against the best interests of the United
2 States and is contrary to the best interests of Gwich'in
3 human rights.

4 I formally request that these proceedings and the
5 proposed lease sales be reviewed by the United Nations and
6 the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. I request that
7 the scoping discussions, in accordance with the treaty I
8 mentioned before, occur with international cooperation in
9 Canada with Canadian Gwich'in communities and other hubs
10 such as Whitehorse.

11 I will be absolutely clear here. The human rights of
12 the Gwich'in must be legally respected by the United
13 States, by Canada, and by the United Nations. These oil
14 lease sales are an existential threat to the Gwich'in
15 people, as well as to American national security, of which
16 I also formally request a review. I formally request a
17 national security analysis over these oil lease sales.

18 And with that, I want to thank everyone for all of
19 their great comments. Mahsi' Choo. (Speaking in
20 Gwich'in.)

21 MR. DAVID BATTS: As we call up No. 19, we
22 will bring down folks that have numbers 21, 23, 25, 27 and
23 29. Please see Molly.

24 MS. JACQUELINE D'AURIA: My name is
25 Jacqueline D'Auria. Refuge: A place of safety, peace and

1 well-being. Our beloved Arctic Refuge generously provides
2 these treasured resources to our world, and they are not
3 for sale. To consider such an assault on the world's
4 migratory waterfowl who depend on the refuge for their
5 continued survival throughout the world is appalling.
6 Such impact on the world's largest thriving caribou herd
7 and all the other myriad creatures dependent on this
8 unique and treasured place would be obscene.

9 The Arctic Refuge is a famous and necessary safe
10 harbor for the Porcupine caribou herd, as you have learned
11 tonight. It is about 20 miles of protected land from the
12 coast to the mountains. 20 miles of protected land for
13 thousands of caribou to give birth to their young have
14 ensured their survival for thousands and thousands and
15 thousands of years, but now we are considering selling
16 these lives to the highest bidder? Short-term profit for
17 whom? Long-term tragedy for everyone.

18 If we are truly concerned and committed to the
19 economic well-being of our country and our state for
20 ourselves, our children and our grandchildren, we will
21 leave the Arctic Refuge as it is. It is irresponsible and
22 unnecessary to decimate the coastal plain and all its
23 creatures. We are smarter and more innovative than that.
24 We can provide and profit in our country and the world
25 without destroying this land that is so critical to be

1 left intact. The profits are short-term for a few. The
2 consequence is forever for all.

3 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. No. 20. And
4 if we have 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30, please come up and see
5 Chad on microphone one. Sir.

6 MR. CHRIS GARBER: My name is Chris
7 Garber. I'm an Alaska history teacher. From the time of
8 European contact, the Alaska Native people of Alaska have
9 been fighting to control their own destinies. Western
10 culture called it pursuing opportunities and jobs. Native
11 people called it colonialism. Native people died as a
12 result of western culture's desire for profit. Aleuts
13 died and were enslaved by the Russians. Entire coastal
14 villages died when American whalers decimated the whales
15 and then started in on the walrus.

16 Native people died by the diseases western culture
17 brought, and when the children were left without parents,
18 they were put in foster care by missionaries who -- they
19 were raised in orphanages by well-meaning missionaries who
20 punished them for speaking their own language and taught
21 them that their culture was backwards and evil. I think
22 few people would look back on this history of destruction
23 of people and culture and be proud.

24 This is a reason why Alaska Native people have the
25 highest suicide rate in America. There is a history of

1 trauma. There is a history of being marginalized.
2 There's a history of western culture dismissing the
3 humanity of Alaska Native peoples.

4 According to a report by the University of Alaska
5 Anchorage, Alaska Natives did not regain their precontact
6 population numbers until 1970. It's no accident, then,
7 that this is the period when Alaska Native people started
8 to regain some political power. Right around this time
9 Alaska Federation of Natives started to reclaim land in
10 1966. ANCSA was signed in 1971. Molly Hootch gets
11 schools in villages in 1976. Alaska Natives are claiming
12 not only their traditional culture and lands, but also
13 claiming this new culture as theirs. This is not an easy
14 tightrope to walk.

15 But they are walking in one generation at a time that
16 Molly Hootch established schools in villages, the high
17 school dropout rate had gone from nearly 80 percent to
18 less than 20 percent in my lifetime. Alaska Natives are
19 graduating from college in increasing numbers. They are
20 learning to break the cycle of poverty, and they're
21 walking proudly with feet in both worlds. And you would
22 jeopardize that?

23 You would tell them that their voices, their dignity,
24 their education and their culture has no value, that a few
25 more dollars and a few more jobs is not only worth the

1 environment risk, but worth telling an entire people that
2 we don't care what they think, that they are not important
3 enough to listen to?

4 If the people who live and depend on the land that we
5 call the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge don't want oil
6 drilling there, let us for once in our history respect the
7 wishes of the Native people who live there.

8 After looking back with regret on some of our
9 shameful history, let's learn from our past mistakes and
10 make the right choice now.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
13 No. 21. We're still looking for people with cards 26, 28
14 and 30.

15 MS. BERNADETTE DEMIENTIEFF: (Speaking in
16 Gwich'in.) I'm here on behalf of the Gwich'in Nation of
17 Canada and Alaska to publicly state that we stand united
18 against development in the calving ground of the Porcupine
19 caribou herd. I, too, requested an extension, and I
20 haven't heard back from you guys at all. And I'd like to
21 get an answer.

22 The Gwich'in people have a spiritual and cultural
23 connection to the Porcupine caribou herd for over 40,000
24 years. Our migratory and our communities are identical.

25 We are not hear -- we are not asking you for

1 anything. We are not asking for jobs. We are not asking
2 for schools. We are asking to leave us -- let us continue
3 to live as we always have, rich in our culture, in our
4 food security, in our lands. Just like scientists around
5 the world, my elders are my scientists, and they say that
6 drilling in the Arctic Refuge is going to damage the
7 calving grounds.

8 With over 95 percent of the arctic already open to
9 development and Alaska thawing twice as fast as the rest
10 of the world, this is the last thing that we need. We are
11 basically on a sinking ship. As decisionmakers, your job
12 is to protect Alaskans, even if it's from our own
13 government.

14 I'm here speaking for my children and my
15 grandchildren because as their parent I'm here to protect
16 them and the world that we are going to leave them in.
17 The decisions you make today will deeply impact our future
18 generations. I do not want my babies to be struggling to
19 survive because of short-sighted decisions and greed. If
20 we take care of the land, the water and the animals, then
21 our future ancestors will have a chance at survival.

22 This is about our identity as Gwich'in. It's about
23 our way of life, our food security. If you destroy the
24 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, you
25 will be violating the rights of the Gwich'in nation.

1 Now, 41 senators in 25 states stand with the Gwich'in
2 to protect the Arctic Refuge. 144 representatives in 34
3 states stand with us. The corporations do not speak for
4 us. They are the ones who is going to benefit from this.
5 The tribes are the ones who is going to live with the
6 aftermath.

7 So I ask that you respect our human rights and leave
8 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge alone.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
11 No. 22.

12 MS. MISTY NIKOLAI: My name is Misty
13 Nikolai. I'm a Kaltag tribal member. I am of the Caribou
14 Clan and, sadly, a Doyon shareholder. I was taught that
15 it's my responsibility as Dena' to help those who are in
16 need. Following my instruction I stood, just as my
17 grandfather, mother, aunts, uncles and cousins did, and I
18 raised my right hand. I swore my life to protect our
19 people. I swore to support and protect the Constitution
20 of the United States against all enemies, foreign and
21 domestic. In the words of the well-known Constitution
22 preamble, we hold these truths to be self-evident, that
23 all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their
24 creator with certain inaleable [sic] -- sorry -- you all
25 know -- human rights that among these are life, liberty

1 and the pursuit of happiness.

2 At no time did I swear to protect any corporate
3 entity, neither big oil corporations or my own
4 corporation, Doyon Limited. What history and current
5 events have taught us, the jobs, to include labor union
6 contracts, will be outsourced. For the first seven years,
7 not only will Alaska see zero economic benefit, but also
8 have to pay out billions -- billions more in oil
9 subsidies.

10 Desecrating the Arctic Refuge by developing it will
11 eliminate the last healthy caribou herd. Therefore,
12 development directly affects the food security of the
13 Gwich'in people. In other words, development is an act of
14 genocide. Today I stand against genocide and corporate
15 entities. Today I stand both behind and in solidarity
16 with the Gwich'in people in defense of the coastal plain
17 of the Arctic Refuge.

18 I ask that you provide a caribou analysis, both in
19 Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages, as my own village and the
20 villages along the Yukon River weren't given this
21 analysis. You see, all along the Yukon River, even in
22 Minto, there are caribou clans. But there are no more
23 caribou in these areas.

24 I stand for indigenous peoples. We belong to the
25 land and are responsible to take care of the land. As

1 such, I ask you to remember that we indigenous people are
2 also endowed by our creator with certain inalienable human
3 rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit
4 of happiness.

