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1 COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

3 PUBLIC MEETING

4
5 Taken February 11, 2019
6 Commencing at 1:00 p.m.

7 Pages 1 - 203, inclusive

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9 Taken at
10 Dena'ina Center
11 600 West 7th Avenue
12 Idlughet 3
13 Anchorage, Alaska

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21 Reported by:
22 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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

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

Joe Balash
Assistant Secretary

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
4 Project Manager

5 Amy Lewis
6 Assistant Project Manager

7 Katlyn Lonergan
8 Environmental Planner

9 For ABR:

10 Alex Prichard
11 Senior Scientist

12 For SRB&A:

13 Paul Lawrence
14 Senior Research Associate

15 Taken by:

16 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

17

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

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

2 MS. AMY LEWIS: Good afternoon, everybody.
3 We are going to get started here in a minute if you want
4 to take a seat.

5 Okay. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the
6 public meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
7 for the coastal plain oil and gas leasing program. My
8 name is Amy Lewis. I'm with EMPSI. We are the contractor
9 that is working with the Bureau of Land Management on
10 developing this document. My colleague, Chad Ricklefs, is
11 also here in the front, and he will be helping organize
12 the speakers as we get going tonight.

13 I wanted to introduce some people and then lay out
14 how the day is going to go in terms of flow and all the
15 different opportunities that are available for you all
16 here to ask questions and provide comments.

17 So first I'm going to introduce the people up here on
18 the stage. Immediately here first is Ted Murphy, the
19 Acting State Director for the Bureau of Land Management.
20 Next is Joe Balash. He is the Assistant Secretary for
21 Lands and Minerals Management for the Department of
22 Interior. Next to him is Steve Wackowski. He's the
23 Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs for the Department of
24 Interior. And then finally on the end is Greg Siekaniec.
25 He is the Regional Director for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife

1 Service, who is a cooperating agency on this EIS with us.

2 And additionally a few other important people.

3 Nicole Hayes with the Bureau of Land Management, she is
4 the project manager for the Bureau of Land Management, and
5 she will be available to answer questions. She will also
6 be giving the presentations today that are going to occur
7 at 2:00 and again at 5:00. It will be the same
8 presentation given two times.

9 We also have -- Mary Vavrik here in the front is our
10 court reporter. You will be -- she will be taking your
11 comments when you come up to speak if you wish to give
12 them publicly. We also have a second court reporter
13 that's back -- there is Sue waving her arms. Her station
14 is back behind the curtains there. If you do not feel
15 like you want to speak publicly, but wish your comments to
16 be on record, she is also capturing oral comments, so you
17 can go sit with her and provide them there.

18 For both stations, for the public testimony and also
19 for the one-on-one, there is no time limit. So you can
20 get all of your thoughts out, but please be respectful of
21 the other attendees and your other commenters. We want to
22 make sure that we get as much public testimony from all of
23 you as possible. So be aware of the amount of people that
24 will want to speak today.

25 When you came in, if you wish to provide a public

1 comment, you should have stopped over at the ticket booth
2 over there and gotten a number. We will be calling you
3 sequentially and staging you up here in the front row. We
4 are going to start with No. 1 here and we are going to go
5 to ten and then ticket numbers 11 through 20 will go over
6 here, and we will just keep cycling up as the day goes on.
7 And we will let you know what numbers we are on as we are
8 going so you can keep track. And those numbers are the
9 last three on your ticket.

10 So if you have ticket numbers 1 through 10, please
11 come up here and sit in your seat so we are ready for you.
12 So if you have 11 through 20, you can start staging over
13 here, as well. When you come up, Chad will be up here.
14 He will ask you to just sign your name so we have it for
15 the record and so Mary will be able to capture it, as
16 well.

17 And as you give your testimony, Mary may ask you
18 questions. Try to speak clearly. She might have some
19 questions about spellings. And if you have a copy of your
20 testimony, she would appreciate it if you leave it with
21 her so she can capture your thoughts exactly.

22 Also today, along with the two court reporters that
23 we have available to take public comments and one-on-one
24 oral comments, we have two computers that are set up in
25 the back of the room that are -- you can type comments

1 directly into the E-Planning website for the Bureau of
2 Land Management, and those will be captured there, as
3 well. We have comment forms available that you can fill
4 out and leave here with us today or mail in to the Bureau
5 of Land Management at a later date.

6 Let's see. What else? Oh, throughout the day -- the
7 meeting runs from 1:00 until 7:00 tonight. We have poster
8 boards set up along the back wall with resource
9 specialists available to talk about the EIS and what is
10 shown on the boards and answer any questions that you
11 might have. And again, Nicole Hayes here is also -- will
12 be roaming around when she's not giving her presentation,
13 and is also available to answer any questions.

14 Anything else? Okay. Well, with that, we are going
15 to start the public testimony. And again, the public
16 testimony is going to be running consistently throughout
17 the day until 7:00 p.m. And so this will be happening.
18 There is one-on-one testimony opportunity back there, and
19 additionally the open house with the specialists. So
20 there is lots happening and lots of opportunities to ask
21 questions of resource specialists and Bureau of Land
22 Management staff.

23 And another reminder that if you have ticket numbers
24 11 through 20, you can also come up here to this front row
25 over here to my right and start staging those chairs.

1 Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. DAVE HARBOUR: My name is Dave
3 Harbour, H-A-R-B-O-U-R. I want to start by saying this
4 is, at the beginning, one of the best organized Department
5 of Interior events that I've witnessed in about ten years
6 in Alaska. So thank you for that organization. It
7 eliminates problems.

8 As a 40-year resident, former and retired member of a
9 state regulatory agency, I hope that some of these brief
10 remarks -- about four and a half minutes' worth -- will be
11 useful to you that you might find a nugget or two.

12 In some of last year's scoping meetings, you heard
13 from a few witnesses that the current EIS process should
14 be rigorous because much on Alaska's North Slope has
15 changed over the years since ANILCA. While that statement
16 is partly correct, the BLM, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
17 and Department of Interior management should value and
18 never discount some extremely important studies that could
19 have great value in today's work.

20 By 1976, the Arctic Gas Consortium had completed 250
21 million dollars worth of engineering and environmental
22 studies which, in large part, covered the 1.56 million
23 area we know as the ANWR coastal plain. The 26-member
24 consortium had also constructed an engineering and
25 environmental test facility at Prudhoe Bay where

1 ANWR-related studies were completed.

2 All of those -- by the way, ANWR at that time
3 referred to the Arctic National Wildlife Range.

4 All those vast studies are found within a 44 volume
5 biological report series which the consortium filed with
6 the Federal Power Commission and the Department of
7 Interior and which was donated to UAF, the University of
8 Alaska-APU Consortium Library and the State library
9 archives in Juneau.

10 The biological report series, along with vast
11 engineering studies embraced the omnibus ecology of the
12 coastal plain. As part of that vast study, the Arctic Gas
13 Consortium studied the wintering habits of anadromous
14 arctic char. Environmental researchers determined where
15 in the rivers of the North Slope the char overwintered in
16 deep, cold and unfrozen freshwater pools. But they also
17 kept those exact locations secret, lest enthusiastic local
18 or visiting fishermen clean out the whole run of fish in a
19 single expedition.

20 The summertime caribou noise studies in that
21 biological report series are also relevant today, as well
22 as the effect of mosquito populations on caribou calf
23 survival and the benefits to caribou of the gravel pads
24 and roads rising out of the muskeg to provide breezy
25 relief from bugs. Archeological sites, revegetation and

1 other useful values are a part of that ancient but still
2 valuable environmental study from 1976.

3 Some of your previous witnesses lamented that BLM was
4 taking the helm of this project from the U.S. Fish &
5 Wildlife Service. But many of us local folks will
6 remember that earlier U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
7 hearings resulted in what many of us regarded as biased
8 decisions to manage the refuge as a wilderness. Those
9 actions violated ANILCA's Congressional intent.

10 So I would urge managers to approach this
11 Congressional Coastal Plain mandate in an objective way
12 that is sensitive to the will of Congress, both during
13 passage of the tax bill last year and ANILCA in 1980. The
14 passage of those two bills Congress intended to authorize
15 oil and gas development, not the use of NEPA or other
16 factors to discourage, stall or derail it.

17 Having spent much time with many dear North Slope
18 village friends, I found both wisdom and special interests
19 represented in your scoping comments from last summer in
20 the transcripts. After all, Arctic people are human like
21 us, and have their own valid agendas. I particularly
22 valued some of the enlightened statements of Dennis Stacey
23 and Charles Lampe, though all of the village comments give
24 important perspective to regulators.

25 As a former regulator myself, I appreciate the many

1 apples and oranges values that you will be evaluating, for
2 some comments directly address the EIS process and DOI
3 business, while other comments deal with what subsidies
4 from some source could make more pleasant light in that
5 harsh Alaska North Slope environment.

6 Separating the public interest from private interest
7 is often the most demanding feature of regulation.

8 Thank you for the opportunity.

9 MS. CHRISTINE HILL: Good afternoon. My
10 name is Christine Hill. I'm running for Assembly. My
11 husband and I own Alaska Auction Company and Duane's
12 Antique Market. I'm very much in favor of opening ANWR.
13 It will be good for Anchorage. It will be good for the
14 state of Alaska, and it will be great for the United
15 States of America for the economy.

16 I think there has been enough studies done, and I
17 think that we are doing very responsible drilling in the
18 north, and we can continue doing that.

19 So I would like to see ANWR opened for our great
20 state. Thank you.

21 MR. PETE NOLLAND: Good afternoon. My
22 name is Pete Nolland, and I'm with the Alaska Chamber.
23 The Alaska Chamber represents over 700 members across the
24 state of Alaska, from Utqiagvik all the way down to
25 Ketchikan. And our members for many years have had in our

1 stated priorities each year on a federal basis the opening
2 of ANWR. There's been very important discussions had
3 many, many times with our members, our executive committee
4 about this issue and how important it would be for the
5 state of Alaska.

