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COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING

Personal Comments

Taken February 11, 2019
Commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Pages 1 - 79, inclusive

Taken at
Dena'ina Center
600 West 7th Avenue
Idlughet 3
Anchorage, Alaska

Reported by: Susan J. Warnick, RPR

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

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

Joe Balash
Assistant Secretary

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

Rob Brumbaugh
Section Chief, Oil and Gas

Mike Gieryic
Attorney

Lesli Ellis-Wouters
Chief of Communications

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

Greg Siekaniec
Regional Director

Steve Arthur
Biologist

Steve Berendzen
Arctic Refuge Manager

For United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

Craig Perham
Wildlife Biologist

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

2 For EMPSI:

3 Chad Ricklefs
Project Manager

4 Amy Lewis
5 Assistant Project Manager

6 Katlyn Lonergan
Environmental Planner

7 For ABR:

8 Alex Prichard
9 Senior Scientist

10 For SRB&A:

11 Paul Lawrence
Senior Research Associate

12 Taken by:

13 Susan J. Warnick, RPR
14
15

16 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken
17 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before
18 Susan J. Warnick, Registered Professional Reporter and
19 Notary Public within and for the State of Alaska.
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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MARY SCHALLERT: My name is Mary Schallert. I
3 want to go on record with a no to opening ANWR. A big no.
4 As many no's as I can get. That will be all.

5 BRENDA HEWITT: My name is Brenda Hewitt,
6 H-e-w-i-t-t, and I live in Wasilla, and I have lived in
7 Alaska for 52 years now, and this is really what I wanted
8 to say. I have been waiting for this development to
9 happen for most of my life. I just think it's about time
10 for it to happen, and I know most of the comments you're
11 going to get are probably anti, and I just want to make
12 sure that somebody is able to go in and say, oh, yes,
13 please, you know. Do all the protections that you need to
14 to do to make sure that we keep the environment as best we
15 can, take care of the animals, but, you know, there is
16 lots of oil in there, let's get it out and put it in the
17 pipeline. Keep it moving. That's it.

18 JASON GRENN: My name is Jason Grenn. I'm here
19 today representing myself as a fourth generation Alaskan,
20 who is raising a fifth generation of Alaskans. I believe
21 that the Department of Interior should complete the final
22 EIS, as I do support a lease sale on lands in the 1002
23 area. Thank you.

24 CHARLES PASKVAN: Charles Paskvan, and I'm here
25 to make comment on the Section 1002 of ANWR, and I'm fully

1 behind the development of our resources as was guaranteed
2 under our statehood agreement with the federal government,
3 as agreed to under the ANILCA Act where they promised to
4 allow the development of Section 1002 after seismic
5 testing. We have finally been allowed to go out there and
6 do the testing and do the leasing and develop our
7 resources.

8 This is a major part of Alaska's future to have
9 the coastal plain developed for the employees of the
10 state, state jobs, for teachers, the school system, that
11 they need the royalties paid into the state to help fund
12 all these programs that everybody is complaining about
13 being unable to get the funding for the projects and for
14 the kids. Always got to say: For the children.

15 This is not about me. I'm semi retired right
16 now. I would have liked to have worked more in my past
17 years, but I'm surviving. The key here is for the next
18 generations, the development of the resources on the
19 coastal plain will be an incredible asset for the state of
20 Alaska and the national security. We don't have to buy
21 oil from terrorist-sponsored states. We're providing jobs
22 in America and the wealth stays in America and takes care
23 of Americans.

24 The amount of oil flowing down the pipeline
25 right now is a quarter of capacity. If we had a full

1 pipeline, we would not have the problems that we have. I
2 spent the last six years of my work working as pipeline
3 safety. I'm nationally-accredited in safety. And I could
4 go into pump stations, and I would see that the low flow
5 rate has caused the pipeline to have cold spots and icing
6 up in certain low points. This is becoming an issue on
7 the pipeline. So if we had a full pipeline, if we had a
8 million barrels a day going down the pipeline, you would
9 have the oil that is hot enough to keep that safe, and
10 you'd had enough royalties to pay for all these projects I
11 was just referring to previously.

12 Next, on the caribou migration, the caribou in
13 the National Wildlife Refuge, Section 1002. Now, I
14 watched a National Geographic documentary on caribou, and
15 they said that after a caribou is two months old, it could
16 out maneuver -- this tiny little calf and I watched the
17 video. It could out maneuver the fastest healthiest wolf.
18 There was the video. I watched it. There was a little
19 caribou out maneuvering a hungry wolf. The wolf couldn't
20 catch this little calf that was about three months old.

21 So the caribou love downtown Prudhoe Bay. I was
22 in downtown Prudhoe Bay in 1992, and I saw the central
23 caribou herd cross over the road in front of me for over
24 45 minutes. There was miles of caribou going south. This
25 is like mid August. I can't remember the exact week, but

1 the point is all these caribou were born in downtown
2 Prudhoe Bay area, and they do their calving in Prudhoe
3 Bay, and so their calves when they are born, they are
4 safe. Their calves are safe because they don't leave the
5 Prudhoe Bay area for a few months. So they are strong
6 enough and healthy enough after they leave the Prudhoe Bay
7 area to out maneuver the wolves. So the caribou love
8 downtown Prudhoe Bay. I have been around the oilfield
9 enough to know that. I have seen them get up on the
10 gravel pad to get away from the mosquitoes, to scratch
11 their back on the wellhead, the houses there. They
12 scratch their body against the buildings because
13 mosquitoes bother them, but they get away from them a
14 little bit up on at that gravel. That's nice. So there
15 is no argument that is more for the development than
16 watching the caribou being safe and protected from the
17 wolves in their first two months as calves.

18 And they manage to move through the whole
19 oilfield unobstructed. People that work there, we make
20 sure that they are not bothered, and they can, you know,
21 take their time going across the road. We sit and wait.
22 We're good. We take very good care of the wildlife up
23 there. Any wildlife issues, they are always first. When
24 the oil companies are in the area, we take care of the
25 wildlife first, and then we do our best to find some oil

1 and create jobs.

2 The potential for a great discovery in the
3 National Petroleum Reserve is so important for this
4 country, for the state, for jobs for the individuals.
5 Now, I was talking with this young gentleman who owns --
6 he's a Native, lives in Kaktovik village, which is in
7 Section 1002, and I was at Fred Meyer's, and he saw me and
8 he recognized me. He said, I know your dad. And we
9 started chatting, and I says, so what are you doing down
10 here in Anchorage. He goes, well, you know, I live
11 actually in Kaktovik, but I come to Anchorage once in a
12 while. I said, how is it living in Kaktovik? He says,
13 well, how would you like pay \$7.50 for a gallon of
14 gasoline when you're sitting on a world class oil deposit
15 that they have ownership of. They have a lot of land
16 there in Native lands. I think it's 70-, 80,000
17 acres that the Natives own.

18 The people I have talked to that are part of the
19 national coastal plain there in Kaktovik village, they
20 want to have that oil developed. They want to have the
21 opportunity to create jobs for their people in that area,
22 and they should have the right to do it. It's their
23 lands. He was adamant. He wanted it developed, and this
24 was like half a dozen years ago I talked to him, so I was
25 still working up on the pipeline at that time, and it was

1 pretty nice to chat with him a bit, talking about my dad.
2 My dad has passed now. I was born here.

3 Something has to happen for every reason. You
4 know, you can listen to these environmentalist and they
5 will tell you, oh, it's the wrong place, go somewhere
6 else, and then you go somewhere else, and they'll say, oh,
7 this is the wrong place, go somewhere else. You know,
8 they get such a power charge by being able to tell you go
9 somewhere else, and you're stupid enough to let them push
10 you around, and it ain't right.

11 These people, I asked this one environmentalist
12 who worked for the Wilderness Society, I said, so, who's
13 paying you these big wages to be an environmentalist? She
14 wouldn't tell me. I said, I know the Saudis, they don't
15 want the coastal plain developed, and I bet you any amount
16 of money these Saudis are contributing money to these
17 environmental groups, and they say they are doing it out
18 of love, the environmental groups, but they are doing
19 anything they can -- these Arab countries are doing
20 everything they can financially to stop the development of
21 American resources because they want their oil sold to us.

22 Lord willing, we will get this done. Thank
23 you, you all have a good day.

24 CATHY DUXBURY: Cathy Duxbury, and I'm
25 testifying for myself, and I'm here in support of drilling

1 in ANWR. I'm not going to give a long statement, but the
2 truth is the people that are getting up there are giving a
3 lot of misinformation. We need to drill in ANWR; we need
4 jobs. They can do it responsibly and it makes sense. The
5 person up there right now is screaming for education, but
6 where do you think the money comes from? It has to be
7 done. And by the way: Make Alaska great again.

8 JANIS BRONSON: My name is Janis Bronson. I'm
9 going to give the court reporter my written statement.
10 Thank you.

11 ALBERT FOGLE: My name is Albert Fogle, and I
12 represent the Alaska Chamber as well as myself in these
13 views.

14 As vice president of the Alaska Chamber, I'm
15 talking to you today in strong support for the proposed
16 oil and gas lease program that would allow limited
17 activity within the non-wilderness coastal plain of ANWR.
18 Here are some bullet points that I feel are paramount to
19 the oil and gas lease program, which will allow activity
20 within the non-wilderness coastal plain of ANWR.

21 One, responsible oil and gas development in the
22 small fraction of ANWR proposed for leasing will help
23 ensure America's energy security for decades and allow
24 Alaska and our nation as a whole to realize the benefits
25 that come from expanding energy production in Alaska.

1 Two, the DEIS includes a wide range of
2 alternatives which contain measures to avoid or mitigate
3 surface impacts and minimize ecological disturbances
4 throughout the the program area.

5 Three, under the three development alternatives
6 the footprint of production and support facilities will be
7 limited to no more than 2,000 surface areas of the 1.2
8 million square acres of the 1002 area, which is the non-
9 wilderness portion of refuge's coastal plain that is
10 equivalent to just .01 percent of ANWR's 19.3 million
11 acres.

12 Number four, energy production from the non-
13 wilderness coastal plain has the potential to offset a
14 decline in Lower 48 shale production, which is expected to
15 commence in approximately a decade. Without limited oil
16 development on the coastal plain, America will be forced
17 once again to rely on foreign imports of oil. With
18 limited development in ANWR, America and Alaska can grow
19 the economy and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

20 Number five, the program area covered by the
21 DEIS contains an estimated 7.68 billion barrels of
22 technically recoverable oil and seven trillion cubic feet
23 of natural gas.

24 Six, Alaska's economic lifeline, TAPS or the
25 Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, is now running at

1 three-quarters empty. New oil production from the coastal
2 plain has the potential to reverse throughput in TAPS, a
3 vital component of American's energy infrastructure.