5 I ask you to stop the genocide.

6 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. We will go
7 to speaker No. 23.

8 MS. JESSICA BLACK: (Speaking in
9 Gwich'in.) Hello. My name is Dr. Jessica Black, and I
10 come before you as a Gwich'in -- Gwich'yaa Gwich'in tribal
11 member representing myself. I'm also a professor at UAF.

12 I'm here speaking against the development in the
13 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the place where we,
14 Gwich'in people, have cared for and lived in relationship
15 for 10,000 -- 10,000 years or more. Let that sink in.

16 We have ancestral knowledge that has taught us how
17 important it is to defend our sacred land, animals and
18 waters, and we have done that. The land, the animals, the
19 water are part of an intricate beautiful culture, the
20 Gwich'in culture, a culture that ensures the land, animal
21 and water relatives are taken care of, too, a balance, a
22 relationship that is built on respect.

23 We have seen time and time again how oil development
24 leads to empty barrels, unstable markets and broken
25 families and communities. Big paychecks only benefit a

1 small percentage of people at the very top, not the
2 families and communities left to clean up the mess and
3 deal with the fallouts long after the last barrel is
4 tapped.

5 In my current research, I co-conduct numerous
6 research projects on what brings wellness for Alaska
7 Native communities, and again it's been shown it's tribal
8 governance, as well as the land, animals, but most of all
9 the culture, the culture built on this timeless
10 relationship with the land and the animals. Culture that
11 is passed down from father to son, from mother to
12 daughter, from auntie to niece, uncle to nephew, year
13 after year, decades after decades, centuries after
14 centuries.

15 This culture is also rooted in important values, such
16 as sharing, caring for elders, language and, again,
17 respect. This sharing respectful culture extends to
18 people we meet, people like you. When you visit our
19 communities, we open our homes, we feed you, and we treat
20 you with respect despite any differences that lie between
21 us. As I know, many of you were treated like family by
22 the Gwich'in during your recent trip to Arctic Village.

23 Please stand with the Alaskan people and people the
24 world over standing in solidarity with the Gwich'in and
25 with the land, animals and waters who don't have a voice.

1 Many of our Gwich'in relatives cannot be here to
2 provide comments today, yet they are at the front lines,
3 warriors protecting what is sacred for all of us to enjoy.
4 It's past time we generate other economies. Let's
5 diversify our portfolio and move towards a just
6 transition. And please extend the scoping period so more
7 people can make comments.

8 I have a vision that I keep at the forefront of my
9 mind: My little girl running free on our ancestral lands,
10 happy, free, and in the mirror of that image, I see
11 caribou babies running free, also on their ancestral land,
12 each taking care of each other. We should all have this
13 image, especially if we want to see our children thrive
14 into the future, your children, my children, our children.

15 Please defend the sacred and do not drill in the
16 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

17 Mahsi' Choo.

18 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Go to
19 speaker No. 24.

20 MR. CAM WEBB: My name is Cam Webb. I'm
21 speaking as a resident of North Pole, Alaska and an
22 American citizen. I'm a forest ecologist. I believe that
23 anthropogenic climate change is the most serious threat
24 that has ever faced humanity. We must stop adding carbon
25 dioxide to the atmosphere. However, few of us are able to

1 completely disassociate ourselves from fossil fuels and
2 their products, and I include myself in this majority.
3 Because we still depend on fossil fuels, we should not
4 automatically vilify the industry that delivers them. And
5 I do believe that if oil companies were to drill in the
6 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, they
7 would take utmost care to minimize their impact but, of
8 course, there would be an impact.

9 While I support the oil industry as temporary
10 deliverers of a necessary product and I acknowledge the
11 dependence of Alaska's budget on oil revenues, I strongly
12 object to oil development in the specific 1002 area under
13 consideration here. The decades-long argument about
14 drilling in the refuge results from competing beliefs and
15 values. Some people see undeveloped resources as a crime
16 against our economy and our material well-being. Others,
17 such as the Gwich'in and their supporters, see the coastal
18 plain as fundamental to food security and a sense of
19 identity. Millions of others are convinced of the moral,
20 aesthetic and spiritual responsibility to ensure that such
21 a place exists for our children and grandchildren.

22 I offer two arguments against any drilling in the
23 refuge based on my own beliefs and urge BLM to include a
24 no action alternative in the scoping report. First, the
25 Arctic Refuge as a whole is the largest protected area of

1 complete connected boreal and Arctic ecosystems in the
2 world. The coastal plain is an integral part of this set
3 of ecosystems. And the large size of the refuge makes it
4 even more valuable as a natural area. And by natural, I
5 include the millennia-long residents of Native peoples.
6 Drilling in the 1002 area would fundamentally undermine
7 the ecosystem and cultural values of the refuge.

8 Second, I think it's very likely that the lives of
9 many people in Alaska and all over the world will soon be
10 directly threatened by rising seas, storms, financial
11 disasters, and wars linked to climate disruption. Many of
12 these lives will be saved if we do not burn the oil under
13 the Arctic Refuge.

14 Thank you for your attention.

15 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker 25.

16 MS. KAY SUNWOOD: I'm Kayt Sunwood. I am
17 opposed to oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge for
18 the following and countless other reasons: This is a
19 cultural, human rights, food security and life itself
20 issue. I am concerned with the as-yet unaddressed
21 incompatibility of the recently added oil and gas program
22 with the previous preservation, wilderness and
23 recreational purposes of the refuge, as well as the
24 potential violation of federal laws and the threatening of
25 endangered species.

1 Others have already spoken very eloquently on these
2 topics, so I have a heartfelt personal plea to consider.
3 In April of this year I experienced a personal family
4 financial and environmental tragedy when, due to the
5 cataclysmic climate change we are experiencing, a chunk of
6 ice crashed down from my roof, severed the fuel line right
7 at our oil tank, pouring 160 gallons of oil over the log
8 walls and into the crawlspace below my home. We were
9 immediately displaced, our home uninhabitable, our land
10 contaminated. Initial estimates of oil mitigation -- oil
11 cleanup and mitigation itself, which we will have to pay
12 every penny out of our own pockets and before anything
13 can -- any cleanup can start is \$95,000.

14 The estimates for restoring our home to habitable
15 condition looks to be more than our insurance policy will
16 pay. We likely will lose our home, our land, my meager
17 retirement savings to address the damage from 160 gallons
18 of oil.

19 What will be done to ensure the coastal plain, the
20 sacred place where life begins, what will be done to make
21 sure that that's protected from environmental disasters of
22 astronomically greater proportions? Please think about
23 this as you are making these rules. Haste makes waste.

24 Protect the Arctic Refuge. Don't kill off
25 everybody's dreams for a future like mine have been killed

1 off.

2 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker 26.

3 MS. CARRIE STEVENS: My name is Carrie
4 Stevens. It's good to see all of you here again in
5 Fairbanks. I'm a resident of Fairbanks. I wish we were
6 all still in Arctic Village.

7 I just wanted to reiterate a few things that you have
8 heard today that have been pretty clear in the scoping
9 record. One is the level of impact that reaches all the
10 way down to all of the communities along the Yukon River.
11 I think that's been pretty clearly stated and should be
12 included in the EIS; and not just limited to Kaktovik,
13 Arctic Village and Venetie.

14 We are very concerned about the limitations of the
15 scoping, especially in relationship to ANILCA 810,
16 National Historic Preservation Act Section 106, and that
17 you include more scoping meetings in the impacted
18 communities and that you extend the scoping period. That
19 has been repetitive this evening.

20 I also wanted to add, we heard about Section 1002
21 this evening. It's very clear the Arctic Refuge is the
22 largest refuge in the country. It is only one of three
23 managed remotely. The fish and wildlife studies are
24 limited. The data is limited. We do not have adequate
25 harvest data for the reliance on the subsistence resources

1 that we rely the coastal plain.

2 There is no way that you can push this through in the
3 time frame that you are pushing it through without
4 adequate data. You are -- all of your findings will be
5 false because you won't have what is necessary to make a
6 good decision. So you are going to have to invest in
7 filling those data gaps. And we know that the indigenous
8 people, Gwich'in people and Inupiat people, have more
9 knowledge than anyone else will ever have of these areas.
10 They are your scholars. They are your biologists. They
11 are your scientists. They are your historian. They are
12 your foresters. They are your entomologists. They are
13 your ornithologists, and many other ologists. So we have
14 to invest in that time to make the best decisions that we
15 can make for the protection of the future.

16 Thank you. And I'll see you again in Venetie.

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker 27.

18 MS. DOREEN SIMMONDS: (Speaking in
19 Inupiaq.)

20 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Go to
21 Speaker 28. 28. Does anybody have card 28 out in the
22 audience? All right. We will go ahead and go to 29.

23 MR. DAVID DELHONY: My name is David
24 Delhony, and I am here to speak in defense of the Arctic
25 National Wildlife Refuge. I don't call it ANWR. No.