6 The EIA predicts that by 2050 petroleum and other
7 liquids will remain, by multiple magnitudes, the most
8 consumed energy source in the United States. So
9 production from the coastal plain will significantly
10 reduce U.S. reliance on future foreign oil.

11 The EIA predicts that from 2031 to 2050 production
12 from the coastal plain will reduce U.S. expenditures on
13 crude oil and petroleum products imports by up to \$595
14 billion.

15 The Draft EIS is an important step toward fulfilling
16 Congress's directive of opening up Secretary of Interior's
17 competitive oil and gas program. And the Alaska Chamber
18 and myself personally have felt for many years that ANWR
19 is viable. It is an area that should be opened within the
20 confines of this lease issue for gas and oil exploration.
21 And on behalf of the Alaska Chamber and our members, we
22 encourage you to move forward with the Draft EIS and open
23 it up.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. KEN FEDERICO: Hi there. My name is

1 Ken Federico. I'm testifying on behalf of myself. I just
2 kind of figure I'd give you a little bit of a working
3 man's view of what has been going on in the past 40 years.
4 I have been up here about 40 years. I have been in and
5 out of working off the oil fields and whatever like that
6 probably about ten of those 40 years. I'm a carpenter by
7 trade, but I've run equipment. So I have been up there
8 for about ten years. I'm actually currently up there
9 right now.

10 A little bit about me, just so you know where I'm
11 coming from, is I'm involved with wildlife issues here in
12 Alaska, fish and game. I served a three-year term under
13 the advisory committee on the Mat-Su Fish & Game. I'm the
14 chair of the Southcentral Alaska Dipnetters Association.
15 So I have a very great concern on impact to anything that
16 happens to our wildlife and also the environment.

17 In the same respect, I've watched the transition for
18 the past 40 years. It was, like, right after the
19 pipeline. It was kind of like the Wild West up there out
20 at Prudhoe Bay. But over the past 40 years, what I
21 observed, at that time the oil companies would always tell
22 us, don't feed the animals, you have to worry about
23 spills, the whole nine yards, you've got to report it.
24 And, like, people were out there feeding the foxes. And
25 midline managers and stuff would just kind of roll their

1 eyes and walk away.

2 But I've watched the transition through the past 40
3 years. And let me just give you an example from where
4 they used to just be wild drinking and parties the whole
5 nine yards before work, they would just feed the wildlife
6 and stuff like that, the oil companies would still harp on
7 us and say, you guys got to tow the line.

8 Well, from the wild days back in the early '80s to
9 now, just three months ago, I watched one with of the
10 larger subcontractors fire two guys, truck drivers. Why?
11 Because they couldn't -- they had to urinate and they
12 couldn't hold it. They turned around, and just like a
13 typical truck driver, they went around to the back tire
14 like that, and they got caught, and they were both fired.
15 So the guys just lost 75- to \$80,000-a-year jobs just for
16 taking a leak. Okay.

17 So that's how strong the oil companies are pushing
18 the contractors and subcontractors up there to be very
19 concerned about the environment. So I've seen it go from
20 one end of the spectrum as a working man to now everyone
21 is so concerned about the environment, they don't want to
22 lose their jobs, too. So as I said, I think we can do it
23 responsibly to go ahead and drill and explore up there in
24 ANWR. And say, if nothing else, let's do it in reference
25 to Senator Stevens.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. CARL PORTMAN: Good afternoon. My
3 name is Carl Portman, and I'm here speaking on my own
4 behalf today. I was born in Fairbanks and proudly worked
5 on the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline during
6 the summers while attending the University of Alaska
7 Fairbanks. I remember what life was like before TAPS when
8 I paid a state income tax before 1980. Like thousands of
9 Alaskans, my livelihood depends on the oil and gas
10 industry, yet I do not work directly for the industry.

11 With the pipeline now running at one-quarter
12 capacity, TAPS could face a premature shutdown. And if
13 this were to happen, Alaska would face an unmitigated
14 economic disaster. Clearly without increased production,
15 the state's economy will be in jeopardy.

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

25 According to the Energy Information Administration,

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

8 Under the proposed leasing program, not one acre of
9 federally designated wilderness would be disturbed by
10 development. In fact, no more than 2,000 acres of the 1.6
11 million acre 1002 area would be developed. That is a
12 minuscule portion of the coastal plain.

13 With advantages in technology significantly
14 diminishing the footprint of development, I know that we
15 do not have to choose between energy production and
16 environmental protection. It is possible to develop the
17 energy reserves inside the coastal plain while directly
18 utilizing only a fraction of the area. This can be
19 accomplished without significant disturbance to wildlife,
20 subsistence use or the environment.

21 In conclusion, I believe the Bureau of Land
22 Management made a good effort in this well-organized EIS
23 to be responsive to the Congressional direction while
24 analyzing potential effects on development consistent with
25 NEPA requirements. I encourage BLM to promptly proceed

1 with the final EIS.

2 Thank you for your time and for holding this hearing
3 in Anchorage today.

4 MS. JONELLE JONES: Hello. My name is
5 Jonelle Jones. I'm Navajo Indian and Yup'ik Eskimo. I'd
6 like to speak about natural law and how it applies to what
7 these oil companies and people are doing to the earth and
8 are against preserving life itself.

9 This is the human condition, ladies and gentlemen.
10 Whether anyone has recognized it or not or accepted it or
11 not, the human condition is slavery. I'm not going to
12 sugar coat words here. I'm going to come out and say it
13 just as it is in plain language, regardless of who likes
14 it or not.

15 The whole goal of true spirituality is the ending of
16 the human condition called slavery. It's never been okay.
17 It's not okay now. It never will be okay. It's
18 completely immoral, and the people who continue to perform
19 the actions that hold the human condition in this state or
20 support and condone those actions are immoral people.

21 People will say, well, there is many paths to freedom
22 and spirituality, but I'll take umbrage with that
23 statement. There are many paths that can get you to an
24 understanding of what the solution is, but there is only
25 one real true solution.

1 To say something to the effect of do you believe in
2 natural law or do you think it's some type of religious
3 dogma is as ridiculous as asking someone if they hold an
4 object up and then let go, will it fall downward. There's
5 no dogma or religious belief required for that. It's law
6 in the universe.

7 Well, behavior is also bound by law. This is the
8 problem with the human ego, though. The human ego refuses
9 to accept that behavior is bound by law, and we want to
10 think we can do anything we want as long as we don't get
11 caught.

12 The only solution is the understanding of natural law
13 and how we are inextricably forever bound by it. We have
14 free will to choose our behavior, but we do not have free
15 will to be insulated from the consequences of our choices
16 in free will.

17 Natural law is the most occulted information that
18 needs to be understood by humanity, and there is very
19 little progress in propagating a worldwide understanding
20 of natural law to the body of humanity. And that's what
21 our work of the people in this room and the people who do
22 understand this is, folks.

23 The natural law is a set of universal, inherent,
24 objective, nonmanmade, eternal and immutable conditions
25 which govern the consequences of behaviors of beings with

1 the capacity for understanding the difference between
2 harmful and nonharmful behavior. That means it applies to
3 intelligent beings who have a developed brain and a
4 nervous system like we do. It doesn't apply to lesser
5 beings, to the animal kingdom. They are not going to sit
6 there and reason. We have the capacity for reason. They
7 are instinctual creatures. They have emotions, as well,
8 but we have higher thought functions. That's why natural
9 law applies to us.

10 A worldwide common sense understanding of true
11 objective morality and the laws that govern behavioral
12 consequence is the only true solution to the human
13 condition of slavery. For as long as humanity remains
14 ignorant of the occulted knowledge of natural law, it will
15 remain enslaved.

16 The oppressors of slavery, the government and the
17 corrupt systems within government and immoral actions they
18 perform are examples of initiation of aggression against
19 others, which is what all wrongdoings are. The oppressors
20 performing such actions are violations against natural
21 rights and therefore constitute violence, murder, assault,
22 rape, coercion. Theft is a taking of property, physical
23 property which doesn't belong to you. Trespass is a
24 taking of the security of another person in their domain,
25 their dwelling place which does not belong to you to take.

1 Please do not take this sacred land. It belongs to
2 the Gwich'in people. Thank you.

3 MS. LAURA HERMAN: My name is Laura
4 Herman. I was born on Kodiak Island, and I grew up in the
5 Mat-Su Valley, as well as in Anchorage, Alaska. And I
6 don't know about the four of you, but if you have lived in
7 Alaska more than 15 years, you can see with your own eyes
8 that the climate is changing around us. And you can see
9 with your own eyes that we have to do something to protect
10 access to lands, to protect the air that we breathe, to
11 protect the salmon runs.

12 My family has gone to the Copper River near the
13 Canadian border every year of my life to get our salmon
14 limit, and we weren't able to go this year because the
15 entire salmon system was shut down. Because of the
16 warming oceans, because of inaction on behalf of us as a
17 society, as well as on our government to deal with this
18 crisis that we are living in. There were not enough
19 salmon to let people go and get the food that they -- that
20 sustains us throughout the year.

21 Alaskans are incredible people. And every time I
22 travel in the Lower 48, I think about how great we have
23 it. But the reason why we have such an amazing place to
24 live is because so much wilderness surrounds us and so
25 much protected space is there for us to enjoy, for us to

1 connect with the land, for us to live, breathe and exist
2 in this amazing place.

3 I was just in Houston, Texas, and it was one of the
4 most disgusting places I've ever seen. No offense for
5 those from Houston. It was really incredibly sprawled.
6 There was concrete everywhere. The park that I was near
7 was under about four or five bypasses of multilane
8 highways.

9 And I thought I could never, ever live here because
10 I'm from the most amazing place in the world. And to
11 protect that, that means that we need to stand up and
12 engage as a society and say no, we need wild spaces and we
13 are going to need them so much more as the environment
14 starts to attack the cancer that is us, really.