4 Seven, oil development on a fraction of the
5 coastal plain would create thousands of jobs nationwide
6 and in Alaska generating billions of dollars in government
7 revenue for public services, keep energy prices for
8 American consumers affordable, and further improve energy
9 security for decades into in the future.

10 Number eight, since the non-wilderness coastal
11 plain is less than 60 miles from TAPS, development of
12 energy resources is one of the most environmentally sound
13 ways to increase oil production in Alaska.

14 Number nine, thanks to continuing improvements
15 in technology, practice, and oversight, the oil industry
16 has demonstrated over the past 40 years that North Slope
17 energy development and environmental stewardship can and
18 do coexist. The industry has a proven track record of
19 responsible development in sensitive areas, protecting the
20 environment, wildlife, and subsistence needs of local
21 residents.

22 Number 10, advances in technology have greatly
23 reduced the footprint of development in the Arctic. As
24 much as 60-plus square miles can now be developed from a
25 single 12-to-14 acre gravel drill site. New drilling

1 capabilities are being developed that may increase the
2 subsurface development possible from the same drill site
3 as much as 150-plus square miles. The net effect is ever
4 decreasing impact on surface resources.

5 I think the next one is 12. Development of
6 Native-owned land on the non-wilderness coastal plain will
7 provide significant economic benefits for the Alaska
8 Natives on the North Slope as well throughout the state
9 through direct payment of royalties and revenue sharing
10 among the Alaska Native corporations and their
11 shareholders.

12 13, polls have consistently shown that Alaska
13 overwhelmingly support responsible oil and gas development
14 in the non-wilderness portion of ANWR. There is no valid
15 reason why we should not be allowed to access the world
16 class resources within just a minuscule fraction of the
17 coastal plain.

18 14, while renewable energy is a growing part of
19 America's energy portfolio, it is still projected to
20 account for a minority of American energy production in
21 2040. New oil and gas production will be required to
22 power America's economy and can serve as a bridge until
23 renewable energy becomes a dominant resource decades into
24 the future.

25 The final point, the coastal plain was

1 specifically identified for Congress pursuant to Section
2 1002 of ANILCA for its potential for oil and natural gas
3 resources. Oil and gas from the non-wilderness portion of
4 the coastal plain is an important resources of meeting our
5 nation's energy demands and achieving energy dominance.

6 We continue to support the ANWR section to be
7 developed for oil and gas. Any questions, please contact
8 myself.

9 PETER STOKES: My name is Peter J. Stokes. I'm
10 a professional petroleum engineer working for
11 Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska. I am testifying on
12 behalf of myself, my wife, my three offspring who work in
13 Anchorage, and my five grandkids and their future.

14 I grew up on the Kenai Peninsula, went to
15 college in Fairbanks, and I have been working in oil and
16 gas, starting in Alaska, with jobs in other states and
17 overseas and working for the last 18 years in Anchorage.

18 I strongly support the proposed oil and gas
19 lease program that would allow limited activity within the
20 non-wilderness portion of the coastal plain of ANWR.
21 Responsible oil and gas development in the small 1002 area
22 of ANWR proposed for leasing will allow Alaska and our
23 nation as a whole to realize the benefits that have come
24 from expanding energy production in Alaska.

25 The footprint of production and support

1 facilities will be limited to no more than 2,000 surface
2 acres of the 1.6 million acre 1002 area, which is the non-
3 wilderness portion of the refuge's coastal plain. That is
4 just .01 percent of ANWR's 19.3 million acres.

5 The program area covered by the DEIS contains an
6 estimated 7.68 billion barrels of technically recoverable
7 oil and seven trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

8 Alaska's economic lifeline, the Trans-Alaska
9 Pipeline System, is now running at three-quarters empty.
10 New oil production from the coastal plain has the
11 potential to reverse throughput in TAPS, a vital component
12 of American energy infrastructure. Since the
13 non-wilderness coastal plain is less than 60 miles from
14 TAPS, development of energy resources there is one of the
15 most environmentally sound ways to increase oil production
16 in Alaska.

17 Oil development on a fracture of the coastal
18 plain would create thousands of jobs nationwide, generate
19 billions of dollars in government revenue for public
20 services, keep energy prices for American consumers
21 affordable and further improve energy for decades into the
22 future.

23 Due to improvements in technology, practices,
24 and oversight, the oil industry has demonstrated over the
25 past 40 years that North Slope energy development and

1 environmental stewardship can and do coexist. The energy
2 has a proven track record of responsible development in
3 sensitive areas, protecting the environment, wildlife, and
4 subsistence needs of local residents.

5 Advances in technology have greatly reduced the
6 footprint of development in the Arctic. As much as
7 60-plus square miles can now be developed from a single
8 12-acre gravel drill site. New drilling capabilities are
9 being developed for the North Slope that will increase the
10 subsurface development possible from the same size drill
11 site to as much as 150-plus square miles. This results
12 smaller impacts on surface resources.

13 Development of Native-owned lands on the
14 non-wilderness coastal plain would provide significant
15 economic benefits to Alaska Natives on the North Slope as
16 well as throughout the state through direct payment of
17 royalties and revenue-sharing among of the Alaska Native
18 corporations and their shareholders.

19 The coastal plain was specifically identified by
20 Congress, pursuant to section 1002 of ANILCA, for its
21 potential for oil and gas resources, and natural gas
22 resources.

23 Once again, for the benefit of Alaska Natives,
24 both on the North Slope and in all Alaska, benefit to the
25 state and for future jobs for my grandchildren, I fully

1 support the exploration and leasing of the coastal plain
2 area of ANWR.

3 ALLEN R. THOMPSON: My name is Allen Thompson.
4 I have lived in this state for 57 years and have seen a
5 very wide range of development, both good and bad, and I'm
6 a biologist, and I have lived in the Arctic for eight
7 years in both Anaktuvuk Pass and Wainwright, which is
8 accessible to the ANWR region.

9 I specialize in botany and insect development of
10 the Arctic, and I have worked cooperatively with village
11 elders from both Anaktuvuk Pass and Wainwright in terms of
12 historical ethnic studies, especially as it relates to
13 wildlife, and I have physically explored the mountainous
14 and coastal plain of ANWR on numerous occasions. I feel
15 that I have a good study of what I'm about to say in terms
16 of being in favor of development in the ANWR region.

17 My first point is that in my experience in the
18 Arctic and my experience in the years that I have lived in
19 Alaska, I have seen the oil companies do a comparatively
20 fair job. In the last 10 years it's been an exceptionally
21 good job because of the pressure of the public, both
22 environmental and the general public, to hold development
23 in the Arctic to a high standard of safety.

24 I'm in favor of development in ANWR. I think
25 that the state of Alaska would benefit measurably,

1 financially, educationally, and historically as well, for
2 that kind of development.

3 In summary, I would like to specify that many of
4 the people who are opposed to ANWR development have not
5 had the experience that I've had both on site as well as
6 with the indigenous people who live in the region, and I
7 feel that they are not being ethically, nor are they being
8 educationally sound, in their argument for not developing
9 the ANWR.

10 In further summary, I want to go on the record
11 as being in favor of development, and I would like to see
12 this happen rather soon. Thank you.

13 WENDY LINDSKOOG: My name is Wendy Lindskoog.
14 I'm an Anchorage resident. I come from a long line of
15 Alaskans. I want to voice my support for the current
16 draft EIS process and a competitive oil and gas program
17 for the leasing, development, and production of oil and
18 gas in the coastal plain of ANWR. I support Alternative B
19 that would offer the maximum acres for lease sale.

20 I believe the oil industry in Alaska for the
21 last 40 years has proven it can safely can develop oil and
22 gas resources while minimizing environmental impacts.
23 Advances in technology have greatly reduced the footprint
24 of development in the Arctic. As much as 60-plus square
25 miles can now be developed from a single 12-to-14 acre

1 gravel drill site. New drilling capabilities are being
2 developed that may increase the subsurface development
3 possible from the same size drill site to as much as
4 150-plus square miles. The net effect is an ever
5 decreasing impact on surface resources.

6 Responsible oil and gas development in the small
7 part of ANWR proposed for leasing will insure America's
8 energy security for decades and allow Alaska to realize
9 the benefits that come from expanding energy production.
10 By 2040 the world will still need over 50 percent of its
11 energy to come from fossil fuel. I believe Alaska is an
12 important part of that future supply chain.

13 Finally, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System is now
14 running at three-quarters empty. New oil production from
15 the coastal plain has the potential to reverse throughput
16 in TAPS, a vital component of American energy
17 infrastructure.

18 JAMES FUEG: My name is James Fueg. My address
19 is PO Box 670236, Chugiak, Alaska.

20 I'm testifying today to ask BLM to select
21 Alternative B of the coastal plain Oil and Gas Leasing
22 Program Draft EIS and to authorize oil and gas development
23 in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
24 Refuge.

25 The history of oil and gas development on the

1 North Slope of Alaska clearly and definitively shows that
2 development in the area can be done safely and responsibly
3 with minimal impacts to the environment and fauna of the
4 area. This is in contrast to many other areas of the
5 world where oil and gas development is not done to the
6 same standards as here in Alaska. Additionally, by
7 leveraging the existing production infrastructure in the
8 region, such as the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and utilizing
9 recent technological advances, such as extended reach
10 drilling, the footprint associated with this development
11 can be significantly reduced relative to what would be
12 required in other areas of the country.

13 For economic and security reasons, the United
14 States needs to become self-sufficient with respect to oil
15 production and this area offers one of the best
16 opportunities for long-term self-sufficiency as we work
17 towards a future of reduced oil consumption. This change
18 will not happen over night, and it would be irresponsible
19 not to plan for sufficient domestic production as we go
20 through this transition.

21 For the State of Alaska, and those of us who
22 live here, this development can be an important boost to
23 our economy bringing much needed jobs and revenue to an
24 area where they are sorely needed. This topic is one I
25 have frequently discussed with my friends and neighbors,

1 and it is rare to find an Alaskan who does not support
2 development of the oil resources in ANWR, or one who does
3 not believe that it can be done in a safe and responsible
4 manner.

5 Again, I encourage BLM to select Alternative B
6 of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program DEIS and
7 to authorize oil and gas development in the coastal plain
8 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you.

9 BETHANY MARCUM: My name is Bethany Marcum. In
10 last year's federal tax reform law, Congress opened up
11 area 1002 for oil and natural gas leasing. That decision
12 should ultimately boost oil production by 1.45 million
13 barrels a day. More than U.S. currently imports from
14 Saudi Arabia. The Department of Interior recently
15 confirmed plans to lease 2,000 surface area of area 1002
16 to energy companies beginning in 2019. Tapping into these
17 rich resources would boost Alaska's economy, which
18 currently suffers from a 7.1 percent unemployment rate,
19 the highest in the nation.