1 This is a national wildlife refuge. Oil drilling in the
2 calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd is a dagger
3 in the heart of the Gwich'in people and the caribou herd
4 that has sustained a vital and living and beautiful
5 culture for thousands of years. It is also taking a
6 treasure of national significance from every American.

7 Every American will be poorer if this land is leased
8 to privately owned corporations, whether those
9 corporations are domestically or foreign owned. And for
10 what? So our Washington leaders can say that they got it
11 all? The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is only five
12 percent of the North Slope. Everything else is up for
13 grabs. The critical habitat of the calving grounds was
14 that last piece, that red herring that they had to have.

15 The oil industry will continue to thrive in the
16 short-term future in Alaska without going into the Arctic
17 National Wildlife Refuge.

18 I think it's telling that this legislation was passed
19 on the back of a tax bill that was primarily designed to
20 give comfort to the comfortable and transfer assets from
21 the rest of us to an elite few.

22 This is bad. This is bad for the Gwich'in
23 especially, but it is bad for all of us. It's a sad day.
24 And anything we could do to stop it we should.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. DAVID BATTS: Cue up speaker No. 30.
2 And thank you very much. For our odd-number folks, we are
3 going to call up No. 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39. Please check
4 in with Molly Hootch here at microphone No. 1.

5 Ma'am.

6 MS. JODY POTTS: Good evening. Thank you.
7 Name is Jody Potts. I'm Han Kutchin from Eagle Village,
8 Alaska and for millennia my people have lived off of the
9 caribou, and particularly the Porcupine caribou herd. I
10 was blessed and lucky enough to be raised on the land.
11 And so tonight I heard a lot of conservationists speak.
12 And I appreciate that. I appreciate their support, and
13 also recreationalists.

14 But this is my way of life, living off the caribou.
15 My family completely depended on it for the better half of
16 my -- until I graduated high school. And still today I
17 take my kids hunting. I'm a hunter. I'm an indigenous
18 woman. I work in the state as a law enforcement officer.
19 I enforce state law. I protect citizens of this state and
20 this country. But my people and our way of life is in
21 jeopardy by this proposed project by developing in our
22 sacred place where life begins.

23 Our people have sacred knowledge. We have
24 traditional knowledge that give us direction in our life.
25 And I was blessed to have an uncle who is our chief, Isaac

1 Junabie [ph], who was talking to me about his work, and he
2 spoke to me about processes like this and how there is a
3 mandate that you need to hear from the citizens and you
4 need to hear from tribes before you do any of these
5 projects. And he said a lot of times, though, they are
6 just meeting that mandate. And I see that tonight.

7 I see a couple of you have been listening intently,
8 and I appreciate that because you guys work for us. You
9 work for us as American citizens. And only a few of you
10 are listening intently. But a couple of you are on your
11 devices not listening. And you represent your agency, our
12 country and your families just like I was raised. I was
13 taught -- I represent my family and my people. And we are
14 taught respect.

15 Nothing about this process shows respect. I see you
16 guys with your phone, on your phone, snacking. Your body
17 language says you are not listening. You are just meeting
18 this requirement and nothing more. And I have very little
19 faith in this process and protecting our people and
20 protecting the sacred place where life begins and American
21 citizens.

22 You may hear our people, but you are not going to
23 heed our words. And Gwich'in people, I guarantee, we are
24 strong people. We have survived genocide. We have
25 continued to thrive. We have continued to live our way of

1 life into this century. And we are teaching our children.
2 And we are going to fight to the end. We are going to
3 protect our caribou, our culture, our way of life and our
4 children from genocide.

5 We don't just think about today and the next dollar
6 and how we are going to -- you know, how our economy is
7 going to be in a few years. We think about our
8 grandchildren's grandchildren. I think about our future
9 generations. And that's what I was taught. And those of
10 you that are on your devices not listening to the American
11 citizens that are here to comment, shame on you. Shame on
12 you for not taking this serious. We take it serious.
13 This is our way of life. I appreciate if you put your
14 devices away and you listen.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
17 No. 31. If we can get 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 come see
18 Chad, please.

19 MS. TONYA GARNETT: Hello. (Speaking in
20 Gwich'in.) I am from Arctic Village, Alaska. I am the
21 Executive Director of the Native Village of Venetie Tribal
22 Government. We are against oil development in the calving
23 grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd. No compromise. We
24 are united -- all of the whole Gwich'in Nation are united
25 in one voice and one heart speaking against of any type of

1 development that would devastate the caribou herd which
2 would directly impact Gwich'in people. And that goes for
3 Alaska, Canadian side, both.

4 My name is Tonya Garnett. I'm from Arctic Village.
5 My parents are Lillian and Jerry Garnett. My grandparents
6 are the late Martha and Ezias James, and my great
7 grandfather was the Reverend Albert E. Tritt. There are
8 stories of my great grandpa traveling by dog team up to
9 the coastal villages, communities. These are the people
10 that we carry with us. We speak for the people that came
11 before us, our ancestors. The prayers of our ancestors we
12 carry with us. We speak for these people. And their
13 words we carry on today. And we speak for those that come
14 after us, not only for my child, but for his children and
15 their children, people we would never even meet, but we
16 speak for them.

17 We have the basic human right to continue to live the
18 life that we have always lived. There is an injustice
19 here because we are being hit fast and hard by a process
20 that is foreign to us that we do not understand. We are
21 having to learn fast and move fast.

22 We are excluding many in this process, other
23 communities, other villages that have publicly formally
24 asked for scoping meetings or consultations in their
25 villages, and including our Canadian relatives. You are

1 mandated to do this process, and you don't -- maybe you
2 don't have a choice in, you know, what the mandate is, but
3 you do have the power to do a thorough and comprehensive
4 study to include what baseline studies are there on the
5 caribou food. Why do they always go up to that area?
6 What's the current health of the Gwich'in people? What
7 socioeconomic impacts of the Gwich'in -- impacts of the
8 Gwich'in people will be impacted? We are a strong people,
9 a strong culture. Can you guarantee that this will
10 continue? Can you guarantee that my son or his sons will
11 have the rite of passage when they get their first
12 caribou? Can you guarantee that?

13 Our human rights are being violated. And this is
14 just history continuing itself. You have the -- you have
15 the -- the key to helping us to change those -- that
16 pattern of history to help us protect our way of life and
17 stop, you know, genocide of our people.

18 My people, Gwich'in people, my culture is not up for
19 debate. The health and well-being of my people is not up
20 for debate.

21 Mahsi' Choo.

22 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
23 No. 32. And looks like we are still looking for card
24 No. 34. If you have card 34, please come down.

25 MS. SARAH FURMAN: My name is Sarah

1 Furman. I'm a resident of Fairbanks, and I just want to
2 say it's been an honor to stand with the Gwich'in people
3 tonight and to hear their voices because, you know, for
4 starters this is not our land. It's not Lisa Murkowski's
5 land to give up for drilling. It is the Gwich'in
6 people's. It is their sovereign land. So it is just --
7 it's both morally and legally reprehensible to be opening
8 this land to drilling against the will of the people that
9 live there.

10 And on that note, we have a moral obligation to make
11 sure that their voices are heard by having hearings in
12 their villages and in all the villages that will be
13 affected by this, as we have heard testimony about the
14 effect of the caribou and the other animals that live up
15 there and the people that rely on that migration, the
16 migration of the other animals in that calving ground far
17 beyond just ANWR.

18 In my research about ANWR and the effects of the
19 drilling up there, I've read a bunch of articles. And one
20 thing that really stuck out to me is the fact that even if
21 we extract, you know, most of the oil we can get from that
22 area, it's really only enough to support the United States
23 for a matter of months and, at best, years. And the
24 consequences of drilling there are lifetime. They are
25 unspeakable. It's cultural genocide against the Gwich'in

1 people to be destroying their caribou herd's calving
2 grounds. It's long-term consequences for musk ox, for
3 polar bears, for other migratory birds that all depend on
4 that land and all for a couple of years of oil, maybe, a
5 few months of oil. How short-sighted are we going to be?

6 It's -- it's really a tragedy. And it's shocking to
7 even be having this conversation at this point when the
8 movement really needs to be away from oil and drilling
9 altogether.

10 Yeah. I mean, just in light of climate change, we
11 already have villages that we need to move away from the
12 coast because of climate change. And instead of making
13 decisions that are going to mitigate the long-term
14 consequences of climate change, we're choosing to make
15 decisions that are going to exacerbate what is already
16 going on. And that is -- it's irrational and illogical
17 and it's a decision that is a going to benefit just a few
18 people at the cost of many First Nations people and people
19 beyond.

20 And my personal plea is, you know, I love recreating
21 up there. I think that land is really beautiful. It's a
22 magical place and it's really a healing grounds for those
23 of us lucky enough to make our way that far north. And it
24 would be really be tragic to be cutting off that land for
25 recreation use, as well.

1 So I will continue to stand with the First Nations
2 people, and I hope that you will listen to their voices.

3 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
4 No. 33.