15 We are in some ways not living in right order with
16 the earth and, therefore, we are starting to get
17 incredible storms, incredible floods here where -- we
18 don't have snow anymore. I got to see one so far this
19 year.

20 And I think that you have to be completely blind to
21 that to not know that we have to do something. We have to
22 do something incredibly drastic. And it has been our --
23 our method over the past 50 to 100 years of we see a
24 resource, we are going to develop it, we are going to use
25 it now, it will make our lives so much better in the next

1 one or two or three years.

2 But we are now reaping what we have sown of not
3 thinking critically about what it means for us to develop
4 those resources and then not preserve those wild spaces.

5 And I really implore you to think about what it means
6 not only for the extraction for our state, but what it
7 means to then have all of that oil and gas burned,
8 released into our air, released into our grounds, released
9 into the oceans that are warming. And if you appreciate a
10 good salmon dinner, we are ruining that resource. The
11 Pacific Northwest doesn't have that anymore because they
12 have ruined that resource.

13 And I feel very strongly and have since I was very
14 young that additional ANWR development will not help us in
15 the long-term. It helps us very much in the short-term,
16 but we really need long-term thinking.

17 So I'm making substantive comments today, and I ask
18 that they be recorded as such in your official
19 proceedings, to be followed up with an official inquiry
20 and translations -- the response to be translations in
21 Gwich'in and Inupiaq.

22 These are the people that we are choosing to invade
23 their space and develop the land. And I think that if you
24 do that without any sort of consideration for their
25 preference and action, it's exactly what's happening down

1 on the border when you have people using eminent domain to
2 take incredibly sacred lands to develop a fence. It's not
3 appropriate to be acting in -- against the people that are
4 in this region.

5 I would also like to holdup that in 2012, which feels
6 like just yesterday, but was actually almost seven years
7 ago, the Gwich'in Neets'aiti resolution said unanimously
8 that they did not want ANWR development because of the
9 Porcupine caribou birthplace and breeding grounds. And
10 that maybe feels very separate from me who has never
11 touched and felt a caribou but, again, we need wild
12 spaces. That's what makes Alaska this amazing place to
13 live. And if we want to be just like Houston, Texas, then
14 let's just rip it all up, pour concrete everywhere, and we
15 can drive as far as we want.

16 But as far as what makes this place sacred, we have
17 to defend and not develop the Arctic.

18 I also want to share that this has been this fast
19 tracking of this process. And from the 2017 tax bill,
20 that this is an arbitrary and capricious way to fast track
21 the process. It's not appropriate that this is such an
22 incredibly large project that we need to make sure we are
23 doing it deliberately. And I think, you know, a
24 previous speaker mentioned that there was information in
25 1976 about how developing the ANWR, ANWR would be so

1 great.

2 Well, you know what? We have learned a lot since
3 1976. And the great thing about science is that we are
4 continuing to learn more about the environment around us
5 and how we interact with it. And so to say that we have
6 studied it and we have studied it and we need to just move
7 on isn't fair because we are continuing to learn about
8 this space and how precious it is.

9 And just like Brazil, I believe -- or might be
10 another South American country -- was trying to get other
11 nations to invest in them to save the rain forest, which
12 is essentially the lungs of the earth, which absorb all
13 the carbon dioxide that we are producing and then releases
14 oxygen, which we all need to live and exist on this
15 planet. And they couldn't find other countries to come
16 forward and to support them in protecting that resource.
17 So they are actively starting to log and diminish that
18 resource, and we are doing the same thing here.

19 We know that there is tons of fossil fuel -- sorry --
20 carbon dioxide gases in the frozen lands of the Arctic,
21 which are now starting to warm up and release those gases.
22 So we are quickly spiraling down, and we need to stop and
23 then start reversing our behavior to actually be able to
24 have our children and grandchildren survive on this planet
25 in any way that looks like our existence today.

1 So I implore you to please listen to the people, to
2 please listen to your hearts about what does this look
3 like. You look outside, and this is not the January
4 weather that we are used to. I don't remember -- well,
5 except for that one time in December of this year -- when
6 we last had a consistent negative 10 degrees, negative 15
7 degrees like when I was young. I'm 29 years old. I am
8 not old. I should not have oldtimer stories to tell about
9 when I was young.

10 But our environment is changing incredibly
11 drastically around us, and we have to listen to that and
12 we have to pay witness to that and not just witness that,
13 but actually act. Change our behavior and try and make it
14 so that our children and grandchildren and great
15 grandchildren can actually survive on this earth.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SHAWNA LARSON: (Speaking in Alaska
18 Native language.) I'm Shawna Larson. I'm Sugpiaq on my
19 mom's side from the village of Paluwik, also known as Port
20 Graham. I'm Ahtna Athabaskan on my dad's side from the
21 village of Nay'dini'aa Na, also known as Chickaloon. This
22 nice little man with the clipboard to my left was nice
23 enough to grant me the privilege to speak today. He said
24 he was thinking about not allowing it, but he would go
25 backwards and allow me to do that. So that was very nice

1 of him, very generous.

2 I have a lot of concerns about this process. It's a
3 huge concern for me that BLM is under Department of
4 Interior and so is the Bureau of Indian Affairs. And
5 technically if you have ever traveled outside of the
6 United States and done work, for example, with attorneys
7 of the United Nations, you will hear they call us
8 quasi-sovereign at the United Nations. And that's a
9 technical term that the United States Attorneys use in the
10 international area. And they say that we are wards of
11 actually the Bureau of Indian Affairs. So it's a little
12 bit confusing to me that the Department of Interior could
13 be managing the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the BLM at
14 the same time. It's a little bit like the fox guarding
15 the hen house, in my opinion.

16 When I was -- it was about eight or nine years ago,
17 there were -- I was at a tribal council meeting for my
18 tribe, and one of the elders brought up the term
19 subsistence, the word subsistence. If you look that word
20 up in the dictionary, it means to merely survive, to
21 barely make it. And he was really offended by that term
22 because he said that's not how you would describe our
23 traditional way of life, to merely survive.

24 When I was very small, my grandma would speak to her
25 sister in our traditional Ahtna language, and they would

1 laugh and laugh. And I was an only child, and so I'd be
2 sitting next to my grandma, and I would say, what are you
3 laughing about? What's so funny? And she would kind of
4 get this sad look on her face and she would say, there is
5 no way to translate it. There is no words in the English
6 language to say that.

7 And I thought to myself, how is it possible? I mean,
8 every word I know is in English, and so how could we not
9 use some of these describing words that we all know to
10 translate the meaning. I couldn't understand why she
11 couldn't tell me what she was talking about and what they
12 were laughing about.

13 Well, that elder in that council meeting asked me to
14 please look for another traditional word to replace the
15 word subsistence because he did not like it. So I
16 volunteered to do that job. I thought, well, there's got
17 to be other tribes in the Lower 48 or around Alaska that
18 have found another word. So, of course, I Googled it. I
19 wasn't able to find anything.

20 So then I talked to our elders separately. I asked
21 them, how do you say subsistence? And they both
22 separately gave me the same exact definition. They said
23 when the land -- when it's time -- when it's time to hunt
24 moose, when it's time to pick berries, when it's time to
25 fish. And they gave me those in our traditional language

1 as separate. And I thought, that's not quite what we are
2 looking for here.

3 So I, a few months later, was at a Federal
4 Subsistence Board meeting here in Anchorage, and there was
5 a Yup'ik elder here, and I asked him. I thought maybe in
6 Yup'ik they have a different way to say it. So I asked
7 this elder from the Bethel area. I said, how do you say
8 subsistence? And it was funny because he said the exact
9 same thing that my elders said. When it's time to hunt,
10 when it's time to fish, when the berries are ready to
11 pick.

12 And I was a little frustrated. I said, what do you
13 mean? I said, that's not what I mean. I said, that's not
14 what I mean. And he kind of laughed at me. And he said
15 well, what exactly do you mean? And I held out my hands
16 and I said, if my left hand was the land and the animals
17 and my right hand were the people, and I clasped my hands
18 together, I said, how would you say that.

19 And he said, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh. He said, there is
20 no one word to say that, he said, because what you are
21 describing is a relationship. What you are describing,
22 you have to have feelings in order to comprehend the true
23 meaning of that. He said that's what we have stories for.
24 Stories are told to help people feel, and the feeling is
25 the only real way that you can understand your

1 relationship and your responsibility.

2 And so there were only stories about our traditional
3 relationship with the land. There was not just one word.

4 My dad when he was young growing up -- my dad was an
5 alcoholic. He was born in the old Native hospital, and I
6 went to Mountain View Elementary, Clark Middle School and
7 graduated from East High. My dad had four siblings. And
8 I always wondered growing up what it was that caused him
9 to be an alcoholic. And I think that's normal for any
10 child who grows up with parents who drink. You wonder,
11 like, what happened?

12 Well, it wasn't until many years later I was really
13 able to put it all together. When I was about five, we
14 were living in Port Graham, and we had one little library.
15 And we would go to the school and we would check out
16 books. And I liked to check out Frog and Toad. And my
17 dad would get very tired of Frog and Toad and Toad and
18 Frog and Frog and Toad. So he started telling me his own
19 traditional hunting stories because he got tired of
20 reading the book. So he started telling me the stories.

21 It took me years and years to realize that the heroes
22 of those stories that he was telling me were the men from
23 the villages who got to go out and do traditional hunting
24 and fishing and provide. And as a small child, he always
25 thought that when he grew up, he would get to be a hero

1 like his uncle, like his grandfather, like his brothers.
2 He thought he was going to get to do that job.

3 But when he was about 12 years old, they were forced
4 to move into Anchorage, and my dad graduated from
5 Anchorage High School, which is now West High School. And
6 the only options for him at that point was not -- one of
7 the choices was not to become a hero. It was to enlist in
8 the service or go to college. There was no money for
9 college.

10 And so I really wonder what it is like to grow up to
11 the age of 12 thinking that you are going to be a hero,
12 you are going to be a provider of meat, you are going to
13 be a traditional person, and to have that taken away.