20 Alaskans are eager to responsibly reap ANWR's
21 bounty. In a 2016 survey, more than 90 percent of
22 registered Alaskan voters agreed that increasing domestic
23 production of oil and natural gas would create jobs and
24 stimulate our economy. Nationwide, opening area 1002 for
25 energy production would create up 130,000 jobs. All told

1 ANWR energy production would bring in 1.1 billion in
2 federal revenue over the next 10 years, and as much as 296
3 billion in the coming decades.

4 Some folks are concerned about the environmental
5 impacts, but spills are unlikely. In fact,
6 environmentalists started a website in 2015 to track
7 spills, but their page has not documented a single spill
8 in Alaska since that time.

9 With the recent steps to open area 1002 for
10 development, lawmakers have put the country on the path to
11 prosperity and energy independence. I urge the BLM to
12 proceed.

13 FENTON REXFORD: Thank you for the opportunity
14 to present my comments. My name is Fenton Rexford. I
15 come from the community of Kaktovik where I was born and
16 raised to speak to you on behalf of my people and myself.

17 I know you all visited my community last week
18 and have been traveling across our region while you are in
19 Alaska, and I hope your visit has been a good one.

20 As a reminder, Kaktovik is the only community
21 within the boundaries -- I repeat: Kaktovik is the only
22 community within the boundaries of the Arctic National
23 Wildlife Refuge. More importantly, we are the only
24 community within the 1002 coastal plain.

25 First, I would like to give you a short history

1 of our land and our relationship with outside groups.
2 Growing up we considered our homeland to extend from the
3 Continental Divide in the Brooks Range to the Arctic
4 Ocean, from Sagonvanik on the west, well into Canada on
5 the east. Our tribe had over 23 million acres of land
6 that we have inhabited, used for hunting, fishing and
7 gathering and raised our families for over 11,000 years.

8 Then in the 1970s the government took our 23
9 million acres and gave us back 92,000 acres around our
10 village. The deal was that this land they gave us was
11 locked up. We couldn't use it. Now it is part of
12 wildlife refuge. We were unable to access our Native
13 allotments and inholdings, and have been unable to access
14 our subsistence use sites with three- or four-wheelers.

15 Because of changes in the designation of the
16 land we have called home for thousands of years, we now
17 live with the extreme restrictions on how we can use our
18 own land.

19 Now some outside groups that do not call the
20 coastal plain home want to increase the restrictions, so
21 tourists and environmentalists can safely enjoy the
22 illusion that they are protecting the pristine original
23 state. These people forget there are actually humans who
24 live in the 1002 area who can and want to coexist with
25 responsible development and protect our indigenous

1 lifestyle.

2 All all too often the national debate frames
3 development and preservation as an either or argument as
4 if preservation cannot exist together. Within the Inupiat
5 community we believe this is a false model and one that is
6 ill-fitted to the realities of our existence. We do not
7 need to choose between the long-held traditions that are
8 our birthright and the economic security that comes with
9 oil and gas development of our resources, as long as that
10 development is done responsibly and with concern to local
11 communities in mind.

12 Ultimately, the Arctic is a region with an
13 interest in striking a balance between environmental
14 stewardship and economic growth. As Inupiat, we maintain
15 our traditional values while our culture continues to
16 evolve and adapt to the changing world around us. We are
17 not an exhibit in a museum, nor should the lands that we
18 have survived and thrived on for centuries be locked away
19 for the piece of mind of those from far away places. This
20 school of thought amounts to nothing more than green
21 colonialism, land grabbing in the name of the environment.

22 The Arctic is a vast vibrant diverse area that
23 comes with unique challenges as well as huge opportunities
24 to better the lives of our people who live in it. Our
25 people know that industry and wildlife can coexist. Based

1 on our experience, we have strong confidence in the North
2 Slope Borough's ability to protect our wildlife, natural
3 wildlife environment, and resources from adverse impacts,
4 particularly if decisions are made after considering local
5 input and subsistence resources such as caribou.

6 Responsible development in the coastal plain
7 means our people will continue to have access to running
8 water and flush toilets throughout our region. Responsible
9 development means access to high schools, health care
10 facilities, public safety and infrastructure. Things that
11 people from outside recall Alaska take for granted. For
12 many of my generation the only option for school beyond
13 eighth grade was attend to Indian School in the Lower 48.
14 Now we're able to provide our children with high school
15 education at home on the North Slope.

16 The Inupiat have always been able to adapt and
17 embrace the opportunities we are given. We consider the
18 resources the land provides to be our greater gift. We
19 consider what comes from below the ground as a symbol of a
20 gift just as important as the gift of the whales we catch
21 and the berries we gather from our homeland.

22 You do not have to tell the Kaktovikmiut who
23 lived on this land for generations the importance of our
24 land. We see it. We know it. We depend on it. We are
25 part of it. With this collaboration between the federal

1 government, our local people, and the groups committed to
2 limited environmental conservation, we can secure the
3 protection of this land for generations to come.

4 We have very important -- we have something very
5 important in common that often gets lost in this debate.
6 We all share a commitment to protecting this land, and if
7 we work together in pursuit of this goal, even as we
8 passionately disagree, I know that we will be successful.
9 Those tempted to take the easy route and reduce this issue
10 to black and white, for versus against, Republicans
11 against Democrats, industry versus environment, people
12 versus animals, and, yes, collaboration is difficult and
13 takes time, but the outcome will be a land that has the
14 potential to peacefully sustain both human and wildlife
15 communities will into the future.

16 I want to be clear on one last thing. I love my
17 Gwich'in brothers and sisters, who not take the bait of
18 non-government organizations. They do not speak for us.
19 We must not let them divide us. We were here thousands of
20 years before they stepped foot on our sacred lands, and I
21 promise you, we will be here for thousands of years after
22 the oil and gas has gone. I extend my hand out to you,
23 the Gwich'ins, that this development can occur safely
24 within our region. We support it and we want you to as
25 well, as we have proven that the right balance of

1 development and conservation is what has allowed us to
2 live the best of both worlds.

3 I have seen numerous family members of mine go
4 off to college and start careers. We have better health,
5 better infrastructure and better quality of life. I
6 believe we can do it safely and responsibly. Do not let
7 the NGOs divide us. This is our decision, and while I'm
8 always mindful of the need to protect the environment and
9 our way of life, the borough and the majority of our
10 residents have long supported careful development of oil
11 and gas resources in the coastal plain of ANWR.

12 Our people, working through the North Slope
13 Borough, and our regional corporation will act in the same
14 careful, responsible, and cautious manner we have in
15 dealing with our land and seas. We have the greatest
16 stake possible in seeing that any and all development is
17 done in such a way to keep this land safe, because this is
18 our world. It is where we live. It holds the remains of
19 our ancestors, and it holds the economic future of our
20 state's children and grandchildren. God bless you all.

21 ERIC WARD: My name is Eric Ward. I'm from
22 Anchorage, Alaska. I want to offer my support in
23 developing the ANWR drilling area. I think it's important
24 for the security of America. Nobody drills cleaner than
25 the United States of America. I think drilling can be

1 done and still protect the environment. It's important
2 that Americans do the development. I think for Alaska, it
3 makes sense. The environmental impact is minimal in terms
4 of the percentage of land that would be developed under
5 this plan, and I just want to offer that as an Alaskan and
6 an American, as somebody who has children, who is
7 concerned about our national security, I want to put my
8 support for the development of this area. Thank you.

9 RYAN MCKEE: Ryan McKee, and I'm speaking in
10 favor of opening ANWR for drilling, mainly because of the
11 economic impacts that it will have for the state, the
12 economic prosperity it will bring to rural Alaska,
13 specifically with job creation where jobs are pretty
14 scarce. In addition, the filling of the pipeline right
15 now is about three-quarters empty. ANWR would definitely
16 help refill the pipeline and bring a lot more economic
17 prospective to Alaska. Thanks.

18 GEORGE SIELAK: My name is George Sielak. I'm a
19 Kuukpikmiut from the community of Nuiqsut, which in our
20 language means People of the Colville River.

21 In Nuiqsut, our relationship with the oil
22 industry began at the Kuparuk field 40 miles east of our
23 village, and then Alpine field, which our village lies
24 within, and we have the closest relationship with The
25 industry, mostly in terms of distance, but also the

1 relationship that such proximity requires.

2 Alpine was the first oil discovery on
3 Native-owned lands, and we had to work hard to secure a
4 successful agreement with the oil industry that provided
5 for education, training preference in contracting and
6 local hire, but that also protects the environment and our
7 subsistence resources through strict regulations and the
8 creation of the Kuukpiik Subsistence Oversight Panel that
9 provides direct and ongoing local input and oversight on
10 industry activities.

11 When our people resettled in Nuiqsut in 1973,
12 did we think we would be directly adjacent to oil fields
13 and industry activity; that we would be drawn so quickly
14 into western business models, negotiating and fighting for
15 the subsistence rights of our people? No, of course we
16 did not. There have been road blocks, disappointments,
17 setbacks, and challenges all along the way that we had to
18 face. It is a difficult balance between subsistence and
19 the cash economy that the modern world demands we operate
20 on.

21 Of course, no system is perfect, and you will
22 not hear me say that maintaining such an important balance
23 is easy. It takes constant vigilance, renegotiating,
24 cooperation, and compromise, but it can be done. I know
25 because we are doing it in Nuiqsut, and we have learned

1 and adapted along the way, and I think that the fruit of
2 our labor, as they say, speaks for itself.

3 Just over 45 years ago our people resettled in
4 the Colville River area and lived in tents on the tundra.
5 We ate only food that we would hunt and fish to survive in
6 temperatures that got down to 40 below in the winter.
7 Today, we have a school; we have a health clinic, a store
8 and modern houses and infrastructure, and we are working
9 now to get a museum that will honor and memorialize the
10 history of our people. We cannot go back. We do not want
11 to go back. Our young people deserve the best that we
12 have to offer them in education, in opportunities, in
13 jobs, in life.

14 Today, one of the most difficult issues that we
15 face is environmental organizations who try to influence
16 people that our way of life and culture will be damaged by
17 development. We work hard to maintain a delicate balance
18 between subsistence and responsible development. We see
19 how animals such as caribou can coexist with development
20 in my village.

21 With respect to the Gwich'in people, I
22 understand your concerns about the Porcupine caribou herd.
23 I want to share that in our community we are still able to
24 harvest caribou even though we are in such close proximity
25 to development infrastructure.

1 I also sit on the board of Arctic Education
2 Foundation, which was started with seed money from BP and
3 works today to put our young people through college and
4 job training programs so they can follow their dreams
5 whether that be on the North Slope or elsewhere.