5 MS. LINDA BROWN: Good evening. I think
6 most of the important points about the -- about the
7 process have been covered here, but I'd like to kind of
8 wrap that up by saying that by fast tracking public
9 scoping and then by ignoring all these voices in order to
10 meet a realistic timeline, BLM is necessarily and
11 egregiously going to fail to meet either the spirit or the
12 letter of the NEPA process, which is what this is all
13 about.

14 Oil and gas leasing is by definition contrary to the
15 purposes for which the refuge was established. Indeed
16 purpose 5 added in order to grease the wheels for
17 development to the omnibus tax bill. It's so obviously
18 contrary to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's original four
19 purposes as to appear oxymoronic to any rational person.
20 How can purpose 5 "to provide for an oil and gas program"
21 possibly do other than to undermine and obviate the
22 previous four purposes?

23 These purposes, which are to conserve fish and
24 wildlife populations, to fulfill international treaty
25 obligations, about which you have heard greatly this

1 evening, to provide for continued subsistence uses by
2 residents, and to ensure for water quality and quantity
3 are obviously incompatible with the fifth hastily appended
4 purpose.

5 The rush to expedite development by whatever means
6 possible proves without doubt that had a public debate
7 about development actually taken place, proponents would
8 not have been able to garner the necessary support to make
9 it happen, as they have obviously not been able to do for
10 the past 40 years.

11 The Arctic Refuge is currently operated under a
12 comprehensive conservation plan. This NEPA process must
13 address any discrepancies between the CCP and the final
14 EIS. This NEPA process must also ensure that there is
15 consistency between the final EIS and other still relevant
16 federal laws, including ANILCA, the Endangered Species
17 Act, the Clean Air and Water Acts, and other current laws
18 bearing on development of the refuge.

19 Finally, although it's not necessary to remind you,
20 the NEPA process must include a no action alternative,
21 along with any other alternatives that may be described in
22 the final EIS.

23 As Alaskan communities struggle to deal with the
24 impact of climate change, more oil and gas from the arctic
25 cannot be viewed as anything other than the digging up of

1 more poison that is killing us. By contrast, we should
2 also be deeply aware of the fact that true wilderness is
3 increasingly rare in our world today.

4 It is for this reason that Alaskans and the agencies
5 responsible for the protection of public lands should
6 defend wilderness from development at all costs because it
7 will only increase in value over time.

8 Thank you for considering my thoughts.

9 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Okay. We
10 are going to go to 34. No 34 yet? No. 34 out in the
11 audience? Okay. Thank you. We will go over to 35.

12 MS. SIKANIK [ph] MAUPIN: Hello. My name
13 is Sikanik Maupin. My family is from Utqiagvik and
14 Nuiqsut. My grandmother was born on the Kuukpik River.
15 She migrated with the caribou until the government forced
16 her to go to Utqiagvik for school. For all the trauma,
17 through everything that my people have been through, we
18 have had something to gather and celebrate, and that is
19 our traditional food.

20 As a young woman, I have seen what has happened to my
21 people. I have seen spiritual, mental and physical
22 sickness ravish. My mother took me out of the village
23 very young. She wanted to give me what she thought would
24 be a better life. But being forced to move from my
25 village, I lost my language, I lost my culture, and I lost

1 my identity. For many years growing up, I filled those
2 voids with unhealthy things.

3 I have been through so much in my journey to speak my
4 language, which I still struggle with. I see that we have
5 gone from 98 percent speaking to 11 percent. This is what
6 happens when you take away our food security, when you
7 take away our health. This is not just something that we
8 eat. It is for our spiritual and our mental and our
9 physical well-being.

10 When I see the Gwich'in having the possibility of
11 going through the same thing, to think that my children
12 and my grandchildren may have to fight the same fight, but
13 they have no way of filling that emptiness that I have
14 found through my culture, through the food that I have
15 shared, the Gwich'in have welcomed me and have given me
16 their sacred food to share with them. And I stand in
17 solidarity.

18 I truly hope that you are listening to the words that
19 are being spoken today, that you know that people, our
20 lives are at stake by the decision that is being made.
21 And I really am scared that one day I will have to tell
22 stories to my grandchildren of what caribou used to taste
23 like, what our animals and our traditional celebrations
24 were because we are not able to do that and I'm not able
25 to share that with them, that my great great grandchildren

1 won't even know who they are because that's what happens
2 when you take away our identity. Eventually we are no
3 more.

4 So I stand in solidarity, and I plead with you to
5 make the right decision, to be on the right side of
6 history.

7 Thank you. Quyanaq.

8 MR. DAVID BATTIS: We are going to cue up
9 No. 36, if we could hold up for a second. Go ahead and
10 cue them up, please.

11 MS. GAIL MAYO: My name is Gail Mayo, and
12 I've lived in Fairbanks for over 50 years, but I've never
13 been to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, regrettably.
14 I'm here to speak against any plan for leasing, exploring
15 or developing the 1002 area of the Arctic National
16 Wildlife Refuge. You will hear many statements today, and
17 you have heard already many, that further support my
18 request. In my three minutes, I just want to ask you for
19 respect.

20 Today is the day that you can make a decision to
21 respect all of the concerns you will hear by deciding
22 against further development, or any development, I should
23 say. One of the good things about the Arctic National
24 Wildlife Refuge is there has been no development there
25 yet. The 1002 area of the coastal plain is unique in many

1 ways, some of which we will never fully understand.
2 Please respect the uniqueness and diversity of this land.
3 Respect the importance of this land to the Gwich'in who
4 know it so intimately. Respect the importance of this
5 land to the denizens of the city skyscraper who will never
6 set foot on it, yet they are fascinated and captivated by
7 the wild and untrampled existence of it.

8 Respect the thoughts of all the people in between
9 those two extremes who value the Arctic National Wildlife
10 Refuge. Respect the legacy this land offers to our
11 children and to their children. Know that they would
12 respect you for your wisdom.

13 There is no oil and gas crisis that demands breaching
14 this area. Put your resolve into renewable energy
15 development and increasing efficiency. Head our nation
16 forward on energy instead of backward.

17 The 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
18 is a rare jewel on this planet that we all share. Please
19 respect this land and let it be.

20 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. No. 38. We
21 are going to get through this group of folks and then we
22 will be taking a short break.

23 MS. ELIZABETH DOBBINS: Hello. My name is
24 Elizabeth Dobbins, and I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. I'm
25 an oceanographer at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

1 where I study the Chukchi and the Beaufort seas. I'm here
2 to speak against drilling in ANWR because I've seen the
3 effects of climate change both here in Fairbanks and in
4 the Arctic Ocean.

5 Oil development is a long-term commitment. It will
6 take seven to ten years for wells to be in production, or
7 as many as 20 years in the difficult arctic conditions.
8 Then they have to produce for another 30 years to break
9 even. And what changes will occur during those 50 years?

10 Well, in the past 60 years, the average temperature
11 across Alaska has warmed by three degrees Fahrenheit. And
12 in Utqiagvik, it's more like six degrees Fahrenheit. In
13 fact, Alaska is warming twice as fast as the rest of the
14 United States. This warming is straining our
15 infrastructure and natural systems. Even here in
16 Fairbanks it is. And because the U.S. has withdrawn from
17 the Paris Accord, warming in the next 50 years could be
18 equal to the last, stressing the ecosystem of the coastal
19 plain even without oil development.

20 Therefore, an EIS for ANWR must include these
21 changing conditions. Effects on caribou populations must
22 consider that caribou will also be stressed by changes in
23 habitat, food availability, parasites and disease.
24 Effects on tundra must consider the longer summers and
25 changes in species like increased brush and even trees.

1 Effects on water must include increased erosion caused by
2 increased storms, decreased sea ice and thawing
3 permafrost. And more than that, the EIS should include
4 the opportunity costs of continuing to depend on fossil
5 fuels for another half a century.

6 Climate change is caused by carbon emissions. Every
7 year and dollar spent developing ANWR distracts us from
8 the changes we need to make to keep climate change from
9 becoming catastrophic. In the 50 years of this project,
10 my daughter's children will be coping with its
11 consequences. They must also be considered.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker
14 No. 38. My apologies for the mix-up there.

15 MS. PAMELA MILLER: Hello. My name is
16 Pamela Miller. I live in Fairbanks. I've already lost
17 six seconds. In just three minutes of our lives, we must
18 speak forever about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
19 about its forever. The first minute. Count the heart
20 beats of this special refuge where the coastal plain has
21 been an integral part since being set aside before
22 statehood over 50 years ago as it is today, whole, wild,
23 free, and intact interconnected web of existence of which
24 we are all a part, alive with regard and respect for
25 Gwich'in, Inupiat and others in relationship with the

1 migrating animals and their habitats. It's a place
2 recommended for permanent wilderness protection.

3 No action is this place today, complete with the full
4 breath of life forces, the tapestry of ecological
5 relationships, the natural and human environment. There
6 are not the studies that are needed, the knowledge that
7 needs to be put together in a comprehensive way.

8 I oppose any leasing program and industrial operation
9 in the coastal plain because of irreversible and
10 irretrievable harm to the refuge's essential purposes
11 which are managed to this day by the Fish & Wildlife
12 Service.