14 We have stories that talk about our relationship with
15 the animals, and it relates back to the way I was
16 explaining those stories and how it relates to our
17 responsibility and our relationships.

18 I've heard the Gwich'in people talk about their
19 traditional tribal member became a caribou person. They
20 were a person, and they became a caribou, and they had a
21 relationship, a very specific relationship. I don't think
22 westernized colonized people in America today can really
23 comprehend what we are talking about.

24 And I think this is one of those instances when there
25 are no words. There is no words for us to help you

1 explain in your linear minds and your colonial way of
2 thinking what our relationship was to the animals because
3 when we talk about those stories, they get compared to
4 Disney stories. We are not talking about fairy tales. We
5 are talking about actual relationships that we had with
6 the animals. And it's something that I don't think you
7 are actually able to comprehend.

8 But I'm telling you that we had these relationships
9 and we had these responsibilities. They were sacred and
10 they were real. And just like the Gwich'in people had
11 their relationship with the caribou, in my traditional way
12 we had our relationship with the ant people. We have
13 those stories. And that's how I know it's real because
14 why would we have those stories if it wasn't true? It's
15 real. And that's our traditional historical knowledge
16 that's been passed down for generations and generations.

17 And if you drill and if you mess up the Porcupine
18 caribou herd and people aren't able to hunt and fish, you
19 are not just messing up some logistical situation. You
20 are messing up a sacred relationship that has been in
21 place for thousands and thousands of years. I just want
22 you to sip that.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. SIGINIQ MAUPIN: (Speaking in
25 Inupiaq.) I'm doing a greeting to all of you. My name is

1 Siginiq. My English name is Sara Maupin. I was born in
2 Utqiagvik. My grandmother is Lena Simmonds Qalhapak. She
3 was born on the Kuukpik River of the Kuukpikmiut people,
4 also known as Nuiqsut. My grandfather was born in
5 Utqiagvik and raised there, and my mother was raised in
6 Nuiqsut and Utqiagvik, Harriet Maupin.

7 Today I come to testify in solidarity with the
8 Gwich'in, but I also would like to bring some of the other
9 story that my corporation, ASRC, has neglected to tell.

10 Now, I recently got back from a trip from Nuiqsut
11 visiting family. Now, for the last two years, every
12 single night at 6:00 p.m. dynamite is set of to get gravel
13 for the oilfields. My aunt's entire house shook. Now,
14 for the human population, that's pretty disturbing, right?
15 You don't want to be somewhere where your house shakes
16 every single night. I don't know how you think the
17 caribou or the animals feel about that, but we can't
18 explain to them, hey, it's fine, we are just getting
19 gravel. It affects their migration.

20 Now, sitting in my home, my aunt's home, she told me
21 stories of Nuiqsut had so much caribou there was enough to
22 feed the entire community, plus more. There are no
23 caribou that go through Nuiqsut. There are few people
24 that can afford to travel far enough to feed their
25 families.

1 In my village, we are surrounded and engulfed by
2 methane flaring, something that is heavily restricted in
3 the Lower 48, but not as restricted here.

4 We have had a 50 percent and higher amount of
5 respiratory illnesses grow in Nuiqsut since the oil fields
6 have been built. The air is so dirty there that people
7 are forced to move out and move to Anchorage and Fairbanks
8 because they literally can't breathe. We have children
9 with asthma. We have had two children in a 500 population
10 town diagnosed with leukemia. We have cancer clusters
11 growing everywhere.

12 So I'm a little confused when my own corporation that
13 acts as if they represent the Inupiaq people says that
14 they are fighting for our sovereign rights, that they are
15 fighting for our human rights, when we don't have clean
16 air to breathe. I think that's a little bit more
17 important than a few people on a corporation board making
18 multimillion, you know, in a year.

19 So I'd also like to talk about traditional ecological
20 knowledge. We have experts in the back that are going to
21 explain what is being done to the Inupiaq and Gwich'in
22 people's land, but we have no Inupiaq or Gwich'in
23 translators. We have no Inupiaq or Gwich'in,
24 quote/unquote, experts that are sitting to explain this.
25 But we have been here since time immemorial.

1 As someone else had said previously, we can see the
2 changes that are happening with our own eyes. It is more
3 dangerous today to hunt for our traditional food than it
4 has ever been. Our old ice has melted. When we pull a
5 whale up after hunting, it is cracking the ice and people
6 are falling in and dying.

7 Our way of life I'm seeing before my eyes is
8 changing, and I truly don't know if my children when they
9 grow up are going to enjoy the same foods as I did growing
10 up. I don't even know if they're going to be able to go
11 back to Utqiagvik because it's falling into the water.

12 As people come up here and testify about how they
13 need jobs and how they think it's economically beneficial
14 to drill in the Arctic Refuge, they are ignoring the human
15 population that is on the North Slope and in other places
16 around the world that are being devastated by this
17 development. When all of the water is gone and all of the
18 clean air, what are we going to do with green paper? This
19 is a human rights issue, and scientists and traditional
20 ecological knowledge holders agree: Climate change is
21 devastating our world, and what we do in the Arctic will
22 affect everyone.

23 So when we sit here and debate whether we should go
24 and drill in the Arctic Refuge, I don't understand why we
25 don't have the science community that has agreed that this

1 is not the way we can go.

2 So thank you.

3 MS. JUDY PATRICK: My name is Judy
4 Patrick. I have been taking pictures of the oil industry
5 in the Arctic for the last 25 years. I've seen firsthand
6 how responsibly the oil is developed. I see all the
7 mitigating efforts that are made by the industry. I've
8 observed the shrinking footprint of what used to be quite
9 large gravel pads have gotten quite small. And I just
10 can't really believe that you could develop oil off of
11 such a small footprint as what's being proposed for ANWR,
12 that it's such a tiny area that would be impacted.

13 And I think that this is not new. It's not like
14 industry hasn't had a track record of what they have been
15 doing for the last 30 years in Prudhoe Bay. And in fact,
16 the caribou herds have increased.

17 I just have noticed that during the course of my
18 working up there just how much more attention has been
19 given to the environment and the care and the protection
20 that's given, and I just strongly encourage you to move
21 forward. There is a lot of emotional arguments against
22 it, and there is a lot of actual arguments for it.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Thank you. That's
25 going to conclude the first portion of the public

1 testimony. We will take a short break here to allow
2 Nicole to get set up, and if folks at the front need to
3 take a break for a minute or so, we will have the
4 presentation which will last approximately 25 minutes or
5 so. Following that, we will regroup again to provide more
6 opportunities for public testimony. Again, we are calling
7 people up by number, 14 through 20. So folks, if you
8 could just take a look at your tickets, and when the
9 presentation is over, we will restart again. Thank you.

10 MS. NICOLE HAYES: And also for the media,
11 Joe Balash, the Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals
12 Management, is going to have media availability outside
13 the room here right now.

14 (Presentation by Nicole Hayes.)

15 MR. LUC MEHL: Thank you for being here to
16 hear me. My name is Luc Mehl. I'm here to represent
17 myself. I consider myself a candidate for Alaska's number
18 one fan. I grew up in McGrath on the Kuskokwim River and
19 left the state to study geology and geophysics in college
20 and grad school. And in that time I had the luxury of
21 getting to travel the world in search of these magical
22 rocks. And everywhere I went, I compared to home, to
23 Alaska, and home always won.

24 I spent two months on the east coast of Greenland.
25 That's the most remote place I have ever been, and in that

1 time I saw five animals. Mammoth -- not mammoths. Musk
2 ox. And that was awesome.

3 But in an hour on the coastal plain on the Okpilak
4 River, I floated through -- 2:00 a.m. in June 2017, I
5 floated through 3,000 caribou in one hour, and it was just
6 mind-blowing. It's transformative. And I appreciate that
7 opportunity so much in Alaska. It really fuels who I am.

8 And so it has driven me to leave that geology world.
9 I work now doing environmental data analysis and
10 stewardship. And in the last ten years I've traveled,
11 I've 10,000 miles of Alaska under my own power. And it's
12 just amazing. I can't really convey how much that means
13 to me as an Alaskan.

14 And so because of that, I would love to see you
15 support Alternative A, the no action. I would also
16 request -- I'm not Native, but growing up in McGrath in
17 the Native community, I just request that you fully hear
18 the Native voice on this issue, especially communities of
19 Arctic Village and Kaktovik.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MR. KEN NAGAOKA: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Ken Nagaoka. I'm 22 years old, and I was born and
23 raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. I currently live and work
24 here on Dena'ina lands here in Anchorage. I'm the Youth
25 Civic Engagement Coordinator at The Alaska Center, and

1 I've had the opportunity to meet and work with many young
2 Alaskans from all over the state.

3 I'd like to start by saying that this is not a public
4 hearing. You are putting on this show to check a box for
5 a decision that has already been made. You couldn't care
6 less about what we have to say here today. Therefore, I
7 choose to speak not to you, but to everyone here and
8 everyone who might be listening on the airways.

9 I come here to uplift the voices of my Alaska Native
10 friends, mentors, brothers and sisters, for the Gwich'in
11 elders who have been fighting this from the very beginning
12 and their ancestors who have stewarded this land since
13 time immemorial.

14 Young people in Alaska are envisioning a future
15 that's radically different from business as usual. We are
16 making bold steps toward a thriving Alaska built on a
17 regenerative and sustainable economy, not an extractive
18 one that is destroying our climate and threatening
19 indigenous livelihoods. We want a future where our
20 schools, our health care and public safety are reliable
21 from year to year, not slave to the swings of the global
22 oil economy and outside corporate interests.

23 Drilling in ANWR continues a cycle of violence to our
24 lands and our people that must stop. It is a cowardly act
25 that is vastly out of touch with the next generation of

1 Alaskan leaders.

2 Three summers ago I got a chance to be in Arctic
3 Village for the 2016 Gwich'in gathering. I walked into
4 the tribal hall where eight years before I was born the
5 first Gwich'in Niinstyaa was signed in agreement to
6 protect the sacred place where life begins. I met Sarah
7 James, an elder, who has been protecting the refuge for
8 more than 30 years and is traveling to D.C. yet again as
9 we speak here today.