6 I know that it can be difficult for young people
7 and for people that live many miles away to see that
8 perspective because you didn't experience what we did:
9 Hauling water, gathering driftwood for heat, every day a
10 constant battle of endurance and self-sufficiency to
11 survive. It is an honorable life that our people have
12 lived for generations and there is nothing wrong with
13 forward motion, and the evolution of our culture to modern
14 times. We can only move forward from here. We cannot go
15 back.

16 That is why I have come to support the
17 Kaktovikmiut who have fought so hard for decades to secure
18 the same opportunities for their village and people. Out
19 of all the communities on the North Slope, and likely in
20 Alaska altogether, Kaktovik has been treated the absolute
21 worst by the federal government; the absolute worst. From
22 the military relocations to the refuge and regulations
23 placed on their subsistence, the federal government has
24 been very heavy handed in their interactions with the
25 Kaktovikmiut.

1 You, at the BLM, have a real opportunity here to
2 correct some of those wrongs, and I hope that you will not
3 let outside voices and interests distract you from the
4 critical task that you have been assigned here. I hope
5 you will listen to the frustrations of the people that are
6 here today from Kaktovik to speak to you and work to
7 correct the wrongs done by past generations of your
8 department.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
10 Quyanaq.

11 ROBERT ARCHIBALD: So I'm Robert Archibald. I'm
12 from Homer, Alaska. My comments on this is I'm seriously
13 concerned about BLM, especially with their funding and the
14 reduction of their personnel in the state. I'm just
15 worried that their oversight is going to be compromised
16 and and to get into the coastal plains right now with
17 their budget is going to be chewing off a little bit too
18 much.

19 So without better funding for BLM's oversight in
20 the state of Alaska, the federal government needs to look
21 at reality about what they want to do here. So I would
22 hope that they think seriously about postponing this until
23 they afford better oversight with enough personnel. Thank
24 you.

25 DENNIS WALKER: My name is Dennis Walker. I'm a

1 resident of Anchorage, Alaska. I have worked on the North
2 Slope. Particularly one of my favorite projects on the
3 Slope has been working for ConocoPhillips when they have
4 been doing exploration. Those projects have been quite
5 meaningful to me as an individual and have been very fun
6 to do and to see the results and the firsthand process
7 that goes into exploration on the North Slope, and that's
8 why I'm in favor of opening up the 1002 area, because I
9 see how responsibly the exploration process is done, and
10 also the operating of the field, in the operational phase.

11 I have heard many people that have not worked or
12 been up to the North Slope make concerns about the impacts
13 to wildlife. I have seen firsthand that the wildlife does
14 coexist quite well with development in the oilfield. The
15 locals utilize ice roads and permanent gravel roads for
16 hunting and transportation which is a direct benefit to
17 them.

18 In closing, Alaska has some of the best
19 practices to complete and do a project and operate safely,
20 and in an environmentally safe way.

21 CLAYTON GOODEN: My name is Clayton Gooden. I'm
22 here on behalf of NANA Regional Corporation. NANA
23 supports responsible development of oil and gas in the
24 state of Alaska and believes it's possible to develop in
25 ANWR while minimizing the impact to the caribou. The area

1 under consideration is a carefully defined and discrete
2 area and we're confident that it's possible to responsibly
3 develop in this area.

4 Development in our region is mineral based, and
5 we know it is possible to develop responsibly while
6 protecting subsistence resources and ensuring economic
7 developments that support communities, the state, and the
8 nation.

9 Responsible development in the coastal plain
10 will provide important opportunities for statewide
11 economic growth as Alaska recovers from the recession.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we
13 will be submitting written comments for the record.

14 REBECCA SENTNER: My name is Rebecca Sentner. I
15 live in Anchorage, Alaska, and I'm strongly against oil
16 and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife
17 Refuge. I looked it up, in fact, and according to
18 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service website, the mission
19 of the National Wildlife Refuge system is to administer a
20 national network of lands and waters for the conservation,
21 management, and when appropriate, restoration of fish,
22 wildlife and plant resources and their habitats in the
23 United States for the benefit of present and future
24 generations of Americans.

25 I think that is a fantastic and worthy mission,

1 and it's something I'm proud of as an American that we
2 have that refuge system.

3 I see development in the coastal plain in the
4 Arctic Refuge in direct conflict with this mission. I
5 believe it will cause lasting damage to wildlife and
6 destroy the landscape. And that certainly isn't to the
7 benefit of present or future generations.

8 I'm worried that this leasing program process is
9 being hurried along and that important environmental
10 impacts are being overlooked or ignored. I urge you to
11 stop the process and leave the Arctic Refuge free from oil
12 and gas development. Thank you.

13 RADA KHADJINOVA: My name is Rada Khadjinova.
14 and I'm here representing myself, and thank you for the
15 opportunity to provide testimony for the coastal plain
16 EIS.

17 I'm here in support of EIS, and specifically I'm
18 supporting the Alternative B proposed by BLM. My
19 perspective comes from 25 years of living in Alaska and
20 working in the public/private sectors of our state,
21 primarily I work in environmental permitting, engineering
22 design, and geotechnical and geospatial data projects.
23 Energy production from the coastal plain has the potential
24 to extend the useful life the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
25 and provide needed economic security to our state and to

1 our nation.

2 In reviewing documents shared by BLM during the
3 scoping, I believe it is important to note that out of 19
4 million acres of ANWR, only 1.5 million acres of area 1002
5 is under consideration for development, and out of those
6 1.5 million acres, only 2,000 acres could be used for
7 permanent production and support facilities at any given
8 time. I believe this is a reasonable approach for
9 development that aims to minimize unwanted impacts to the
10 environment and to maximize positive economic and social
11 benefits to the citizens of Alaska and beyond.

12 My firsthand experience working on the North
13 Slope, understanding of environmental permitting, and
14 compliance process as well as continued improvements in
15 technology have demonstrated that North Slope energy
16 development and environmental stewardship can and do
17 coexist and will continue to deliver benefits to the
18 public.

19 Thank you for the opportunity.

20 JOE MATHIS: My name is Joe Mathis. I live at
21 816 Oceanview Drive, Alaska, Anchorage. I'm a 40-year
22 resident. I came up here in 1975 and worked on the
23 trans-Alaska pipeline.

24 I spent 17 years working north of the Brooks
25 Range, and I'm currently the owner of a small business

1 campground up here in Talkeetna called Montana Creek
2 Campground. If it had not been for my work in the oil
3 industry and on the North Slope, I would not have been
4 able to buy that campground and have that small business.

5 So there is a positive benefit to the economic
6 activity going on on the North Slope, and I'm fully
7 supportive of the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife
8 1002 area, and express my support for that, and I hope
9 that this will move forward with the opening of ANWR and
10 the permits required.

11 STEVE HICKMAN: My name is Steve Hickman. I'm
12 here representing myself. I'm for the development in the
13 1002 area and for responsible development, so that Alaska
14 has a future, so my son has a future here.

15 That's about it.

16 CRAWFORD PATKOTAK: My name is Crawford
17 Patkotak, P-a-t-k-o-t-a-k. And I would like to speak a
18 little bit on the draft environmental impact statement on
19 the ANWR 1002 area, which is up for development.

20 I speak in the favor of responsible development
21 within the 1002 area. I believe we have a strong history
22 and ties to that land to speak in authority over how it's
23 developed and who it's developed for.

24 The fight for land claims which was made by the
25 Arctic Slope in 1966 was based on three things: Land use

1 and occupancy, trade and commerce, family and kinship.

2 Land use and occupancy. We have used and
3 occupied the land since time immortal. We never lost it
4 in any war; we never sold to it to anyone, and we never
5 lost in any which way. Never gave it up. So when the
6 Russians purchased Alaska, they never came up north of the
7 Yukon River. They never dominated us and that is proven
8 through history.

9 Family and kinship. We were related to one
10 another across the Slope and beyond the borders, and we
11 had a complex trading system that was in place before
12 western contact.

13 So those are the main premises for the land
14 claims. We received about a tenth of the land that we
15 claimed understand ANSCA, Alaska Native Claims Settlement
16 Act 92203. Which after the passage, we had very limited
17 access to the selection of those lands. The NPRA, which
18 is 23 million acres had already been locked up. The
19 Alaska Wildlife range at the time already had areas of
20 what is now know as ANWR locked up. State of Alaska had
21 already selected their lands within the Prudhoe area. So
22 we selected lands based on what was important to us, that
23 had to do with economic opportunity, cultural importance,
24 and what was important to our subsistence. And so the
25 boundaries of the Arctic Slope were set and based on that

1 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, so the whole northern
2 region is Inupiat region.

3 When Alaska Federation of Natives organized
4 there was certain rules that were set to keep continuity,
5 to keep peace within the Native groups of Alaska. One is
6 where we find commonality, we would work hard to fight for
7 something that we had in common. If there was an issue
8 that created tension and disagreement, it was put aside to
9 keep the peace within the Native community. And every
10 resolution that is considered at AFN is supposed to be
11 non-controversial. It's supposed to have agreement from
12 all regions. If there was a problem with one part of the
13 region, that would be set aside and try to work towards
14 what we can built in common.

15 Where the rules have been broken is where other
16 regions are trying to dictate what we can and cannot do
17 with the resources within our region. That was not part
18 of ANSCA, and it was not part of the Alaska Federation of
19 Natives. We have the rights of the Inupiat people and how
20 we have fought hard for them, both for our whaling rights
21 and land rights, and we need to keep intact those rights
22 for self-determination, local control. We have to have
23 our rights considered, our voice heard with a greater
24 weight than anyone else since we are local, and we are the
25 most impacted by any kind of development.

1 We believe in the right balance, responsible
2 development, perpetuation of our culture and our
3 subsistence rights, and we believe they can go hand in
4 hand. It is not either or. We believe it can happen
5 simultaneously and be sustainable.

6 That is the end of my comments.

7 LINDSEY HAJDUK: My name is Lindsey Hajduk. I
8 want to urge BLM to choose the no action, Alternative A,
9 in their final decision, regardless of what they believe
10 the tax code is mandating them to do. The impacts of
11 seismic testing and oil and gas development are too great
12 for the area in the coastal plain. Alternative D1 and D2,
13 those areas, are no lease areas, are not large enough to
14 adequately mitigate impact to the Porcupine caribou herd.
15 As well as Alternative C, the ability of directional
16 drilling underneath this coastal area for the caribou herd
17 would allow seismic testing and other damaging development
18 to the habitat and the movement of the Porcupine caribou
19 herd.

20 On the eastern areas of the coastal plain, it
21 also doesn't adequately permit for the Arctic caribou
22 herds, especially during their summer migration. During
23 mosquito and bug season, they want be able to pass or
24 cross development.

25 And this is all seen within Nuiqsut and all of

1 the roads to ConocoPhillips development and within the
2 NPRA, and the impacts they have on caribou migration as
3 well as Red Dog Mine road in western Alaska is impacted to
4 the western Arctic caribou herd.