13 I'm supposed to be at minute two. Countless animals
14 in relationship with clean air, water and land and each
15 another in this narrow living, breathing band of tundra
16 cut by 12 major rivers, from the Brooks Range to Beaufort
17 Sea coast: Canning, Tamayariak, Katakturuk, Marsh Creek,
18 Carter Creek, Itkilyariak, Sadlerochit, Hula Hula,
19 Okpilak, Jago, Niguanak, Angun, Aichilik. There is not
20 simply enough winter water despite these rivers that make
21 it a very different landscape than Prudhoe Bay or NPR-A.
22 It is unique. There is not enough water in winter for ice
23 roads, drilling or industrial use.

24 The last minute, this -- I will speak just briefly to
25 the kinds of things that we must count that are

1 uncountable as we change this landscape in a way that from
2 where I came from in Cleveland, Ohio, home of Sohio and
3 many oil took hundreds of years. We are talking one year
4 to make decisions.

5 7,844 helicopters take-offs and landings in the
6 coastal plain for summer studies in one field seasonal
7 alone. Of this 700 helicopter flights for stickpicking.
8 That's cleaning up the trash. 256 million gallons of
9 freshwater from ten lakes from one just winter exploration
10 in the reserve. 32,000 miles of seismic trails. You must
11 consider the full range of this activity from its seismic
12 drilling, leasing, the whole package, before you move
13 forward. No action is the right alternative.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MR. DAVID BATTS: Speaker No. 39.

16 MS. ZOE KASSOF: Hello. My name is Zoe
17 Kassof. I'm eleven years old, and I live in Fairbanks,
18 Alaska. I'm part of KEA - Kids for Environmental Action.
19 I came today because I do not want drilling in ANWR.

20 One of the most important reasons for preserving ANWR
21 is the caribou. There are two herds that live in the
22 coastal plain. The first herd is the Porcupine herd, and
23 the second herd is the Central Arctic herd. This year
24 there were 218,000 caribou in the Porcupine herd. This is
25 the highest number of caribou in the herd since 1989.

1 It's more than twice the number of people in Fairbanks.
2 We want to keep that number of caribou this high because
3 they are important to the web of life. They feed wolves,
4 bears and people. Caribou need lots of room to migrate
5 because they travel as much as 3,000 miles a year.

6 People have said they only want to develop a little
7 bit of the refuge, but I don't believe them. Like if my
8 mom asked for a bite of my cake, I know she rely wants the
9 whole thing.

10 The future I want to see for the caribou includes
11 room to live, plenty of food and no oil drilling anywhere
12 near them.

13 I'm only 11 years old and I'm standing here because
14 I'm worried about the caribou, the people and the
15 environment. I feel like this shouldn't be happening, and
16 I shouldn't have to talk about how I don't want this to
17 happen.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Great job. Thank you.
20 All right. Speaker No. 40.

21 MR. JOHN GAEDEKE: My name is John
22 Gaedeke, and I'm born and raised in Fairbanks. And I'm
23 real leery of this process already tonight. I've seen
24 disrespect to elders who were talking and not be given the
25 respect they deserve and being worried about clapping, and

1 even tonight you can't guarantee that everyone here in the
2 room will get a chance to speak, so I'd like to give my
3 Princess, who is from the area and can speak more
4 eloquently than I can about it, and I can guarantee that
5 at least she will get to speak tonight.

6 MS. PRINCESS LUCAJ: (Speaking in
7 Gwich'in.) I behoove you to hire a Gwich'in translator to
8 translate that.

9 You know, none of us should be here. That young
10 women, that little girl that just spoke is right. None of
11 us should be here.

12 I wish that Senator Murkowski were here right now
13 because when I listened to the Senate Natural Resource
14 Committee hearing, I did not hear full and fair debate.
15 It was very one-sided. And what I heard this evening is
16 powerful testimony from everyday Alaskans saying that we
17 do not want to see development in the remaining five
18 percent of the coastal plain that hasn't been opened to
19 this drilling.

20 And these pictures, you know, these maps, they only
21 tell a fraction of the story. In fact, they really don't
22 tell any story. What is that? I mean, let's see the
23 pictures of what's up there, of the life that is up there.

24 And as a Gwich'in person, you know, it's my
25 obligation to speak up for the land and the animals. And

1 if I'm really going to use the voice of those Vadzaih, I
2 would say do not drill where I am having my calves. It
3 just doesn't make sense.

4 Now, again, this is just a fraction of the picture.
5 I hope that you are including, like others have mentioned,
6 climate change impacts. We have infrastructure up there,
7 pipelines that have been damaged because of melting
8 permafrost. And I know that the oil and gas industry is
9 quite aware of that and have authorized some studies
10 around that. So we need to look at this in the broader
11 sense.

12 Does it make any sense that we are continuing to go
13 down this path when the industry itself isn't really
14 interested in the lease sales? I mean NPR-A last lease
15 sales were pathetic. You know, there is all this other
16 development that's going on. And I think the world is
17 saying, hey, it is time to transition. In fact, I think
18 Murkowski is up there talking about alternative energies
19 and learning about, you know, these microgrids, which
20 Alaska leads the world in those. Right?

21 So we have to think about this bigger picture. And I
22 just from my heart of hearts, I just want to say Mahsi'
23 Choo to everyone for just speaking up. It's time. It's
24 time for us to transition and be innovative. I feel bad
25 for all of you. I don't know why DOI isn't -- I don't

1 understand how this happened. It wasn't a fair process.
2 Right.

3 So Mahsi' Choo for sitting and listening.

4 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Okay. We
5 are going to take a ten-minute break. So right now it's
6 8:25, so come back and be seated by 8:35; we'll get going
7 again. If you are in the number group 40 to -- 41 to 50,
8 if you can please come to the front row, we'll get you
9 situated and ready to go right away. Thank you.

10 (A break was taken.)

11 MR. DAVID BATTS: So if you have numbers
12 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, please see Molly who is waving her
13 arms frantically. 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, please see Chad,
14 who is not waving his arms frantically. All right. We
15 are going to get this group going. And I believe, just
16 kind of doing my basic math, about three minutes and with
17 ten people, that's going to take us past the 9:00. We're
18 going to get through this group for sure. If we end up
19 with a little extra time, we'll try to work in additional
20 speakers. But if we have speaker No. 41 ready, we'll go
21 ahead and get you going.

22 MS. ERICA WATSON: My name is Erica
23 Watson. I live outside Denali Park. I'm speaking on
24 behalf of myself. I request that the EIS implement and --
25 include and implement a no action alternative. This

1 administration's push to undo decades of legislative
2 protection, which is only a sliver of time compared to the
3 millennia of stewardship by indigenous peoples of what is
4 now Alaska, is an affront to the human rights, ecological
5 integrity and the future of our climate, among many other
6 things.

7 The U.N. Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous
8 People states that indigenous people must be guaranteed
9 access to their means of subsistence. I should not need
10 to restate the profound relationship between the Gwich'in
11 Nation and the Porcupine caribou as we have heard tonight
12 and as Senator Murkowski has heard multiple times before
13 she made her decision. But apparently this alone is not
14 sufficient to prevent our own government's attempt to
15 permanently alter the sacred and ecologically sensitive
16 birthing grounds.

17 I should not have to remind our government that our
18 nation has a clear track record in its history of
19 prioritizing colonial development over indigenous cultural
20 health and survival. It is 2018. We should not be having
21 this conversation.

22 The EIS must fully incorporate these declarations,
23 such as the U.N. Declaration on Indigenous Rights, the
24 1987 treaty between the U.S. and Canada, and incorporate
25 socioeconomic and cultural effects of intergenerational

1 trauma imposed by unwanted extractive development. The
2 EIS must incorporate current research on the impacts of
3 extractive development on adjacent and dependent
4 communities, which fall largely on women and girls. The
5 EIS must demonstrate mitigation measures that will
6 adequately address these impacts, something the industry
7 has yet to do.

8 One of the stated foundational purposes of the Arctic
9 Refuge is to conserve fish and wildlife populations and
10 habitats in their natural diversity including, but not
11 limited to, the Porcupine caribou herd, polar bears,
12 grizzly bears, musk ox, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines,
13 snow geese, peregrine falcons, and other migratory birds
14 and arctic char and grayling. The coastal plain is
15 integral to the migration not only of the caribou, but of
16 over 200 species of migratory birds. New research is
17 still emerging on the ecological connections between these
18 species, their co-evolution and interdependence.

19 Adequately studying these truths will require more than
20 the single year currently allowed under the shortened
21 period Zinke's Secretarial Order requires. Therefore, I
22 request an extension in order to allow meaningful and
23 complete study.

24 Finally, our climate is already warming at twice the
25 rate of the rest of the planet. Fossil fuel development

1 is the wrong move for the future of our state, our economy
2 and our health. Global scientific consensus acknowledges
3 this. Our own state's in-progress climate policy
4 acknowledges this. Implement a no action alternative.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. Speaker 42.