10 If true justice is to be served, you would end this
11 process here, right here and now. But we haven't come
12 here to beg you to care. I'd like to close by uplifting
13 the words of Greta Thunberg, a 14-year-old climate
14 activist from Sweden who spoke pointed words at COP24 last
15 December. "You have ignored us in the past and you will
16 ignore us again. We have run out of excuses, and we are
17 running out of time. We have come here to let you know
18 that change is coming, whether you like it or not, and the
19 real power belongs to the people."

20 Thank you.

21 MS. CHARLENE APOK: (Speaking in Inupiaq.)
22 My name is Charlene Apok. My Inupiaq name is a Aqpik.
23 That there is my son, Evan Iukwan.

24 I come to you as an Inupiaq woman. I also have a
25 master's in rural development. I'm also a doctoral

1 student, and I work as a researcher, if those things
2 matter to you.

3 I stand in solidarity with the Gwich'in Nation, a
4 sovereign nation, original stewards to the land which we
5 now call the Arctic Refuge. I oppose oil exploration in
6 the Arctic Refuge. What I do support is exploration of
7 the understanding of ecological systems of this place, the
8 relationships of biological and cultural diversity.

9 I support the exploration of understanding this whole
10 interacting system, including the sacred birthing grounds
11 of the Porcupine caribou herd and that threats to this are
12 threats to all of our well-being, even those in favor of
13 oil exploration.

14 Terms such as wildlife and this linear way of
15 system -- this linear one-way system of taking statements
16 does not express the sacred relations and direct
17 connection of the health of our land to the people.

18 I will also point out that the actions to open ANWR
19 are in violation of the United Nations Declaration on the
20 Rights of Indigenous People, and that these rights are
21 inherent, despite any administration's refusal to
22 acknowledge them.

23 Maybe you are trying to understand me and what I'm
24 saying. Maybe not. You may try with your mind but what
25 you need in order to understand this is to listen with

1 your heart.

2 Maybe you're not understanding me. That is okay. I
3 can switch my language. I can switch my language to one
4 you understand. Numbers and economics. I speak Inupiaq,
5 I speak English, and I can speak this language, too.

6 It should be noted that most of the American public
7 is against drilling in the Arctic Refuge, according to a
8 Yale survey. The refuge is not a warehouse. Again, the
9 refuge is not a warehouse, nor is it a bank. The proposed
10 drilling won't pay for the desired tax cuts that the state
11 is seeking. The cost to explore this protected area are
12 expensive with building roads and further legal costs, as
13 far as I can see.

14 We are, in fact, in this troubled economic spot
15 because of false sustainability of the oil industry.
16 Already from the '70s we see that big oil has not served
17 us well. We are desperate once again.

18 A financial analysis has shown that the average oil
19 price which would be needed to break even to costs are in
20 the high 70s per barrel. Our current average price is
21 only 53 per barrel.

22 Another economic analysis: Drilling in the Arctic
23 Refuge would yield no more than 37 million over ten years,
24 not enough for the tax cut scam. And for those who think
25 that this would provide jobs, even in optimal production,

1 we would level out at a max of ten years.

2 Because I cannot convince you of the sacredness of
3 this land, I will leave you with this: The bottom line is
4 that oil prices are too low and Arctic drilling is too
5 risky and too costly with inadequate environmental impact
6 assessments.

7 It's time you listen to the people.

8 MS. ELLA EDE: (Speaking in Alaska Native
9 language.) Thank you for the opportunity to comment on
10 this issue. My name is Ella Ede. I live here in
11 Anchorage, Alaska. I was born and raised in Alaska, and I
12 have chosen to live here while I raise my four children.
13 I strongly support the proposed oil and gas lease program
14 that would allow limited activity within the nonwilderness
15 portion of the coastal plain of ANWR.

16 The future of Alaska depends on additional oil and
17 gas exploration. The economy of our state is reliant on
18 oil and gas. These are jobs for Alaskans and jobs for my
19 children. I am fortunate enough to live here and have
20 enjoyed a successful career working in the industry for
21 almost 30 years. I know. Can you believe that? My
22 husband also works for an Alaska refining and oil
23 distribution company.

24 Polls have consistently shown Alaskans overwhelmingly
25 support responsible oil and gas development in the

1 nonwilderness portion of ANWR. There is no valid reason
2 why we should not be allowed to access the world class
3 resources within just a fraction of the coastal plain.

4 My family and my friends are part of this majority
5 who support responsible development and jobs. Oil and gas
6 development should occur here in Alaska where the
7 resources have been shown to exist but, more importantly,
8 where we have some of the most stringent environmental
9 regulations in the world. We have worked hard to protect
10 our resources and develop them responsibly, as we have
11 done for the past 40 years. We will continue to care for
12 the environment through strict regulations and through
13 scientific studies.

14 Alaskans take great pride in our mountains and our
15 wildlife. Tourists flock here every year to visit the
16 majesty we are privileged to call home. But I believe
17 this beauty can be protected and shared while we continue
18 to develop our valuable natural resources. Protection of
19 our fish and wildlife resources will not be compromised
20 with the careful environmental regulation of this
21 development.

22 I'm sure you can appreciate the importance of
23 opportunity for our youth. It is the love of my children
24 and their future as Alaskans and Americans that inspire me
25 to provide comments on this important issue.

1 I appreciate the chance to share my opinion, and I
2 respectfully request BLM to allow the oil and gas lease
3 program in ANWR for all of us, but especially for our
4 children.

5 Without jobs, we can't afford to live in this
6 beautiful place. And for the record, I do not consider
7 myself cowardly or immoral by providing for my family.

8 Thank you.

9 MS JUDY ELEDGE: Good afternoon. My name
10 is Judy Eledge. I'm representing myself. I'm from
11 Anchorage, Alaska, and I want to thank you for listening
12 and giving us the opportunity to listen to all Alaskans
13 because I think it is important.

14 I'm a retired educator, and I have lived and worked
15 in rural and urban Alaska since 2003. Most of those years
16 have been spent among the Gwich'in people, so I'm very
17 aware of how dear their land is to them, and I'm also
18 aware of how much many have to depend on the assistance
19 from the State of Alaska in order to survive.

20 My husband has worked in the oil service industry
21 since 1982, and we are acutely aware of the depressed
22 economy in Alaska at the moment. But I am excited for the
23 opening of the leases in ANWR. It saddens me to hear the
24 untruths told by the opposition. For Alaskans, I remind
25 them and I ask, how do you think we will pay for things

1 like Medicaid expansion, education, and that assistance I
2 talked earlier about, without new oil finds? Because
3 whether you want to hear it or not, overwhelmingly this
4 state is still supported overwhelmingly with oil revenue.

5 I'm excited because of the energy it will put back
6 into a depressed Alaska economy. I do not understand the
7 opposition when the state of Alaska has the most stringent
8 environmental laws in the nation. And I resent the
9 feeling that I do not care about the land and I do not
10 care about the people that live there when I have worked
11 and lived among many of them for many years only because I
12 support the oil industry.

13 I encourage all sides to work together, particularly
14 the opposition, to ensure that a robust but a safe
15 environment will come because of this leasing.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. JEFF CHEN: For the record, my name is
18 Jeff Chen, and I live in Anchorage. I'd like to give
19 thanks to the first peoples of this land, the Dena'ina
20 Athabascan people, for allowing me to speak, as I am a
21 guest on this land.

22 For the record, I am opposed to oil and gas
23 development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I
24 choose Alternative A, no development, as that is the -- as
25 that's the option that most respects the traditional ways

1 of life, the sovereignty and the self-determination of the
2 Gwich'in and Inupiaq peoples.

3 The Gwich'in Niintsyaa 2012 resolution declares the
4 entire Gwich'in Nation's unified voice to protect the
5 birthplace and nursery grounds of the Porcupine caribou
6 herd from oil and gas development.

7 I request that this be recorded as a substantive
8 comment, followed up with an official inquiry with
9 translations into Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages.

10 Additionally, the Gwich'in people have a right to
11 subsistence. Article 1 of the International Covenant of
12 Civil and Political Rights signed by the U.S. in 1977 and
13 ratified in 1992 reads in part: In no case may a people
14 be deprived of their own means of subsistence. The rest
15 of Article 1 stresses that all peoples have the right of
16 self-determination, which includes economic, social and
17 cultural development.

18 I request that this be recorded as a substantive
19 comment, followed up with an official inquiry with
20 translations into Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages.

21 The BLM has ignored these assertions of sovereignty
22 and have made arbitrary and capricious decisions to
23 fast-track an inadequate Environmental Impact Statement
24 during a period of government shutdown and the holiday
25 season.

1 I request that this be recorded as a substantive
2 comment, followed up with an official inquiry with
3 translations into Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages.

4 Furthermore, I believe the BLM has violated the
5 administrative procedures act with their public meetings
6 announced with only four days' notice in Fairbanks.

7 I request that this be recorded as a substantive
8 comment, followed up with an official inquiry with
9 translations into Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages.

10 I'd like to ask the government panel in front of me a
11 question directly. Are you listening? Can I get a nod?

12 After visiting Alaska this week, can you say with
13 confidence that the communities that would be most
14 impacted by development -- can you say with confidence
15 that these communities have given you consent to lease
16 their land for oil and gas development?

17 Did people give you consent? Do you want to answer
18 that?

19 MR. JOE BALASH: We are not here to have a
20 discussion.

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: It's your time
22 to comment.

23 MR. JEFF CHEN: Did you receive consent to
24 drill for oil and gas? You can't speak for them. Or
25 maybe you can. I don't know. They work for us. No

1 answer? Okay.

2 I'd like to ask the same question to the public here.
3 In your heart, do you truly believe that you have consent
4 from the sovereign Gwich'in Nation for you to drill for
5 oil?