5 There have been studies for years on the
6 movement changes by the caribou. They have been seen to
7 cause longer migrations, and they will move faster,
8 further, and shorter amounts of time, so it's not good for
9 the health of the caribou, and all of these impacts exist
10 within Alaska and have been long studied by the BLM and
11 Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish and Game for the state.

12 And all of those alternatives don't adequately
13 account for caribou impacts, which are extremely
14 important, not only for Kaktovik, but also the Gwich'in
15 communities off of the North Slope. They depend on the
16 same caribou, so do our First Nations partners in Canada,
17 and our treaties that are to protect caribou herds as
18 well.

19 I would also say there isn't an adequate buffer
20 along the coast for polar bears and other marine mammals.
21 The Fish and Wildlife Service has long been considering a
22 buffer along the entire coast of the Arctic, and this is
23 only five percent of entire coast that currently is
24 protected from development, so it's really critical that
25 we have a large buffer for polar bear, and that is 10 to

1 20 miles. It isn't little slivers as is outlined
2 Alternative C. The buffer is not large enough. And
3 because there is no buffer in Alternative B, it is
4 inadequate protection for endangered species like the
5 polar bear.

6 So, again, I just urge BLM to make a no action
7 alternative recommendation to the president and leave the
8 coastal plain the way it is.

9 ERIC PARSONS: My name is Eric Parsons. I'm
10 here today with my son Finn, and I read the draft EIS, and
11 I got to the executive summary where it listed like the
12 overall impacts, and not on that list was any mention of
13 climate change as a result of burning up and using all the
14 fuels in, you know, in the ground as part of this lease
15 zone, and I laughed because this is supposed to be an
16 environmental impact statement, and it's missing, like,
17 one of the biggest environmental impacts of all.

18 Then I started reading through the alternatives,
19 and with all the attention to caribou and ecology and
20 wildlife in what is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
21 only one alternative, D, had any real protections for
22 caribou timing and calving seasons. I thought that was a
23 shock those would be the last two of the alternatives over
24 B and C.

25 Additionally, there is 2,000 acre stipulation as

1 far as land usage, and I feel like BLM has taken the
2 absolute minimum approach to how that could be
3 interpreted. I feel strongly that it should be total
4 usage of land for the entire development ever, because
5 it's like once that land is disturbed, it's disturbed and
6 it's not going to heal for hundreds of years because its
7 the Arctic. And that doesn't take into account any kind
8 of reclamation, and they are also not counting things like
9 borrow sites or gravel pits that they conduct.

10 But most of all, I'm here for this guy, my son,
11 who it's his generation who has to live with our
12 decisions. I'm getting all emotional about this.

13 What we do to this earth will carry on to their
14 generation, and he's the one who is going to have to live
15 with it, and, you know, the wild spaces are theirs to
16 inherit.

17 That's all I got. Thanks.

18 MARIE DURIEZ: My name is Marie Duriez. My
19 family name is Hopson. I'm Inupiaq, and my family is from
20 Utqiavik. I am a proud shareholder of ASRC where ANWR
21 resides.

22 While I won't greet you in my Native language
23 like those who claim to speak for me and my people, I am
24 proud to say that despite not being taught my Native
25 language by my parents who never got a chance to learn

1 either, I can say with a hundred percent certainty that my
2 Native language will live forever as a result of one of
3 the many benefits my people have received from responsible
4 development in the Arctic Slope.

5 I'm referring to the Inupiat Rosetta Stone
6 project, which is made able not only for our ASRC
7 shareholders, but the public free of charge. The Inupiat
8 language will live forever through the benefits of natural
9 resource development. This is just one example of my
10 cultural benefits from development. I felt it was an
11 important one to share today.

12 I stand with my people of Kaktovik and their
13 right to responsibly develop natural resources in the
14 coastal plain, a small portion of the Arctic Refuge. A
15 small portion of land, I should add, that was promised to
16 us years ago by the federal government to make our own
17 decisions about. Our Inupiat leaders have fought for and
18 won to do what is best for our community and to fight to
19 ensure future generations can live a healthy and
20 sustainable life.

21 We are Inupiaq and have a deep respect for
22 nature. I see this in my leaders who are whaling
23 captains, hunters, teachers, and community leaders.
24 Anyone who opposes this is claiming that our future
25 generations don't deserve a chance to live their best

1 life. My leaders fight for the sacred, which is our
2 people. The elders, the families, the children, they are
3 sacred and they are our future.

4 I'm proud to come from a corporation that
5 doesn't cry and beg to be heard. We are heard. We set
6 the terms for our future. We are not victims. We stand
7 with and we listen to our people and our land. No one
8 else has more to lose in this leasing program than those
9 who reside on the Arctic Slope. We are strong, and we are
10 resilient and support responsible development with our
11 eyes wide open. This is our Inupiaq way of life.

12 I stand with Kaktovik, and I thank you for doing
13 the same.

14 DARLA MUNGUA: My name is Darla Mungua. I am
15 half first-generation Salvadoran American, Apache, Black
16 and oppressor blood. I am indigenous.

17 I know for a fact the whole Gwich'in Inupiaq
18 nation does not stand, nor give consent to drill, as well
19 as many other tribes and tribal beings, insects, winged
20 four-legged and ocean life around the world.

21 I know you see where we are small in numbers
22 here today, yet we're big in heart and spirit with
23 hundreds of thousands of ancestors behind us. We speak
24 for all people in the world, including you and all who
25 cannot speak to you today.

1 I will not speak research facts. I know you have
2 heard them all. I will speak from the laws of the spirit.
3 What is proposed is not new to the world, but another
4 tribe, another land. That can change here. Maybe you
5 personally cannot, but you can help. You can help your
6 own fate, change the wave lengths.

7 Others talk about jobs drilling will create.
8 Who will get those jobs; how exactly will drilling help
9 those communities, and why does America need more money?
10 Why is money more of a priority over the preservation of
11 the earth?

12 Sure, this president is running American further
13 into debt. Yet, look at all we already have. Do we
14 really need more? There are healthy alternatives to
15 drilling. Fossil fuel is not the only option. For
16 example, hemp oil. Fossil fuel will destroy all you hold
17 dear in your lifetime. Fossil fuel will leave us without
18 a future.

19 What is sovereignty? What was sovereignty to
20 your ancestors? What is a sovereignty to you? What is
21 sovereignty to indigenous ancestors? What is sovereignty
22 to indigenous people today?

23 The elite, the new oppressors can fly to the
24 moon. I mean, Mars. Yet, Karma will meet them there.

25 Science is a study of nature. Science is also

1 the mockery of nature. Science will never exceed the
2 capacity of what nature can do. The ones in power can
3 betray that, but in 10, 15 years we will see the side
4 effects. I don't need 10, 15 years to know that once you
5 take nature outside of herself, she no longer has the same
6 attributes, and it's never for the good. Science has come
7 to the same conclusions we have been sensing.

8 I was going to say something along the lines of
9 science is the white man's perspective and method to
10 gather how nature works. That is not how indigenous
11 people connect with nature. That's it.

12 DORI McDANNOLD: My name is Dori McDannold. I'm
13 from Palmer, Alaska. I have been a wilderness guide in
14 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Arctic in
15 general since 1998.

16 I'm one of the citizens of this state and this
17 country, along with the majority of people, who have
18 spoken up thus far on this issue of drilling in the Arctic
19 Refuge who do not want to see any drilling in the Arctic
20 Refuge. I want to emphasize the majority, because that is
21 what every public process since this whole idea began has
22 shown, that the majority of the people who have spoken on
23 this issue do not want to see drilling in the refuge.

24 But that's not what we're really here about, per
25 se, because there is this draft EIS, and so what I see as

1 a citizen of the state of Alaska and the United States is
2 that the current administration wants to push -- has
3 pushed the idea of opening up most of the Arctic for
4 drilling. They want to see it drilled. From my
5 perspective, it's just a mere state of greed, and that in
6 this country with the capitalism and the greed that they
7 do not like the idea of limits or even the concept of what
8 is enough.

9 So I really want to pose the question of: What
10 is enough when it come to more and more drilling,
11 especially in the area like the Arctic refuge, which is
12 unique and special in many, many ways from inhabitants
13 over thousands of years of the Native people and their
14 subsistence right to the migratory birds and the habitat
15 for water fowl and the Porcupine caribou herd, the list
16 goes on and on. It's a consideration of when do we call,
17 in this county, enough is enough?

18 So my question for this specific EIS process, is
19 does it do enough to protect the water fowl, the wildlife,
20 the Porcupine caribou herd, the traditional uses of the
21 indigenous people? I would say no, it does not do enough,
22 and it needs to go much, much further.

23 So overall I would say I would like to see no
24 plan approved, and they go back and tell the
25 administration that this is not a good idea. If we have

1 to pick a plan, I would pick D2, as that is the lowest
2 limiting.

3 I would add the suggestion that if they don't
4 want to or if they are willing to recognize the value of
5 the refuge as a wildlife refuge, then they would consider
6 finding a way to tell the oil companies, if they are going
7 to lease, that they can only drill from October to the end
8 of April. I trust that if we were to push those
9 corporations who make billions of dollars off of our
10 resource that they would be able to come up with the
11 innovation to do so: To drill only during the months of
12 October through the end of April. That is my suggestion.
13 The end.

14 GRETCHEN STODDARD: My name is Gretchen
15 Stoddard. I'm from Anchorage, Alaska. I'm here. I'm
16 happy that you are having this meeting and considering
17 opening the coastal plain to oil and gas development and
18 exploration, and I think that should move forward.

19 It is -- the federal government owns a huge
20 percentage of Alaska, and it is -- to me, we have a
21 regulatory scheme that works and knows how to regulate oil
22 and gas development. It shouldn't be everywhere, but the
23 Alaska Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the place to
24 have it. It is on shore instead of off shore. It seems
25 like it's easier to regulate it and control it, and there

1 are operators in Alaska who can do it responsibly. There
2 are government agencies that are here, not only the
3 federal government regulations, but there are state
4 regulations that will regulate the water usage and
5 interactions with wildlife and fish streams, and this is
6 the perfect place to have it.

7 Oil and gas development isn't going away any
8 time soon. To me, it's much better to have it here than
9 Indonesia, or Angola or China. Let's do it in a place
10 where we can watch it and regulate it, and if we want to
11 work on alternatives at the same time, that's fine. But
12 until we have those alternatives, this is the type of
13 place that oil and gas development can be done safely, can
14 be done responsibly. It will use a relatively small
15 footprint.

16 It's not like California that every, you know,
17 five acres of wetlands in some places is like we're down
18 to two percent wetlands, and this can be done in a small
19 footprint relative to the amount of development that is
20 already up there, and this is the time to move forward
21 with this. Thank you very much.