7 MR. MAXWELL PLICHA: Hello. My name is
8 Maxwell Plichka. I'm a wildlife biologist living in
9 Fairbanks, and I work across Alaska, including the North
10 Slope. I am familiar with how sensitive the tundra
11 ecosystem is because I conduct research in the tundra and
12 I study organisms that live there. Opening up the Arctic
13 National Wildlife Refuge to drilling is alarming to me,
14 both as an Alaska resident and a local scientist.

15 I've only lived in Alaska for a year, and I am so
16 disappointed that I am already having to speak in front of
17 a committee discussing the leasing of public land for the
18 purpose of oil and gas development in one of the last
19 unspoiled Arctic landscapes left in North America.

20 As a wildlife biologist, I am specifically concerned
21 about the impact that the development of area 1002 will
22 have on the wildlife living within the refuge. Although
23 the size of the physical disturbance is important to
24 discuss, the noise, smell and presence of humans and
25 machinery in the tundra can be just as, if not vastly

1 more, impactful to the wildlife living within the refuge
2 than the physical destruction of the tundra itself. In
3 order to fully conceptualize the impact that the proposed
4 development will cause, these factors and others must be
5 considered.

6 We as a people made a commitment in 1960 to protect
7 this land from future development, and now almost 60 years
8 later we are planning on breaking that commitment with the
9 flora, fauna and people that call the National Arctic
10 Wildlife Refuge home. No oil and gas development is risk
11 free, and I personally denounce the leasing of land, the
12 extraction of oil and the development of the 1002 area. I
13 encourage you to extend the scoping period so that more
14 individuals can comment.

15 Thank you for listening to my concerns and comments.

16 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
17 No. 43. Just a reminder, if you have written testimony,
18 even if it's on your phone or anything else like that,
19 please feel free to give it to our court reporter even if
20 it's scratched up. And if you have it on your phone or
21 something, we would love to provide her email to you so
22 you can email it to her.

23 Sir.

24 MR. JEFFREY JOHN: My name is Jeffrey
25 John. I'm from Venetie, Alaska. I hunt for caribou in

1 Venetie all my life. We depend on caribou in Venetie, and
2 please don't disturb the calving grounds in ANWR.

3 Every year female caribou get pregnant, and thousands
4 of thousands of females lay their beautiful babies, wet
5 the caribou babies. They lay down and their mom lick it,
6 the baby. After they have baby, they move forward again,
7 baby caribou run with their mom, thousands and thousands
8 and thousands. And baby caribou are strong enough to stay
9 with their mother. And they go across rivers, streams and
10 plain country until caribou grow bigger and stronger. And
11 they travel down to Arctic Village and Venetie, and
12 another herd travels to Old Crow flats and another herd
13 travels to Fort McPherson and another herd travels to
14 Alkavik in Canada.

15 Caribou, they stay whole winter long. And when
16 spring comes, females get pregnant again, and caribou do
17 that for thousands of years for generations and
18 generations.

19 Please don't disturb the calving grounds. And don't
20 bother the calving grounds. And this caribou I'm talking
21 about is -- we Gwich'in people are really strong. And I'm
22 going to say in my language, Gwich'in. (Speaking in
23 Gwich'in).

24 Before snowmachine come, my dad, Walter John, and
25 Junas [ph] John, and all five or six of them, they stay in

1 Venetie. I remember 60 below they go up to Venetie right
2 above, and for two weeks they drive dog team with
3 toboggan. They got eight or ten dogs, and they all travel
4 together. And I remember them. Yeah. It was it hard
5 time. Yeah. And Dad say, how come you guys do that? My
6 son don't go hungry. I'll feed you. And they live out in
7 the tent in the cold weather, 40, 50 below. And it was
8 hard time.

9 And that's how Venetie grow up. Not only Venetie.
10 Arctic Village and all the Gwich'in people in the past,
11 Old Crow and Fort McPherson and Alkavik. Everybody.
12 Yeah. We live a hard time. And this caribou thing is
13 really important for the calving grounds. You guys don't
14 disturb it. Please don't disturb it. Keep the caribou
15 strong generation to generation.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. No. 44.

18 MR. ERIC OLSEN: Good afternoon. Hi. My
19 name is Eric Olsen from Fairbanks, Alaska. I'm speaking
20 today as a high school teacher who aims to prepare
21 students for their future, a future that scientists and
22 economists agree cannot be ruled fully by oil and gas.

23 I teach with two primary goals in mind. One, my
24 students learn to make and craft things well, and, two,
25 they use that skill to allow them and their families to be

1 comfortable in their lives. We, as a nation, have not
2 lived up to these goals.

3 First, we have not done things well because the law,
4 which was -- which has initiated this hearing, was not
5 done well. After 30 years of trying to pass a law in an
6 open Congress and failing, our State delegation slipped it
7 into a tax bill.

8 The oil development across the country has not done
9 well. It leaks millions of gallons every day and has
10 ruined ecosystems, from Valdez all the way up to the
11 northernmost coasts. And most importantly, we have not
12 done well to the sovereign nations in the north, in this
13 case, the Gwich'in Nation.

14 Secondly, as I hope for my students to be comfortable
15 in their future, we must recognize that when we disrupt
16 the sacred lands of the Gwich'in Nation, which is also a
17 productive birthing ground for the Porcupine caribou herd,
18 we make their lives -- more than their lives
19 uncomfortable.

20 Teachers are tasked with preparing students for the
21 future. It is my opinion that continuing to develop oil
22 and gas resources on a productive birthing ground during
23 the greatest extinction period of our time, we are not
24 preparing them for the future.

25 It is time to think beyond jobs that come from oil

1 and gas development and time for our state and our federal
2 leaders to resource a transition to renewable energies,
3 the largest growing job sector in the nation.

4 Therefore, BLM must fully analyze any and all impacts
5 on the Porcupine caribou herd and additionally a full
6 analysis on those who survive in conjunction with the
7 herd. The BLM must also prepare all documents of these
8 processes in both Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages, as there
9 are many sovereign nations impacted by the decisions made
10 by the BLM.

11 And finally, I ask you, Bureau of Land Management, to
12 do these studies well. The comfort and success of our
13 children depend on it.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. No. 45.

16 MR. PAUL WILLIAMS, JR.: Hello. (Speaking
17 in Alaska indigenous language.) My name is Paul Williams,
18 Jr., and I'm from Beaver and Arctic Village, Alaska. I
19 didn't even know that we were supposed -- I didn't realize
20 there was a great meeting that happened today and it fell
21 on today. So -- (Speaking in Alaska indigenous language.)

22 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. No. 46,
23 please.

24 MS. ADELIN PETER RABOFF: My name is
25 Adeline Peter Raboff. I'm Neets'aii Gwich'in. I'm from

1 Arctic Village and Fort Yukon originally. But I am a
2 person also of this world, just like everyone else here
3 is. We are all members of a community that is trying to
4 preserve our environment and the world because many things
5 are going wrong: The oceans, air pollution, genetic
6 deformities from all of the things that are happening
7 from, for instance, hormones; hormones in the beef and in
8 the chicken. All these things are going wrong.

9 And here we are at this meeting and, basically, you
10 know, for Gwich'in people, it's one meeting after another
11 year after year. And it's not just Gwich'in people. It's
12 people in Nuiqsut. It's people in Kaktovik. They are
13 inundated with meetings about land sales and the -- it's
14 innervating. And the people in Kaktovik suffer a lot from
15 environmental degradation due to the oil industry as it is
16 now.

17 I don't know if you people remember this word. What
18 was it? Manifest destiny? I think we studied it when we
19 were younger. And people forgot what that means.
20 Manifest destiny means destroying everything in your path.
21 And this has got to stop. We have got to find another way
22 of living together in this world without going and
23 destroying every single last corner of this world. So in
24 my point of view, this is a manifestation of manifest
25 destiny.

1 So we have a new president, who is arrogant, who is
2 crude, who has no regard for certain aspects of human
3 life. For instance -- well, I'm out of time.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. Speaker
6 No. 47, please.

7 MS. DILOOLA ERICKSON: (Speaking in Alaska
8 indigenous language.) My name is Diloola Erickson. My
9 family is from Kaltag. I'm of the Caribou Clan. And I'm
10 here to stand in solidarity with the Gwich'in people and
11 the Inupiaq people. We are not separate. We are
12 together. What happens to them happens to us. It happens
13 to you. It happens to all of us. If they lose their food
14 source, we will lose our food source, too.

15 The caribou that live on that land, they eat the
16 land, the food that comes from the land. It nourishes
17 their body, and then they nourish us, like we will nourish
18 our children. It's a cycle. And we give ourselves to the
19 land, and the land gives itself back to the caribou. You
20 cannot break that cycle. You break that cycle, you will
21 break our way of life, all of us. If it happens to us, it
22 will happen to you.

23 And I want to ask you, because a lot was said tonight
24 in this place. So I want to know how you guys plan to
25 process this data, how you will catalog this data and how

1 you will use it to inform your decision because it is a
2 big decision.

3 We don't need this oil. We have the technology and
4 we have the money to get energy a different way and we
5 should.

6 Mahsi'.

7 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you. No. 48,
8 please.