6 (Some audience members say no.)

7 MR. JEFF CHEN: And to disrupt traditional
8 ways of life?

9 (Some audience members say no.)

10 MR. JEFF CHEN: Do you have consent?

11 (Some audience members say no.)

12 MR. JEFF CHEN: In January the last known
13 caribou to inhabit the Lower 48 was removed from the wild.
14 In British Columbia, 30 out of 54 remaining caribou herds
15 are at risk of local extinction. We know definitively
16 that these losses are due to industrial activity, logging
17 and oil and gas development.

18 In Alaska, in taking Gwich'in leadership, we won't
19 allow this. If you think oil and gas development in the
20 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will not decimate the
21 Porcupine River caribou herd, you have been misled. I am
22 in support of the Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain
23 Protection Act to reverse the Trump administration's
24 misguided interests in developing the Arctic Refuge.

25 I know this entire hearing is a formality, but if you

1 actually listen to the people, we have solutions to create
2 a just transition away from fossil fuels and to use
3 renewable energy instead. We have visions of protecting
4 the Porcupine caribou herd forever into the future.

5 MS. MARY ANN PEASE: Good afternoon. My
6 name is Mary Ann Pease, and I am the owner of MAP
7 Consulting. I'm married to David Pease, a lifelong
8 Alaskan. And my two sons are also lifelong Alaskans.

9 I strongly support rapid approval of the Draft EIS of
10 the coastal plain oil and gas leasing program.

11 I have worked in the energy industry in Alaska for
12 over 15 years as a consultant. I have been an advisor to
13 several governors, and even with the city's electric
14 utility as we acquired a working interest in a gas field
15 to secure our energy security for our customers.

16 Oil is the most critical mainstay of the Alaskan
17 economy. Alaska and the federal government need to do all
18 they can to promote responsible energy exploration and
19 development in Alaska. The United States needs to have
20 abundant oil reserves that are not dependent on Middle
21 East countries. The focus should be on U.S. supply and,
22 most importantly, the vast natural resources here in
23 Alaska, and in particular the coastal plain oil and gas
24 leasing program area.

25 Oil paves the way for a sustainable economic

1 development in Alaska. It drives the economy and, as a
2 matter of fact, funds many of the programs that the
3 naysayers scream for. Increased oil production from the
4 North Slope means jobs, economic development and
5 sustainable fiscal security for our state.

6 It is imperative that drilling be allowed on the 1002
7 area. Industry and the state need to know what the
8 potential oil resource is in the region. 2,000 acres is a
9 tiny fraction, just .01 percent of the total ANWR area of
10 19.3 million acres, and drilling is necessary and
11 warranted to determine petroleum potential in this region.

12 The oil industry has a good record of responsible and
13 compliant development in the Arctic. Exploration
14 companies are aware of the environmental concerns
15 surrounding their work in the Arctic.

16 I urge you to timely advance the permitting process
17 to allow exploration in this limited area of ANWR.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. RICK WHITBECK: Good afternoon. My
20 name is Rick Whitbeck. I'm the state director for Power
21 the Future, as well as an Alaskan born and Alaska resident
22 by choice for over 35 years. I am married to a proud
23 Inupiat woman, am the father of an amazing four-year-old
24 who is being raised to understand his culture, and have
25 traveled to over 120 villages off the road system

1 throughout the state. I know Alaska.

2 The Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land
3 Management should be thanked profusely by everybody in
4 this room for the scheduling of these hearings and the
5 lengthening of the public input process. You could have
6 closed it as scheduled and didn't.

7 Especially after being held hostage in Fairbanks by a
8 group that had willful disregard for fair process who used
9 sheer numbers to create a bully pulpit, you stayed the
10 course and actually changed policy to allow for public
11 testimony today.

12 For those of us who understand Alaska and its unique
13 role in the energy community, we thank you for your time.

14 The 1002 area of ANWR, while only a fraction of a
15 percent of the overall size of the refuge, is an
16 incredible source of oil and gas reserves, so much so that
17 we don't know exactly how much it holds. Decades, for
18 sure, of reserves; thousands, if not tens of thousands of
19 jobs, when developed. It would allow for state and
20 federal revenues. It would help with U.S. energy
21 dominance.

22 You may not realize it, but the worldwide energy
23 landscape is changing for the better because the United
24 States is stepping up with increased production and
25 technological innovation.

1 In December, America made history to become a net
2 exporter of oil and refined fuels for the first time in
3 decades. It was a milestone, according to the Wall Street
4 Journal. U.S. shale production has also become a
5 juggernaut in recent years, helping us smash oil
6 production expectations in 2018.

7 These welcome developments make lower prices at the
8 pump, even in Alaska, and less dependent on foreign oil
9 from dangerous areas like the Middle East and Venezuela.
10 It is imperative that America and Alaska does not rest on
11 its laurels for both the sake of our economy and national
12 security. Energy dominance is necessary.

13 I see a lot of scarves that read listen to the
14 people. Let's do that. Let's listen to the people who
15 are most affected by opening the specific 1002 area of
16 ANWR. It is the Inupiat. It is those villages across the
17 North Slope who have lived in the area for millennia,
18 subsisting off both the land and the sea. Not only do the
19 Inupiat support responsible resource development and the
20 opening of the 1002 area of ANWR, but they do so with a
21 nearly unified voice.

22 In closing, nearly two-thirds of Alaska historically,
23 when polled, whether by pollsters leaning left or right,
24 by outside groups or from inside the state, they support
25 responsible development in ANWR. Let me say that again.

1 Polling shows two-thirds of Alaskans support responsible
2 resource development in ANWR. Doesn't matter who does it.
3 That's the number.

4 I ask you to move forward with the EIS under
5 Alternative B, bringing lease opportunities to bear in
6 2020 and ultimately allowing for responsible oil and gas
7 drilling in that small section of the Arctic National
8 Wildlife Refuge.

9 Thank you all for your time.

10 MS. ENEI PETER: (Speaking in Alaska
11 Native language.) I just introduced myself. My name is
12 Enei Peter. I'm Navajo and Dine' O'odham. My children
13 are Navajo, Dine' O'odham, and Gwich'in from the village
14 of Arctic Village.

15 I stand up here today to speak on their behalf, my
16 children, who have grown up hunting and fishing, in Arctic
17 Village on their traditional territories, on their
18 ancestral lands, to say that, you know, due process has
19 not been done. We need a better process. We need a
20 supplemental -- we need supplement documentation in the
21 EIS.

22 The EIS that I've seen, the Draft EIS, is inadequate
23 in so many places. There is a number of points on climate
24 change, environmental justice. These sections of the EIS
25 are not adequate.

1 We need supplemental reporting before a final EIS
2 should come out. We need those reports to be translated
3 into Gwich'in and Inupiaq. You know, I work with a lot of
4 people all over the state, and there is a lot of folks
5 here saying -- there are some folks here saying that all
6 the people of the north support development in the refuge,
7 which is not true. There are many people all over the
8 north who want to protect -- that is their land. That's
9 their hunting and fishing grounds. They don't want that
10 area poisoned, polluted.

11 But there is an oil industry that is silencing
12 people's voices, that is threatening to take people's jobs
13 away if they stand up to say these things. You talk
14 about, you know, a hostage situation. All of Alaska is
15 being held at economic -- in an economic hostage situation
16 because we are all dependent on an oil industry, a single
17 economy. How is that smart planning for our future?

18 This is an economy that 30 years ago people said this
19 is going to -- this isn't going to last, and we are seeing
20 that now. How? How can we not have the foresight to see
21 that this economy is not going to last if it's just based
22 on oil and gas development?

23 We have to take steps to transition now. And that
24 means we don't need to pollute more water and threaten
25 food security for the Gwich'in people and the Inupiaq

1 people. This is food security that will last far beyond
2 this monetary economy that we already know right now is
3 leaving us in a hole in this state.

4 Yeah. We know. We know we are dependent on oil and
5 gas. And who has left us there? This process that has
6 kept us dependent on oil and gas has left us in this hole
7 where now our state is cutting education dollars, is
8 cutting all of these things that help us to grow just to
9 keep their addiction to oil. So no, it is not a smart
10 economic plan to continue with business as usual, oil and
11 gas business.

12 One of the things that's inadequate in your Draft EIS
13 is the science around climate change. Okay. So not
14 only -- not only is it poor economic planning to not
15 actually have Alternative A as an option, but it's also
16 poor planning for us as a civilization on this earth.
17 Right? So because it's not in this EIS -- I'll go ahead
18 and read part of what the scientists have said so that it
19 can maybe go into this report. Okay?

20 So this is part of the IPCC special report. Right?
21 This is the international -- Intergovernmental Panel on
22 Climate Change. Right? It says: Limiting global warming
23 to 1.5 degrees Celsius would require rapid, far-reaching
24 and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.

25 The IPCC said in a new assessment: With clear

1 benefits to people and nature ecosystems, limiting global
2 warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to two degrees
3 Celsius would go hand-in-hand with ensuring a more
4 sustainable and equitable society.

5 The Intergovernmental Panel said this: The special
6 report on global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius approved
7 by IPCC says that with more than 6,000 scientific
8 references cited and the dedicated contribution of
9 thousands of experts and government viewers worldwide,
10 this report testifies to the breadth and policy relevance
11 of the IPCC. 91 authors and review editors from 40
12 countries prepared the IPCC report.

13 One of the key messages that comes out very strongly
14 from this report is that we are already seeing the
15 consequences of one degree Celsius of global warming
16 through more extreme weather, rising sea levels, and
17 diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes.

18 The report highlights a number of climate change
19 impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming
20 to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to two degrees Celsius.
21 For instance, by 2100, global sea levels would rise by ten
22 centimeters -- would levels rise would be 10 centimeters
23 lower with global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius as
24 compared to two degrees Celsius.