22 I will say it would be nice if the people
23 talking maybe had a time limit so that more people were
24 able to have time to talk. I'm a little disappointed to
25 be here and not be able to talk to the speakers, but I

1 thank you for taking these notes here.

2 Gretchen Stoddard. Bye.

3 ALANA STICKNEY: My name is Alana Stickney, and
4 I'm representing the Eyak Preservation Council

5 The Eyak Preservation Council is an organization
6 based in Cordova, Alaska, and we're against any
7 exploration for oil and gas, road building, or development
8 of any kind on the entire Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
9 In the region still affected by the Exxon Valdez oil
10 spill, we know firsthand the devastation that oil spills
11 can cause, and they occur invariably where ever they are.

12 In addition, this in an ecological ecosystem and
13 it should remain so for all time. Critically, the refuge
14 is a culturally vital region for the Gwich'in people: The
15 sacred place where life begins.

16 To develop in the Arctic Refuge is to desecrate
17 their beliefs and threaten their food source and a tribe's
18 way of life. They have standing and have solid claims
19 connected to their survival on this productive and
20 pristine land.

21 BECKY CARR: My name is Becky Carr. I have
22 lived in Alaska for 32 years. My education is in geology.
23 I'm a small business owner. I started a business 14 years
24 ago hiking people's dogs in the Chugach, and I know this
25 meeting is about permitting in the Arctic National

1 Wildlife Refuge, and that it's not an option not to drill
2 or not to give out permits, but I just want to say that my
3 number one concern isn't so much about drilling in the
4 refuge, it's about climate change and global warming.

5 I do think that the Arctic Refuge is a national
6 natural treasure that you can't put a price on. We have
7 drilled up there. It's 2019. We have got to do things
8 differently. We're not living in 1970, 1980, or even
9 earlier. We have got to do things differently now, and
10 that, to me, means changing our energy practices, stop
11 drilling, and try to decrease our carbon footprint as
12 quickly as we can.

13 I believe the scientists. I studied science,
14 and I really hope that the leaders and the people that are
15 in charge of this can see that we really have to put our
16 energies towards a different energy resource. Thank you.

17 KEVIN VACCA: So my name is Kevin Vacca. I'm a
18 part of Alaska Pacific University here in Anchorage.

19 I just want to say that if this does go on and
20 there is drilling in ANWR, how long will it be profitable
21 to them over the course of years? I mean, with the new
22 green plan that has just been, you know, on right now,
23 they are looking for new and greener energy, and so when
24 and if that is passed, it is going to be a huge change
25 from there. So if they really to approve the drilling,

1 it's basically just going to leave more scarring on the
2 land more than anything. Just because once the new green
3 bill is passed, there is going to be new resources, and
4 oil and gas isn't really going to be needed any more.
5 It's going to be a huge change.

6 The land and migration patterns of the Porcupine
7 caribou and all of the wildlife that is in ANWR, and I
8 think that that land needs to be remain untouched by
9 drilling. Just because Alaska is, as the Lower 48 says,
10 one of the last frontiers, and we need to keep it the last
11 frontier, and by drilling and scarring up the land, you're
12 kind of taking that title away from it.

13 I think for the sake of the land and the sake of
14 the people, I think it is best to leave big -- big ideas
15 like this up to the people that have been here the most,
16 and that is the Alaska indigenous people, and I think they
17 definitely have the best way to go about what to do with
18 the land, and that basically is leave it untouched, and
19 leave it to the wildlife and to nature and to them. They
20 deserve it more than we do. That's it.

21 GARETT ROSE: Hello, my name is Garrett Rose.
22 I'm a staffer with the Natural Resources Defense Council's
23 Alaska program, and I'm here speaking on behalf of NRDC's
24 14 hundred plus Alaskan members, a number of whom have
25 specifically asked me to speak.

1 Like a large number of Alaskans, our members
2 don't want to see American's last great wilderness
3 violated in the pursuit of extreme oil. They know there
4 are much better uses of the Arctic Refuge: traditional
5 uses, recreational uses, habitat for wildlife to name a
6 few examples. They know it is a place for people and
7 nature to exist freely and they want to keep it that way.

8 Moreover, they emphatically don't want the
9 Interior push forward with the underwhelming draft
10 environmental impact statement that's been produced this
11 far. The agency is under no obligation to move at
12 lightning speed. Congress gave Interior four years to
13 hold the first lease sale. Yet, at the direction of
14 political appointees in D.C., that is precisely the speed
15 at which the Department is moving. The associated work is
16 predictably concerning. The DEIS is a bramble of
17 confusing cross-references and truncated analysis. Our
18 members know that the environmental impacts of leasing in
19 the refuge are much more serious than the DEIS suggests.
20 They want Interior to step back and use the time Congress
21 has given to perform a full, accurate and comprehensive
22 analysis of such impacts that is based on the best
23 available science as the law requires.

24 Like many Alaskans, our members are confident
25 that the state's future is not in ruining the refuge for

1 oil and gas that will not flow for 10 to 15 years under
2 the best estimates. They don't want us betting on extreme
3 oil in the first place, and they certainly don't want us
4 to pony up the Arctic Refuge to do it.

5 The refuge is America's last great wilderness
6 and the coastal plain is its biological heart. Pursing an
7 oil and gas leasing program is a pipe dream, and in the
8 face of shrinking prospects for fossil fuels and global
9 climate change that wreaks havoc on the Arctic, it is a
10 dangerous one. Our members know this and they know that
11 the refuge is no place for drilling.

12 Thank you.

13 VALANNE GLOOSCHENKO: Good evening. Thank you
14 very much for the chance to speak. My name is Valanne
15 Glooschenko. I'm speaking on behalf -- testifying on
16 behalf of the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges.

17 So I'd like to begin by commenting how important
18 the coastal plain is in terms of wildlife. The Arctic
19 Refuge is one of our nation's most majestic public lands,
20 home to the Porcupine caribou herd, denning bears and many
21 of the other forms of wildlife including Dall sheep, 200
22 species of migratory birds, and the biological heart of
23 this amazing ecosystem is the coastal plain.

24 The coastal plain is no place for oil and gas
25 development. The Gwich'in people, who are Athabascan,

1 have spoken in clear opposition to the rush to drill in
2 the ANWR. A previous speaker commented that with 300
3 pages, she felt people rushed through it. There was not
4 enough time in just a few days to be able to get
5 substantive comments. I totally agree with this. this is
6 a very rushed process. You have not included indigenous
7 people. You have not included their languages. You have
8 not reached out to the people and summarized their
9 concerns in this EIS.

10 In addition to the human rights and subsistence
11 issues related to the important coastal plain, drilling
12 threatens to alter caribou migration and reduce birth
13 rates, risking the Gwich'in way of life, which depends on
14 caribou as a significant food source. The Inupiat people
15 who live near the Arctic coast also hunt caribou that use
16 and rely on the coastal plain.

17 I'm going to speak for a second about climate
18 change. The Arctic is ground zero for climate change.
19 Temperatures in the Arctic are rising at twice the rate of
20 the rest of the planet. Villages are eroding into the
21 sea; permafrost is thawing making infrastructure insecure;
22 food resources are disappearing. Oil production will
23 exacerbate the devastating climate impacts already being
24 felt in the refuge.

25 This comment was particularly emphasized by a

1 previous speaker, Dr. Paul Joslin. He commented for
2 almost 10 minutes on the rate of global warming which is
3 being experienced in the Arctic and the fact that it is
4 ground zero. This is no place to exacerbate and make ours
5 the devastating impacts of climate change that are already
6 being felt by people in the Arctic. Part of this effect
7 will come about from localized warming, warming from black
8 carbon particulates generated by industry.

9 I'm going to talk now problems with the draft
10 EIS. The draft EIS is deficient in many respects,
11 particularly the draft EIS continues four action
12 alternatives for leasing and drilling, but none of these
13 alternatives minimizes the area to be leased. All of the
14 proposed action alternatives would have unacceptable
15 impacts on the coastal plain and on its wildlife.

16 Another major deficit in the EIS is it does not
17 show the sprawling nature of oil development under
18 different action alternatives on any of the plans to allow
19 people to visualize and comment on the extensive nature of
20 the development. The public has a right to full
21 disclosure of the impacts that would result from each of
22 the four alternatives, but these are demonstrably missing.
23 They are absent from the draft EIS, which is an
24 extraordinarily critical deficit.

25 Thirdly, the problem is the EIS contains

1 proposed infrastructure requirements that also allows the
2 company to obtain waivers, exceptions, and nullification
3 of any of the requirements. It's impossible to comment on
4 the impacts of development if the public does not know
5 what requirements actually will be imposed. This is an
6 extremely serious deficit.

7 The fourth deficit of the Draft EIS is the tax
8 law Congress passed authorizing development in the refuge
9 limits, quotes, "surface disturbance," quotes, to 2,000
10 acres. BLM has chosen to interpret the 2,000-acre
11 limitation to exclude ice roads and excludes hundreds of
12 miles of elevated pipelines. It excludes gravel finds.
13 All the other types of infrastructure. However, BLM needs
14 to include all oil and gas development related
15 infrastructure in the 2,000-acre calculation. Otherwise,
16 the BLM is proposing a false set of data upon which it
17 wants the public to comment. It's proposing a false set
18 of information, minus all the critical infrastructure
19 elements that are simply not even on the table. Shame on
20 you, BLM.

21 Number five, many of the proposed requirements
22 to protect caribou are drawn from requirements to protect
23 caribou in the NPRA, the National Petroleum Reserve
24 Alaska. This is in northwestern Alaska. The NPRA is not
25 the same as the coastal plain. However, specifically the

1 refuge's coastal plain is much narrower than the entire
2 coastal plain, and the entire coastal plain is of critical
3 importance to caribou life cycles. So protective measures
4 in the NPRA are not going to be protective here.
5 Protective measures in the refuge must be based on
6 locations specific to the coastal plain, based on the best
7 available science, specific only to the coastal plain and
8 to its unique wildlife.

9 Due to the these and other problems, it is clear
10 that the BLM must issue a revised draft EIS that complies
11 with the EIS legal obligations to fully analyze the
12 impacts of oil development on the coastal plain.

13 Respectfully submitted, I am Valanne
14 Glooschenko, speaking for the Friends of the Alaska
15 National Wildlife Refuges.

16 LOIS EPSTEIN: My name is Lois Epstein. I'm an
17 Alaska-based engineer with The Wilderness Society, and the
18 organization's Arctic Program director. I give thanks to
19 the Dena'ina people for allowing me to speak today on this
20 land.

21 Since the Wilderness Society's beginnings in the
22 1930s, our scientists and other staff have worked in
23 Alaska to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from
24 development. We recognize it as a place where
25 extraordinary wildlife, wilderness, and subsistence values

1 and as iconic as other American landscapes such as
2 Yellowstone and Yosemite.