9 MR. ODIN MILLER: Good evening. Thank you
10 for giving me the opportunity to address you guys. So
11 first of all, to begin with, I'd like to echo what some of
12 the others have said in calling out this entire process
13 for what it is, as corrupt and undemocratic. Senator
14 Murkowski, if you are listening, you are complicit in the
15 rising authoritarianism in this country for your
16 willingness to circumvent the democratic process and cozy
17 up to the Trump Administration for your own political
18 convenience on this tax bill. You have betrayed the
19 public interest, the Gwich'in people, the Inupiat who
20 depend on the Porcupine caribou herd and, more broadly,
21 all Alaskans who depend on a livable climate and a livable
22 democracy that respects human rights and public process.

23 The lack of possibility for a no action alternative
24 clearly violates the intent of NEPA in a deeply
25 undemocratic way.

1 I also have some comments on the subject of
2 subsistence harvest baseline data for impacted
3 communities. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's
4 Community Subsistence Information System, a comprehensive
5 database of subsistence harvest surveys conducted by the
6 State, lists zero data on caribou harvests by residents of
7 Arctic Village; zero, even though caribou is the primary
8 resource that that community depends on. There is also no
9 data from federal agencies, such as U.S. Fish & Wildlife
10 Service. For comparative reference, there are multiple
11 years of recent caribou harvest data for communities that
12 rely on the western Arctic caribou herd, such as Ambler,
13 Point Lay and Deering.

14 I'd like to request that the BLM collect at least
15 three years' worth of caribou harvest data as part of its
16 obligations as per Section 810 of ANILCA. These caribou
17 harvest surveys should take place in Arctic Village,
18 Kaktovik, as well as any other villages that use the
19 Porcupine caribou herd.

20 Other major development projects have commonly
21 involved baseline data collection in dozens of impacted
22 communities, anything that might be affected by a project
23 or its infrastructure.

24 Related to this is the subject of tribal
25 consultation. I'd also like to refer you to Executive

1 Order 13175 which requires "consultation and coordination
2 with Indian tribal governments." According to the BLM's
3 2011 report titled Compliance with ANILCA Section 810,
4 "Land use decisions with the potential to significantly
5 restrict subsistence uses of rural Alaskans are commonly
6 matters that may have a tribal implication. Consultation
7 with tribal governments on subsistence along with other
8 issues is an integral part of the public involvement
9 process for an EIS."

10 Thank you.

11 MR. DAVID BATTS: We will move over to
12 No. 49, please.

13 DR. CHARLEEN FISHER: Mahsi'. (Speaking
14 in Alaska indigenous language.) My name is Dr. Charleen
15 Fisher. I'm from Beaver, Alaska, and I'm the Executive
16 Director of Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments. The
17 Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments is a tribal
18 consortium founded September of 1985 with a vision of
19 self-sufficient communities with a shared commitment to
20 promote common goals.

21 All ten tribes in the region, including Arctic
22 Village, Beaver, Birch Check, Canyon Village, Chalkyitsik,
23 Fort Yukon, Rampart, Stevens Village and Venetie have
24 adopted a standing resolution in support entitled
25 Resolution to Permanently Protect the Birthplace and

1 Nursing Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in the
2 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It asserts and affirms
3 the Gwich'in people's inherent rights to continue their
4 way of life as recognized by the U.S. Senate. The
5 Gwich'in have consistently advocated for Izhik Gwatsan
6 Goodai Goolit, the sacred place where life begins, to
7 protect their natural environment and the cultural
8 practices of the Gwich'in people. Since time immemorial,
9 the CATG tribes and their tribal membership have lived in
10 reciprocity with these lands and the resources therein.

11 This scoping period is much too short to properly
12 solicit comments from Alaskans, Native and nonNative,
13 rural and urban, young and old, rich and poor, and the
14 greater American citizenry. This process does not allow
15 for proper inclusion of the Alaska Native knowledge
16 systems and the traditional use patterns and the impacts
17 of development in a thorough and thoughtful way.

18 The tribes have not been properly included as
19 cooperating agencies, and this process is so short the
20 approval processes to become a cooperating agency has
21 taken too long to include tribes in an equitable manner.

22 I looked at the paper that you have on the table back
23 there, and there is two tribes that have supposedly been
24 given cooperating agency status, but it's not even listed
25 on your handout. So if you guys don't have time to

1 properly notify the public that there are two tribes as
2 cooperating agencies, maybe you should consider extending
3 it so you can make proper copies and notify the public
4 properly.

5 At a recent meeting, the Alaska BLM Resource Advisory
6 Council approved the extension of the scoping period. The
7 CATG and the tribes recommend the scoping period of at
8 least 120 days. This process and preceding approval has
9 been very divisive, and many of us have more comments than
10 this process is going to represent in the few comments
11 solicited.

12 Mahsi' Choo.

13 MR. DAVID BATTIS: Thank you very much. We
14 are going to have speaker 50.

15 MS. WILLOW LEAVES: My name is Willow
16 Leaves, and I'm 12 years old. I stand with the Gwich'in
17 people because opening the wildlife refuge is not only
18 morally wrong because it's a sacred space, but developing
19 a new oilfield in the face of climate change is ignorant.
20 I spent the first six years of my life living in the
21 Brooks Range with the Porcupine caribou crossing my lake.
22 The caribou are very important to all of us because they
23 complete the food chain. If the caribou have their
24 birthing grounds destroyed, then the natural way of life
25 will be broken.

1 You see that not all Alaskans want ANWR to be opened
2 up to drilling. Think of if it's appropriate to think
3 more of rich, you don't have to be rich to have a happy
4 and fulfilled life. Do not be afraid to step forward for
5 what is right because I'm not. And I will continue to
6 fight.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. DAVID BATTS: Thank you. You did a
9 great job. I'm so proud of you. Okay. We are going to
10 conclude the public commenting period. I know there's
11 many people that still have speaking cards out there. I
12 would strongly --

13 MS. JESSICA GIRARD: My name is Jessica
14 Girard. I'm from Fairbanks, Alaska, and I was not heard.
15 And I would like another public speaking comment to be
16 heard in Alaska. My name is Jessica Girard. I'm with the
17 Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, and I live in
18 Fairbanks.

19 MS. SILVIA DAEUMICHEN: My name is Silvia
20 Daeumichen, D-A-E-U-M-I-C-H-E-N. I'm speaking on behalf
21 of the mothers in this world.

22 MS. KRISTA CHRISTENSEN: My name is Krista
23 Christensen. That's C-H-R-I-S-T-E-N-S-E-N. And I would
24 request another hearing so that our voices can be heard.

25 MS. SATYA PEARL: My name is Satya Pearl,

1 S-A-T-Y-A P-E-A-R-L. I'm from Fairbanks, Alaska. My
2 testimony was not heard. I request an additional scoping
3 hearing in Fairbanks before the scoping period concludes.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. AARON YEATON: My name is Aaron
6 Yeaton, Y-E-A-T-O-N, and I would like my comment to be
7 heard, as well. Thank you.

8 MS. ALYSSA QUINTYNE: My name is Alyssa
9 Quintyne, A-L-Y-S-S-A Q-U-I-N-T-Y-N-E. My testimony was
10 not heard tonight, so I request that another hearing be in
11 Fairbanks so our voices can be heard because we deserve
12 that opportunity. Thank you.

13 MS. FAUSTINE BERNADAC: Hi. My name is
14 Faustine Bernadac. It's B-E-R-N-A-D-A-C. My testimony
15 was not heard tonight, and I would like the scoping period
16 to be extended. Thank you.

17 MS. TONYA BROWN: My name is Tonya Brown,
18 T-O-N-Y-A B-R-O-W-N. And I would like for there to be
19 another opportunity for testimony since I did not get a
20 chance and more needs to be done and time needs to be
21 taken to hear all voices. Thank you.

22 MR. STEPHEN ARTURO GREENLAW: My name is
23 Stephen Arturo Greenlaw. That's S-T-E-P-H-E-N A-R-T-U-R-O
24 G-R-E-E-N-L-A-W. I'm from Fairbanks, Alaska and I didn't
25 have enough time to speak what I had to speak about and I

1 hope there is a time for extension. Thank you so much.

2 MS. SHARON ALDEN: My name is Sharon
3 Alden, S-H-A-R-O-N A-L-D-E-N. I live in Fairbanks,
4 Alaska. I'd also like to request that an additional
5 scoping meeting be held in Fairbanks to hear the remaining
6 testimony that we were not able to get to tonight. This
7 process takes a long time to do right. Please do it
8 right.

9 MS. PHOEBE ROHLBACHER: My name is Phoebe
10 Rohlbacher. I am from Fairbanks, and my comment was not
11 heard, and I'm requesting an additional hearing and an
12 extension of the scoping process here in Fairbanks.