25 The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in

1 summer would be once per century for global warming of 1.5
2 degrees Celsius compared with at least once per decade
3 with two degrees Celsius. Coral reefs would decline by 70
4 to 90 percent with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius,
5 whereas virtually all would be lost with two degrees
6 Celsius. Limiting global warming would also give people
7 in ecosystems more room to adapt.

8 So the point of this report, right, is that we cannot
9 continue to take out any more fossil fuels if we are going
10 to reach the 1.5 -- if we are going to reach the two
11 degrees Celsius marker point. And already at two degrees
12 Celsius, science across the globe has shown that the
13 Arctic will be melting faster, will be impacted more
14 extreme even at two degrees Celsius rise. We have to
15 be -- we have to be aiming for lower than that. That
16 means we cannot take any more fossil fuels out of the
17 ground and have those be burned and continuing climate
18 change.

19 So not only -- not only is this a matter of global
20 climate catastrophe and this science report has estimated
21 that in 13 years if we do not -- governments around the
22 world do not take up this challenge of meeting the 1.5,
23 that in 13 years we are going to see major crisis. We are
24 going to see refugees moving. We are already seeing that
25 in Alaska.

1 You know, this is -- this -- this process here that
2 you are proposing -- and I know that this is part of the
3 Trump administration, and you all are doing your job, but
4 I think that you -- we need an Alternative A. We need no
5 action. That's what people are demanding.

6 Yet some people who are paid by the oil industry want
7 to keep those jobs for eight years, maybe. We are
8 thinking long-term about the future of people's food
9 security. Long-term. Right? It's not about eight years'
10 worth of income and jobs. And again, it's poor economic
11 planning for Alaska to be banking off of this one area.
12 We need to take steps now to transition our economy away
13 from this hostage situation.

14 I just also want to close by just reflecting on the
15 long history that our peoples have. I know that I myself
16 am from -- is not from this land. My children and my
17 husband, my partners, people are from this -- that land up
18 there. And they have depended on that -- that caribou,
19 not only for food security, but for their entire cultural
20 ways.

21 There was a relationship that they had had with the
22 Inupiaq people to caretake for those caribou. And I know
23 that there are people from Kaktovik who stand with us to
24 protect their lands. I've heard their voices. I've heard
25 them speak quietly about the fact that, if they speak

1 loudly, the oil industry will take their job away, will
2 pull their funding for schools.

3 So the threats that are being made upon people who do
4 live up there, that needs to also be taken seriously. How
5 can democracy continue if they are -- if the oil industry
6 is allowed to bully the people of those communities?

7 As a Navajo woman, as a Dine' woman -- our people
8 have a story of our people's -- our relatives up here. We
9 recognize that we came from the same people. Long before
10 this history that is written was made, we came from the
11 same people. We traveled south. We traveled back and
12 forth. We know this land. Our peoples migrated this
13 land. We knew how to care take for this land.

14 We are in a time of great transition. That
15 transition is not only economic and it's not only climate
16 transition; it's economic transition. We must -- we must
17 transition to a new economy, and we must listen to the
18 peoples of that land. They are experts. We must listen
19 to Gwich'in people, Inupiaq people.

20 We need you to also translate all of this into
21 Inupiaq and Gwich'in. And the people who come up to speak
22 in Gwich'in and Inupiaq, from what I understand, their
23 comments are not being translated into English. So I hope
24 that you will take the time to translate their comments
25 into English so that you can respond to those comments, as

1 well because, of course, people whose first language is
2 Inupiaq or Gwich'in, it's hard to articulate their
3 concerns in English. Right?

4 And that's -- we have this long history of
5 colonization, right, that came and decided how to take
6 our -- kind of have these very interesting ways of
7 assimilating our people and educating our people in this
8 western way and making us really dependent on this one
9 monetary economy.

10 So taking that into consideration also in this EIS,
11 that there is this long history that, yeah, now people
12 depend on this money and, yes, we need our people to have
13 jobs; but also there is a long process of unreconciled
14 history of taking, you know. And that land, yeah, that
15 land is Kaktovik, is Inupiaq people's lands. We stand
16 with -- we stand with Inupiaq people. We stand with the
17 people of Kaktovik who want to protect their lands.

18 We have heard them say they are concerned about their
19 berry picking areas, their water, their fish. And we have
20 heard them also say that, yeah, this is -- this is their
21 sovereign right to have self-determination over their
22 territories, not an oil company's right to bully them into
23 what their rights are, but the people that are there to
24 have their right to decide what to do with their lands.
25 We stand with those people, as well.

1 We stand with the Gwich'in people, who depend on the
2 caribou and who depend on the clean water. And we stand
3 with all the people in the world who want to continue past
4 13 years, while our children want to continue to have
5 clean water, have oceans that are functioning.

6 I was in Nome a couple years ago, and there was no
7 ice in the middle of December on the ocean. And an elder
8 came up to me and she said the mammals, the sea animals,
9 are in trauma. They have no place to have their babies.
10 They don't know what's happening. The -- our marine
11 relatives are in trauma, and so we are in trauma.

12 So I urge you to do better on the climate, climate
13 section. I know I would love to see a supplemental report
14 of that climate section. The environmental justice
15 section is inadequate. You know, environmental justice
16 means that the peoples who are there have prior and
17 informed consent, right, that they are being consulted.

18 And yeah, we know that some of them -- some of -- you
19 have brought some people in as, what, consulting agencies,
20 right? But this process is actually not listening to
21 them. It's not stopping this -- this development, which
22 is what they want. So more supplemental reporting before
23 a final draft.

24 And with that, I'll say thank you.

25 MS. JANIS BRONSON: Thank you very much.

1 Thank you for listening. My name is Janis Bronson. I am
2 a lifetime Alaskan, and I also have two young adult
3 daughters who -- and a husband whose future and jobs I
4 care about.

5 And therefore, I oppose drilling in the Arctic
6 Refuge, primarily for the reasons that the previous
7 speaker gave about the climate. I grew up -- I went to
8 Wasilla High School, graduated in 1977. It was right when
9 the pipeline was opening. We had a lot of resources. I
10 feel super grateful, or I did feel super grateful to grow
11 up with so much oil wealth, but I feel like now that we
12 know what the burning of fossil fuels is doing to our
13 climate, that the responsible thing to do is to use less
14 and less of that. If we are building infrastructure and
15 new projects, that it should not be of the type where we
16 are developing new oilfields.

17 I think Alaska has a bright future. I love it here.

18 I know you are tired. I will just leave you with one
19 comment -- or I imagine you are tired. Maybe not -- I'm
20 going to leave with one comment that I'd like addressed in
21 the EIS, please. And that is that I would like the
22 Environmental Impact Statement to please include the
23 impact that the use of the fossil fuels would have, not
24 just the climate impact that producing the fossil fuels
25 would have. Is that clear?

1 Thank you very much.

2 MS. SUSAN CULLINEY: Hello. My name is
3 Susan Culliney. I'm the Policy Director for Audubon
4 Alaska, which is the Alaska state office for the National
5 Audubon Society. Audubon has over 4,000 members here in
6 Alaska and about 400,000 members nationwide.

7 Audubon opposes fossil fuel development in the Arctic
8 National Wildlife Refuge. Speaking to today's
9 environmental review process, we also find the Draft
10 Environmental Impact Statement deficient in its analysis
11 of oil and gas leasing on the coastal plain. Audubon will
12 also contribute to written comments, but I want to today
13 highlight a few of the many problems in the EIS.

14 First, the coastal plain provides essential habitat
15 for millions of birds and supports a wide diversity of
16 water birds, shore birds, song birds, raptors and other
17 guilds. However, the BLM's analysis of impacts to birds
18 misses entire aspects of the necessary analysis. So for
19 instance, the EIS provides no maps of birds other than
20 snow geese. The spatial data do exist to provide the
21 public with the depiction of how birds use the coastal
22 plain and how the development scenarios would impact them.
23 This visual and spatial comparison is vital for the public
24 and for the agency to understand and analyze the impacts.

25 Second, the EIS lacks basic scientific reference for

1 many topics. For instance, in the four paragraphs on the
2 impacts of oil spills on birds, this short section
3 entirely lacks footnotes or any reference to scientific
4 literature. There is an unfortunate abundance of
5 scientific study of the impact of oil spills on birds, and
6 the agency must look at and reference that information in
7 its explanation of the impact. And this deficiency is
8 seen throughout the EIS.

9 Finally, the EIS does not limit development to 2,000
10 acres on the coastal plain as required by the 2017 Tax
11 Act. The EIS would count gravel roads, pipeline supports,
12 and drill pads towards the 2,000 acres, but would not
13 count gravel mines or ice roads, two types of
14 infrastructure that are impactful. The EIS would count
15 the development acreage "at any given time," meaning that
16 as impacted acres are supposedly reclaimed, those acres
17 would no longer count toward the 2,000 limit. More acres
18 could be developed, and the cumulative impact of acreage
19 would be far greater than 2,000 acres.

20 Nor does the EIS clearly explain how the agency will
21 track the acreage through time and how it will hold
22 companies accountable. And finally the EIS does not count
23 the acres of indirect impacts from dust, thermokarst,
24 noise, oil spills and other impacts that reach far beyond
25 that direct footprint.

1 The EIS does not limit development to 2,000 acres,
2 does not explain how a limit would work, and also simply
3 reveals that the very notion of limiting the impacts of
4 development on the coastal plain 2,000 acres is false.

5 Speaking narrowly of this DEIS, the agency should not
6 move forward with the leasing program under this EIS,
7 given the inaccuracies, scientific gaps, and wrong
8 information. Speaking more broadly on this issue, Audubon
9 opposes fossil fuel development in the refuge, and we urge
10 all branches of government to do everything in their power
11 to restore protections for the Arctic National Wildlife
12 Refuge.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MR. BEN SULLENDER: Hey there. I'm Ben
15 Sullender from Anchorage, Alaska, and I want to first
16 thank you guys for changing the format of the meeting to
17 allow for public comments. I appreciate that. And thank
18 you so much for your time. Got to be exhausting being up
19 there all day. So we appreciate it. Thank you.