3 Had the provision supporting drilling not been
4 quietly attached to the 2007 Tax Act where it needed only
5 51 votes to pass the Senate, the refuge would still be
6 protected from development for future generations.

7 Fortunately, today California Representative Jared Huffman
8 introduced H.R. 5911 with over a hundred co-sponsors, a
9 bill that would repeal the drilling provision of the 2017
10 Tax Act.

11 As a technical analyst, I would like to refute
12 several incorrect statements often made by Arctic Refuge
13 drilling advocates.

14 First, the draft EIS does not include a wide
15 range of alternatives. All of the alternatives offered
16 show similar amounts of development and production. None
17 of the action alternatives presented complies with the
18 requirements in the 2017 Tax Act to minimize surface
19 disturbances and other impacts.

20 Second, even though the 2017 Tax Act limits
21 surface disturbances to 2,000 acres, the draft EIS
22 excludes substantial amounts of acreage that would be
23 impacted including gravel mines, ice roads, pipeline
24 arrays, snow fences, raised structures, etc. In effect,
25 the footprint of production and support will be much, much

1 greater than 2,000 acres under BLM's interpretation of the
2 law in the draft EIS.

3 Third, although the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
4 is operating at less than its peak, pipelines are always
5 designed and operated to carry less than peak flow. Oil
6 production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not
7 necessary to ensure that TAPS remains viable and economic
8 for decades to come. Staff at Alaska Department of
9 Natural Resources expect TAPS throughput to continue
10 increasing through the late 2020s due to new discoveries
11 that are now undergoing permitting, as well as offshore
12 Liberty development.

13 Fourth, the draft EIS does not show the
14 sprawling nature of oil development on a map that would
15 allow the public to visualize and comment on the extensive
16 nature of development. The public has a right to full
17 disclosure of impacts that would result from each of the
18 alternatives.

19 Fifth, the draft EIS fails to do an adequate job
20 differentiating between requirements developed to protect
21 wildlife in the geographically and geologically different
22 National Petroleum Reserve Alaska and the requirements
23 needed to protect caribou, polar bears and other wildlife
24 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Moreover, the
25 draft EIS does not sufficiently address data gaps, an

1 issue that we will lay out in our written comments.

2 Sixth, contrary to what some have said today,
3 Alaska's Arctic oil development has some real problems.
4 One employee died this past year. There have been two
5 blowouts attributed to thawing permafrost during the past
6 two years, and Alaska's venting, flaring, and fugitive
7 emissions requirements are well behind other state
8 standards.

9 For these and other reasons, BLM must issue a
10 revised draft EIS that complies with its legal obligations
11 it fully analyze the impacts of oil development on the
12 coastal plain.

13 Last, on a personal level and as an Alaskan, I
14 am concerned the state will have a long-term black eye
15 nationally and globally for unnecessarily destroying this
16 iconic landscape. While some may argue that oil
17 production on the coastal plain is not destruction, no one
18 argues that there will not be permanent impacts that will
19 transform this near-pristine area.

20 JANIE TAYLOR: My name is Janie Taylor. I'm
21 here to oppose the drilling in the Arctic National
22 Wildlife Refuge. I think the refuge was designated as a
23 preserve for a reason, because it's a precious place, it
24 had value to the American people as a place to preserve, a
25 refuge for the land, and animals, and people. I stand

1 with the indigenous people in protecting their sacred
2 lands.

3 I think we're in a time of climate change, and
4 we need to start thinking differently about our energy
5 resources, and in the 10 or 15 years it takes to get oil
6 out of the refuge, we could be developing all kinds of
7 alternative clean energy.

8 So that's it. I oppose drilling. Thank you.

9 MICHELLE MARTIN: Michelle Martin. I live in
10 Anchorage, Alaska. I just want to say that drilling in the
11 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge constitutes genocide of
12 the Gwich'in and Inupiat people. It also constitutes
13 genocide of the Porcupine caribou herd who rely on those
14 lands, and of many, many of living beings who call that
15 place home.

16 I would urge against industrial development in
17 that place. That's all.

18 NATASHA GAMACHE: My name is Natasha Gamache.
19 The reason that I am here today is because I would like to
20 give public testimony regarding potential leasing and oil
21 and gas development on ANWR and the coastal plain on the
22 Arctic Slope.

23 I'm here as an Alaska Native. I'm an Inupiaq.
24 I'm also caucasian, obviously. I come from both worlds.
25 So I was born in the states, but I was raised here in

1 Alaska in Nome. I was raised living the subsistence
2 lifestyle. I grew up fishing with my family, going to
3 fish camp, picking berries, picking greens, hunting in the
4 winter, living with my elders.

5 I know the history of our state, you know, and
6 having learned the history of our state, I know that there
7 are other things at play besides oil and gas development.
8 I think of Paul Hockens, I think is his name, he wrote
9 "Blessed Unrest", and he talks about how some people think
10 environmentalism is an issue all in its own right, and
11 that other social justice issues are separate, but there's
12 an indigenous perspective that environment conservation
13 and other social justice issues such as poverty, racism,
14 those kind of things, they are not mutually exclusive. In
15 fact, they are not separate. They are all part of the
16 same system of control and oppression, especially for
17 people of color.

18 So when I think of why I am not okay with
19 coastal plain oil and gas leasing, again I go back to our
20 state's history. I know that Russians came in in the
21 1750s, and I know what they did to our people. I know
22 what our American government did after the treaty of
23 Session and purchasing of Alaska from Russian. I know
24 what our American government did to our Alaska Native
25 people. I also know how statehood came to even be a

1 concept. It was because they wanted to drill for oil up
2 by Barrow, but they couldn't do it without owning Alaska
3 outright, and they found out that, oh, my goodness, when
4 the Treaty of Session occurred between the U.S. and
5 Russia, Russia explicitly put that the land was owned by
6 the people, and the federal government had to honor that.
7 So that's how ANSCA come into play, and that's how
8 statehood came into play.

9 The oil and gas development goes back to, you
10 know, our state becoming a state when our Native people
11 couldn't even vote, and we had a lot of Native people who
12 weren't even here because they were sent away, sent to
13 boarding schools, sent out of state, sent to foster homes,
14 sent to vocational programs.

15 So when I think of oil and gas exploration, I'm
16 reminded of not only the economic disparity between our
17 oil companies and what everyday Alaska live with, but I
18 keep going back to all of our statehood is tied to this,
19 and I look at Alaska Native people now, North Slope Native
20 shareholders, yeah, they have a lot of money, and they
21 want to keep that money. But if you look at other places
22 in Alaska, look at Newtok. ASRC isn't paying for Newtok
23 to move. They are not paying for Shishmaref relocation.
24 They are not paying for the other villages that have to
25 relocate as a result of climate change. Climate change

1 that was brought about by oil and gas development and the
2 burning of fossil fuels. All of it is linked.

3 And when people spoke today and said all Natives
4 are for this, not all Natives for this. I'm an Alaska
5 Native. I am Inupiaq, and I'm white. I'm not for this.

6 I worry that with oil and gas development, we're
7 going to have more spills. Because as much as big oil can
8 say, well, you know, we're going to do this in the best
9 possible way, but I still think of Exxon Valdez, because
10 I'm old enough to remember it. I'm old enough to remember
11 what happened in the Gulf of Mexico with the oil spills
12 there. I'm old enough to know that there have been oil
13 spills with our pipeline here in Alaska. Nothing is
14 perfect. No system is perfect.

15 There will be accidents, and what are they going
16 to do. Are they going to take care of the people when
17 that happens? They are certainly not taking care of the
18 people that were exposed to radiation through nuclear
19 testing here in Alaska in Northwest Alaska and Southwest
20 Alaska where Alaska Native cancer rates are three times
21 the national average due to exposure of atomic bomb
22 testing.

23 None of these things are separate. These social
24 justice issues are tied in with our environmental issues,
25 and our Alaska Native people have suffered enough. They

1 have given up enough. My family has given up enough. We
2 shouldn't have to give up more to satisfy somebody else's
3 greed. My children need a planet to live on. I need a
4 planet to live on. We all only have this one planet.
5 We're not taking care of it and we're not taking care of
6 each other. We know better and we need to be doing
7 better. That's why I'm here today.

8 I would ask that whoever is in the position to
9 make decisions that they choose Option A, which is to do
10 nothing, to wait, to study more, to give people time to
11 actually read 700 pages worth of study, and to decipher
12 all of that knowledge and to understand it, and to
13 translate it into Alaska Native languages, so that other
14 people have the chance to read it, and then I would hope
15 that they would take public comment testimony from all
16 Alaska, not just from people that have the ability to come
17 to Anchorage during business hours when they can send big
18 oil executives to come in and talk everything up, and, you
19 know, ASRC oil executives to come in and talk everything
20 up.

21 You don't see a lot of poor Natives here, but
22 let me tell you, there are a lot of poor Natives living in
23 poverty that can't afford clothes for their kids, that
24 can't afford food for their kids, who can't afford homes
25 for their kids. They are not benefiting from this. They

1 are not benefiting from raping the land of the natural
2 resources that our Native people protected for thousands
3 of years, that we thought were sacred, that our
4 spirituality was tied to in every aspect of our life.
5 We're dishonoring that as people.

6 I'm here to say that today I choose to honor
7 that. I choose to honor our land, and I ask that people
8 in positions of power, that they respect that, and that
9 they listen, and they give us time.

10 That's all I have to say.

11 JOSEPH WEST: I am Joseph West, and I come from
12 a suburb south of Los Angeles, and I grew up isolated from
13 local or natural lands, and we have to drive an hour to
14 two hours to find a place that are -- I wouldn't even say
15 are untouched, because they have paved trails and have
16 trail crews that do maintenance, and I hadn't ever been to
17 a place in my life that hadn't been untouched by another
18 person until I moved to Alaska three years ago. And I
19 think that it is a very humbling and eye-opening
20 experience to do this.

21 And I have found a lot of people back home are
22 very caught up with superficial things, like money, and
23 cars, and nice watches, and they keep up with the
24 Kardashians and distract themselves from the simple
25 pleasures that we have, that we should experience more.

1 I find the coming up here, I have found so many
2 other people that enjoy this pleasure and this passion for
3 the wilderness and what it can provide for us, not only
4 nourishment of our bodies, but of our mind.

5 I work with kids, and I show them what it can
6 provide for them, not only the physical nourishment, but
7 the mental nourishment that we can receive from it. I
8 believe in adventure therapy as a means of bettering
9 ourselves, and using our lands to not destroy them and
10 take resources from them, but to enjoy them in such a way
11 that we can co-exist.