13 MS. JULIANNE WARREN: Hi. I'm Julianne
14 Warren, J-U-L-I-A-N-N-E W-A-R-R-E-N. I'm from Fairbanks,
15 Alaska, and my comment -- my testimony wasn't heard, so I
16 call for an additional scoping hearing during the period
17 and for an extension. And writing comments is wonderful
18 and we'll continue to do that, but there is something that
19 happens when we speak to each other that doesn't happen in
20 writing, so please give us another hearing.

21 MR. PAUL DENGAN: My name is Paul Dengan,
22 D-E-N-G-A-N. I would like to request another chance to
23 testify.

24 MS. JANE PEPPEY: My name is Jane Peppey,
25 P-E-P-P-E-Y with speaker card 60. I'm from Fairbanks,

1 Alaska, and my testimony was not heard, so I request an
2 additional scoping hearing in Fairbanks before the period
3 concludes. Thank you.

4 MS. SARAH FINNELL: Hi. My name is Sarah
5 Finnell, S-A-R-A-H F-I-N-N-E-L-L. I didn't get a chance
6 to speak tonight. I would request that you extend the
7 scoping period and give us another chance here. Thanks.

8 MS. MARCY NADEL: Hello. My name is Marcy
9 Nadel, M-A-R-C-Y N-A-D-E-L, speaker card 55. Also did not
10 get a chance and requesting an additional scoping hearing
11 here in Fairbanks as well as scoping hearings in other
12 communities that did not receive them.

13 MR. TRAVIS COLE: I'm Travis Cole. I'm
14 Speaker No. 54. My name is T-R-A-V-I-S, last name,
15 C-O-L-E. I didn't get a chance to speak. I hope you
16 extend the scoping. I have been here all day, too. I
17 worked all day before then. I understand you are tired.
18 This is a long process. This would be people's lives in
19 your hands, so please.

20 MS. CHERISSA DUKELOW: Hi. My name is
21 Cherissa Dukelow, C-H-E-R-I-S-S-A D-U-K-E-L-O-W, No. 59.
22 I handed my card to someone who might be a little more
23 prepared or a little more impacted by this decision. But
24 I would also like to request an additional scoping
25 testimony and extension of this process and perhaps a

1 scoping meeting in another location that is more
2 accessible for people impacted by this decision that is
3 very important.

4 MS. SHELBY FISHER-SALMON: My name is
5 Shelby Fisher-Salmon, and I have a card, No. 63. And I
6 would like to request an extension of this scoping
7 testimony because mine was not heard today. So thank you.

8 MS. CARMEN KLOOSTER-BYERS: Hi. My name
9 is Carmen Klooster-Byers. I'm from here, Fairbanks,
10 Alaska. I've lived here 26 years. I'm requesting an
11 additional comment period before the scoping is concluded
12 so that I can present my own opinions and comments,
13 because I, too, worked a very long day and would really
14 like to be heard. Thank you very much.

15 MS. CAROLYN KREMERS: I'm Carolyn Kremers,
16 C-A-R-O-L-Y-N K-R-E-M-E-R-S. I came at 4:30. I really
17 appreciated hearing everyone and appreciate you listening.
18 I'd like to request another scoping period meeting for
19 Fairbanks people and others in this region. And I hope
20 you will have some in the various other areas that were
21 named tonight, including some Outside in the Lower 48. My
22 card number is 74. Thanks.

23 MS. ANNA GODDUHN: My name is Anna
24 Godduhn, A-N-N-A G-O-D-D-U-H-N. I also want to request an
25 additional scoping meeting because I gave up my card to a

1 closer stakeholder. And I've never been to the refuge,
2 but I really want to go there someday, and I don't want it
3 to be all full of oil rigs. Thank you.

4 MS. JEANNIE KREAMER. I am Jeannie
5 Kreamer, J-E-A-N-N-I-E, Kreamer, K-R-E-A-M-E-R. And I
6 would like to request an extension, another scoping
7 period. I had testimony that I wanted to give. And so
8 thank you.

9 MR. PHILIP MARTIN: Good evening, and
10 thank you for your patience and attention. My name is
11 Philip Martin, card No. 69. Since I was unable to present
12 my testimony tonight, I'm requesting another scoping
13 meeting in Fairbanks. Thank you.

14 MR. JOSEPH RANSELL-GREEN: My name is
15 Joseph Ransdell-Green. That's R-A-N-S-D-E-L-L-G-R-E-E-N.
16 I did not get to testify today and I would like to request
17 another scoping meeting in Fairbanks and any other
18 impacted communities. My card number is 81.

19 MR. TOM GREEN: Hello. I'm Tom Green,
20 G-R-E-E-N. I'm from Fairbanks, Alaska, and I did not get
21 to present my testimony tonight, so I'd like to request
22 another meeting -- another scoping meeting. My card
23 number is 80. Thank you.

24 MS. ABBY VANDENBERG: My name is Abby
25 Vandenberg, V-A-N-D-E-N-B-E-R-G, and I would also like to

1 request another scoping meeting and maybe more
2 opportunities for constituents from rural Alaskan
3 communities to have their voices heard. Thank you.

4 MS. JANE RANSELL: I'm Jane Ransdell,
5 R-A-N-S-D-E-L-L, and I'd like to have another scoping
6 meeting, public meeting, so that I could present my
7 testimony. And my number is 83.

8 MS. SUSAN HANSEN: My name is Susan
9 Hansen, H-A-N-S-E-N, and I'm No. 75. And I'm from
10 Fairbanks, Alaska. I hope you will be able to have
11 another scoping meeting for Fairbanks so we can give our
12 testimony. Thank you.

13 MS. SUSAN GRACE STOLTZ: My name is Susan
14 Grace Stoltz. My number was 68. I'm requesting another
15 scoping meeting. It was wonderful testimony. I've been
16 here since 4:30, too. And it's really -- I appreciate
17 your hearing us. I have been doing this for 34 years for
18 the Arctic Refuge.

19 MR. JIM CAMPBELL: My name is Jim
20 Campbell, C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L. I am No. 82, and I didn't have
21 a chance, and I have been -- I've spent over 40 years up
22 in the refuge, and I would like to be able to speak my
23 piece, too.

24 MS. PRISCILLA LANGLAIS: My name is
25 Priscilla Langlais, P-R-I-S-C-I-L-L-A L-A-N-G-L-A-I-S. My

1 comments were not heard today, and I'm requesting
2 additional hearings, both here in Fairbanks and in rural
3 and Native communities, especially with the appropriate
4 translators available. Thank you.

5 MR. REVEREND SCOTT O. FISHER: My name is
6 the Reverend Scott Fisher of Fairbanks and the Village of
7 Beaver. I didn't have a chance to testify. I'd like to
8 request, then, another hearing both here in Fairbanks.
9 And I can't believe you didn't do this in Fort Yukon.
10 That's -- that's unconscionable. Another hearing here in
11 Fairbanks and in the other communities of the Yukon Flats
12 that you omitted and any place the Caribou Clan is
13 represented because they are part of the story, et cetera,
14 et cetera, et cetera. I'm sorry you are tired. It's a
15 big thing.

16 MR. FRANK MAXWELL: I'm Frank Maxwell,
17 F-R-A-N-K M-A-X-W-E-L-L from Fairbanks. I'm speaker
18 No. 64. I did not get heard. Because of the sensitivity
19 and the public interest in this, all speakers who wish to
20 be heard should be heard. I can empathize with you
21 because I have been on that side of the table. I have
22 been there as late as 12:00 at night, so you can do it.

23 MR. JUSTIN HILL: Hi. My name is Justin
24 Hill, J-U-S-T-I-N H-I-L-L, and I'd like to request another
25 hearing. Thank you.

1 MR. DAVID BATTS: Okay. Wonderful. So a
2 couple quick things. I would like to thank everybody for
3 their time tonight. It has been a long evening, but there
4 has been wonderful testimony, a lot of great input
5 provided. I learned a few things about the audience. I
6 learned that people traveled far. So I want to thank
7 everybody for making the travel to be here tonight with
8 us. I learned that there are many, many eloquent speakers
9 out there. And I appreciate you speaking to us and
10 providing that input to us.

11 We also have brave youth out there. So it's always
12 wonderful to see the youth speaking and providing comments
13 at these events.

14 And lastly I want to thank you for the respect that
15 we had. We know these are very controversial issues, and
16 we appreciate the respect. We will be having a scoping
17 report that will be summarizing all the input that we get
18 from these processes. Again, please submit your written
19 comments. If you had written -- if you had testimony that
20 you didn't get to submit tonight and it's written down,
21 please leave it in the comment boxes and that will go
22 right into the record and be analyzed with everything
23 else. So thank you again for your time and efforts.

24 Joe, do you have any concluding remarks you would
25 like to add?

1 MR. JOE BALASH: Just that a couple of
2 groups have asked us for some decisions by Friday with
3 regard to the comment period deadline, as well as an
4 answer on the Fort Yukon and other associated villages
5 questions. I have every intention of making that
6 deadline. So there will be an update by the end of the
7 day on Friday.

8 MR. DAVID BATTS: Okay. Thank you, all.
9 Have a good evening. Drive home safely.

10 (Proceedings adjourned at 9:20 p.m.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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