12 And this isn't a concept that people understand
13 where I'm from. They don't know what that is. And I
14 believe it is -- I find an opportunity here to share this
15 thing with people around me, especially with the youth,
16 because we're finding more and more that our youth are
17 becoming depressed at younger ages because they surround
18 themselves with video games, and Instagram, and Snapchat,
19 and these are distractions, and I don't think that they
20 are healthy, and there are alternatives out there that
21 most people from the inner city aren't aware of.

22 I moved to Alaska to separate myself from this
23 superficial way of life, and I have been the happiest I
24 have ever been in my life since moving here.

25 I know that Alaska is known for its oil, and for

1 its salmon, and its resources, but I think its natural
2 beauty is something that it should be known for more. And
3 that as -- if what I have to say isn't any more important
4 than what the other people have to say, and I appreciate
5 what the other people have been coming and saying. They
6 speak and I hear their voices tremble, and it makes me
7 tremble. I have cried twice, three times since I have
8 been here. It's very moving, and I'm so glad that I am
9 not the only one who shares this emotion for our natural
10 land.

11 I just don't know what I can say, but I know
12 that I can share it, and it worries me that Alaska is so
13 well known for its oil industry, and I think that BP is
14 probably the largest building in Anchorage, and I think
15 that is awful. We have this Arctic refuge and we have,
16 you know, zoned it to be a place to be natural and
17 untouched, and if we let drilling happen here, who is to
18 say it's going to stop here? It's supposed to be a place
19 that is supposed to be untouched, and if they can rewrite
20 the laws and the legislators can change it there, then
21 they can change it and do whatever they want anywhere
22 else, and I just think that is wrong, and we should stick
23 to our promises that we have made to ourselves and to our
24 land.

25 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

1 TOM LAKOSH: Tom Lakosh, address 3301 Eureka
2 Street, A12, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; e-mail address
3 lakosh@alaska.net.

4 I would like to adopt and incorporate my prior
5 comments on the five-year lease plan for the Chuckchi and
6 Beauford Seas, and I would like to reiterate my concern
7 that the EIS is not sufficiently broad in scope because
8 it fails to account for the attraction of shipping to the
9 North Slope, which it has to travel through waters that
10 the Coast Guard considers remote areas that Open 90 does
11 not provide sufficient protection to because of a lack of
12 infrastructure along the route.

13 It fails to consider the use of best and safest
14 technology for oil spill recovery equipment, to recover
15 ice, to recover oil and broken ice, either on rivers or on
16 the coastal plain. It fails to use the state of the art
17 equipment that is available for oil recovery in ice in the
18 Baltic and Norway.

19 It is therefore deficient in the analysis and of
20 the ability to meet the federal leasing standards as
21 requiring best and safest technology, not only on the
22 lease site, but in transit to the lease site, including
23 the oil transit away from the lease site into Prince
24 William Sound at the Valdez Marine Terminal, which has an
25 inability to prevent an air-fuel explosion at the terminal

1 in the event of a catastrophic response plan a standard
2 size spill which may total, as an air-fuel explosion, of
3 up to five kilotons of TNT explosive force equivalent, due
4 to the evaporation of light ends, which are likely to be
5 more prevalent from the oil fields in ANWR as they is the
6 case in Point Thompson.

7 I request that the EIS scope be expanded to
8 include the evaluation of those technologies and exactly
9 what would be necessary to meet Open 90 requirements,
10 which would otherwise be applicable were it not for the
11 Coast Guard exemption in Alaskan waters.

12 It is also a question of false statements and
13 false documents being present in a federal investigation
14 where the ability to meet the estimated daily recovery
15 capacity for the state equivalent thereof for oil spill
16 response equipment, where that have been proven to be
17 overstated by a factor of 300 or more. In the McCondo
18 (ph) oil Spill, better known as Deep Water Horizon, where
19 there was quite a bit more infrastructure available and a
20 professed ability to to recover 500,000 barrels of oil in
21 the region in the Mississippi trench area. And an
22 additional 1.2 million or an additional .7 million barrels
23 of capacity were called into recover the McCondo spill,
24 but in fact even under that extreme ability to bring in
25 additional resources, the average recovery rate was 18

1 hundred barrels per day as opposed to the half million
2 barrels per day professed as immediately available, and
3 the 1.2 million barrels of oil per day recovered capacity
4 that was eventually brought into the region.

5 It is therefore a fraudulent misrepresentation
6 in a federal investigation to profess the ability to
7 recover that amount of oil in response to blowouts or a
8 pipeline spill along the coastal plain.

9 Please revise the DEIS to account for these
10 additional impacts to the environment that will
11 necessarily incur damage to the protected and endangered
12 species on the North Slope including speckled eiders and
13 polar bears and ring seals as well.

14 Please make sure that the oil spill response
15 equipment capacity is evaluated in a realistic manner and
16 not in the fraudulent manner that has been the case to
17 date.

18 Thank you very much for your consideration.

19 ALLEN DAHL: Allen Dahl. I'm testifying to
20 oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
21 This land was set aside as a wildlife refuge, not as a
22 place to drill, develop and expose. I came to this public
23 testimony today, and an overwhelming majority of the
24 testimony that I am hearing oppose drilling in the
25 wildlife refuge.

1 If you go back and you make laws that ignore the
2 voices of these people that so strongly love and support
3 this wildlife refuse, and if you ignore them and just pass
4 laws that will take away this land from them, it's hard to
5 say what -- how much -- how bad that is.

6 I'm at a loss of words because of how strongly I
7 feel about this and how sickening it is to have to come
8 here and talk about it, and let my heart out, and just
9 think that you guys are trying to take this land away from
10 us, and take it away from people, our communities, and
11 most importantly the wildlife.

12 The Porcupine caribou herd goes there to calve
13 as their sacred place, where their caribou are born, where
14 they sustain themselves. Developing this area to oil
15 drilling will really negatively affect that the caribou
16 herd. And it will negatively affect the Gwich'in
17 communities that depend on that food source as a
18 subsistence food source.

19 So I strong urge you to consider putting
20 Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, into the
21 legislature. It's so disappointing to read this draft EIS
22 and see the language that almost makes it clear that
23 Alternative A is not even a feasible option for you guys.
24 So I strongly urge you to reconsider that and choose
25 Option A, Alternative A, and do not drill in our sacred

1 land.

2 Thank you.

3 GLEN SOLOMON: This is Glen Solomon, submitted
4 February 11, 2019.

5 Good evening. My name is Glen Solomon, and I am
6 here to represent my community, Kaktovik. In my village,
7 I am a father, a husband, a whaling captain, a hunter and
8 also a leader. I have traveled to be here today in the
9 hope that people will listen without judgement to see the
10 needs of the people who live in Kaktovik.

11 It seems like a lot of people feel that they
12 deserve to have their say in how we live and manage our
13 own homelands, but I hope that they will listen to what
14 the Kaktovikmiut have to say on this issue. I know that I
15 don't speak for some, but I know I speak for most people
16 in Kaktovik.

17 I am raising my four beautiful children in
18 Kaktovik and my deepest wish is that when they grow up
19 they will have the opportunity to raise their own children
20 in Kaktovik on the resources that our land provides.

21 I want to thank the Gwich'in for highlighting
22 the subsistence importance of the Porcupine caribou herd.
23 We have equal interest in their long-term sustainability.
24 In Kaktovik, we used to have access to harvest from this
25 herd. When I say used to, I mean that over time the Fish

1 and Wildlife Service has restricted our subsistence access
2 to the herd and to our traditional hunting grounds. We
3 welcome the opportunity to work with the Gwich'in to
4 protect this critical resource through the International
5 Porcupine Caribou Board and other outlets, but I cannot
6 stand by while you claim falsehoods and try to speak for
7 all Alaska Native people on this issue.

8 We are the people of the coastal plain and we
9 are the people you should be listening to. We are here in
10 the spring before the caribou come and we are still here
11 in the dead of winter when there are no caribou round.
12 This conversation should be about people.

13 Anyway, we know from decades of development on
14 the North Slope that it is not caribou that you should be
15 worried about. You should be worried about the long-term
16 economic sustainability of indigenous communities who have
17 occupied this land since time before memory. You should
18 be worried about how they will support their people and
19 preserve their culture with no economic opportunity. You
20 should be worried about your bully tactics and the work
21 you have done to elevate the voices of one Native group
22 over another Native group. You should worry about the
23 millions of dollars you have spent fighting this issue
24 from Anchorage and Fairbanks and the Lower 48 where you
25 don't have the same difficulties that we do, when none of

1 that money makes it back to rural communities who need it.

2 I worry about the hypocrisy you have displayed
3 in trying your hardest to minimize the economic
4 opportunity of my community when you leased your own land
5 for oil and gas development in the 80s. In light of this
6 I wonder whether this is really about the caribou.

7 I could talk about the health benefits, the
8 public safety and infrastructure benefits, the benefits to
9 our schools and children, that the money the North Slope
10 Borough is able to bring to our communities through taxes
11 levied on oil and gas facilities in the region and we
12 have. It is clear to us that you are not interested in
13 listening. You are only interested in listening to
14 indigenous people when they are following your script and
15 saying what you want them to say.

16 When people say that this is public land, I want
17 them to understand why. It is public land because it was
18 taken from us, the Kaktovikmuit. You took our
19 self-determination. You took our access to subsistence
20 resources. You forced us through three military
21 relocations. You imposed western structures of land and
22 animal management onto us in an effort to stifle our
23 subsistence. And now you try to minimize our opportunity
24 to provide for our community. But our people are strong.
25 Our people are proud. Our people adapt. And the least you

1 could do is listen. We will not become conservation
2 refugees.

3 I will end with a quote from esteemed Inupiat
4 leader Joe Upicksoun, who guided our people and Alaska
5 Natives across the state through the turbulent Native
6 Claims process. He said this back in 1970, but it applies
7 just as well to today's fight, which will go to show just
8 how long we, as Inupiat, have been fighting for
9 self-determination over our own resources.

10 "We realize that each of you has pride in his
11 own land. By an accident of nature, right now the eyes of
12 the nation and the world are centered on the North
13 Slope... without intending to belittle your land, the real
14 reason for the entire settlement is the oil, which by
15 accident is on our land, not yours."

16 Here are our requests for the BLM. One, we need
17 access into the refuge in the summer for subsistence.
18 Two, we need access to our allotments. Three, we need a
19 local village liaison. Four, we need a baseline village
20 health assessment. Five, we need legitimate economic
21 opportunity and potential for local jobs. Six, we need you
22 to include current animal and subsistence use studies, not
23 data that is almost 20 years old.

24 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

25 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:15 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, SUSAN J. WARNICK, RPR, and 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
testimony and proceedings were reported stenographically
by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer
transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the
testimony and 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 _____,
2019.

SUSAN J. WARNICK,
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: April 8, 2022

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