20 I am speaking on my own behalf. I'm a biologist, I'm
21 a backpacker, and I'm a packrafter. I've hiked from
22 Arctic Village to Kaktovik. I've spent time packrafting
23 both the Okpilak and the Hulahula Rivers, and I've hiked
24 peaks overlooking the coastal plain in the 1002 area.

25 I'm speaking today broadly in opposition to oil and

1 gas leasing and, in particular, I'm dismayed by the
2 inaccurate analysis from the Draft EIS. I'm requesting
3 that the EIS more completely and explicitly account for
4 the full extent of industrial impacts from Alternatives B,
5 C and D.

6 Much of my concerns have to do with the discrediting
7 of industrial impacts on ecology and recreational values.
8 The clearest example of this is the 2,000-acre myth, which
9 we have heard a lot about today, both from Susan and a lot
10 of the other industry speakers earlier today. Oil and gas
11 development, even if constrained to a cumulative footprint
12 of 2,000 acres, would have landscape-scale impacts far
13 exceeding that nominal acreage.

14 Today I want to talk about three main aspects of
15 those landscape-scale impacts. First off, oil development
16 within the 1002 area would compromise wilderness values,
17 as well as recreational opportunities across the Mollie
18 Beattie Wilderness portion of the Alaska National Wildlife
19 Refuge. Since its establishment in 1960, a core purpose
20 of the refuge is to conserve wilderness and recreational
21 values. This was further underscored in 1980 with the
22 passage of ANILCA and establishment of formal wilderness
23 areas. The reason that you go there is to go somewhere
24 wild away from urban sprawl and industrial sprawl.

25 But if development were to occur within the 1002

1 area, for example, after traveling to the most remote
2 mountain range in Alaska, the Brooks Range, and scaling to
3 the top of Mt. Chamberlin about 9,000 feet tall, you would
4 plainly see buildings or bridges across the Canning Delta.
5 And the reason is simple: north of the Brooks there is
6 not much topographic relief. It's pretty hard to hide a
7 150-foot tall mobile drill rig or even a 50-foot tall
8 processing facility.

9 Say you are not much of a mountaineer, so rather than
10 Mt. Chamberlin, you prefer a gentle float. If you are
11 attempting to float down, for example, the Hulahula River.
12 In the course of your otherwise scenic float, you would
13 all of a sudden round a bend and have infrastructure
14 rearing up over the horizon with industry serving
15 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft buzzing back and forth
16 overhead. Not exactly the idyllic surroundings you were
17 envisioning in a federally designated wilderness area.

18 So all of a sudden that 2,000 acres would actually
19 involve far more area in terms of compromising wilderness
20 and recreation. You would be building in plain sight of
21 the tallest peaks and the most remote rivers in the Brooks
22 Range. For 60 years, the refuge has provided for
23 wilderness recreation. This EIS process would compromise
24 the legacy built throughout those decades.

25 A second way to consider the fallacy of the

1 2,000-acre myth is from a biological standpoint. I'm a
2 career biologist, I have published peer review papers, and
3 I've combed through decades of literature on caribou
4 movement and habitat use. There is unequivocal scientific
5 evidence that oilfield infrastructure, such as pipelines
6 and gravel roads, seasonally negatively impacts migration
7 for parturient caribou.

8 You can see pictures of male caribou trying to
9 shelter under pipelines. For the most part, those are in
10 the middle of the summer and the middle of mosquito or
11 black fly season. If you were getting hit with those same
12 insects, you wouldn't hesitate to look for respite in some
13 crazy places, either. But attempting to pull scientific
14 conclusions from an occasional photo is really not science
15 at all.

16 So one final way to think about that 2,000-acre myth
17 is maybe a little more graphic. As oil industry knows,
18 not all areas are the same. Due to various geological
19 factors, some places have far more oil than others. The
20 same thing goes for biology and ecology. Some places on
21 the landscape have much more ecological value. The
22 problem is that for the entire eastern Arctic ecosystem,
23 these ecological values are condensed into the 1002 area.
24 So no matter where you put those 2,000 acres, you are
25 going to hit something important.

1 So here is that graphic metaphor: Rather than
2 extracting oil from the ground, think about extracting
3 something from a person. Even if it's a really small
4 amount you are going for, a few square inches instead of
5 that 2,000 acres, and it might seem insignificant when you
6 look at everywhere you have to choose from, if those few
7 square inches are targeted squarely at your heart, that's
8 going to leave a mark, and that's not just here.

9 The 1002 area is the heart of the Arctic National
10 Wildlife Refuge. To cut into that heart would compromise
11 the entire system. I expect to see that spelled out
12 plainly in the next draft of the EIS so that everyone
13 understands the landscape-scale impacts of cutting into
14 the Arctic Refuge's wild heart.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. SARA THOMAS: (Speaking in Inupiaq.)
17 Good afternoon, everyone. I'm just practicing my Inupiaq.
18 As I just said, I live in Utqiagvik. I've lived there
19 since I was ten years old. I have a degree in
20 international relations that I received from University of
21 Hawaii Manoa. I'm a rural development student at UAF
22 currently. I'm studying Inupiaq language, and in rural
23 development, I'm studying sustainable communities.

24 So I'm -- I'm also a mother. (Speaking in Inupiaq.)
25 My five children are Inupiaq. My husband is Inupiaq.

1 And I'm here today to speak on my own behalf. No one
2 is paying me to be here. I'm here because I care. And
3 I'm here because I see a big problem. My husband, he
4 doesn't want to come to this meeting. He doesn't think
5 it's going to matter. He's already seen his elders over
6 and over saying we don't want this. And he doesn't think
7 that anyone is listening.

8 And I -- I can't help but feel really sad that I
9 think that's kind of true because, like I said at the
10 Utqiagvik meeting that I went to that was very, very small
11 because we had very little notice -- and, in fact, I got
12 the notice in the mail on Friday after the meeting was on
13 Wednesday.

14 Our community cares, and we are very divided. To me,
15 this division it's in -- it's a division of the
16 environment and the economy. And this is what we are
17 dealing with. We have been compartmentalized to think
18 that the environment and the economy are separate. I
19 don't want to come here today to be against anything. I'm
20 not against -- I'm not against -- I'm trying to be for
21 things. Right? Although there is a struggle. And I just
22 want you guys to understand that the struggle is real and
23 it's valid.

24 So I'm here today in support of all the people who
25 haven't had a voice in this and who don't feel like it

1 matters. They don't feel like their voice matters. I --
2 I'm standing in solidarity with the Gwich'in Nation who
3 has been unwavering in their asking, please stop. This
4 land is not the land. In their language, this land is the
5 sacred place where life begins. If that doesn't evoke
6 some kind of -- this is a -- this is their place name. It
7 is sacred to them.

8 They have been unwavering. And many Inupiaq people
9 have also been unwavering. Many nonindustry Inupiaq
10 people have been unwavering. And even many ASRC
11 shareholders, of which my family is, we have been
12 unwavering. We don't want this ongoing assault on the
13 land. We don't want it.

14 I would like to ask that you please consider the no
15 drilling option that you are saying is not an option. And
16 you are not listening to the people. Those -- that man
17 who said earlier -- I apologize for interrupting whoever
18 he was when I said it's a lie. But it is a lie.
19 Two-thirds of the people do not want ANWR to be drilled
20 in. I study surveys, and I know this. 70 percent of
21 people in America, in the U.S., don't want ANWR to be
22 opened.

23 I believe -- although the surveys are not conclusive
24 in the North Slope because we know we don't take surveys.
25 We don't want them to keep studying. The people don't

1 want to keep being an experiment. But I believe that the
2 majority of the people do not want this.

3 Many people on the North Slope will tell you that we
4 need this oil money. We need it for our continued -- to
5 fix all of our crumbling infrastructure. I can tell you,
6 I agree. I live in a flood zone right now at NARL in a
7 pretty poorly maintained home of two bedrooms that I have
8 my family of seven in. It's -- it's cozy. But I'm
9 telling you that we know the infrastructure is crumbling.
10 Our swimming pool for our community has been broken for
11 two years now. We don't know why.

12 Okay. They are saying we need the oil. We need to
13 keep pushing for oil to fix our crumbling infrastructure.
14 And I'm asking you right now -- because I see this as an
15 addiction issue because we have so many addictions that we
16 are dealing with in our communities where the trauma has
17 been so vast.

18 Where -- I have this question: Where did the money
19 go so far? If we have crumbling infrastructure, we
20 can't -- we don't even have money to fix it, and we are
21 just going to -- and we got so much from the previous oil
22 development, so what -- where did it go?

23 We know. We know there is a huge wealth imbalance
24 problem, and it's not just national. It's not just
25 global. It's in our own communities. We know that this

1 money from the previous development has fueled greed and
2 corruption.

3 We know -- we know that oil and gas development, that
4 oil and gas extraction, is inherently not sustainable.
5 This is a nonrenewable resource. There is now currently
6 50 years left without going into all the sacred spaces.
7 50 years until we are going to run out of oil, and we are
8 still just trying to get more oil. It is inherently
9 nonsustainable to extract nonrenewable resources.

10 I'm not even going to go into the whole climate
11 change thing because I think a few others have touched on
12 that pretty well.

13 We are not against progress. I'm not against
14 progress. I enjoy flying, traveling. I enjoy driving. I
15 shouldn't have to make those choices to not move, to not
16 travel because I don't want the earth to be destroyed any
17 longer. I'm using -- I'm trying to use what resources I
18 have available to make the most out of my life. And we
19 want better options. We do. We want alternative
20 energies. We are not even hardly investing in them on the
21 North Slope. We have a lot of wind. We have a lot of
22 sun. We are not investing because the corruption is so
23 heavy. We are so used to this easy money.

24 And we are -- and we are sick. Our oceans are sick.
25 You can walk around in Utqiagvik, walk around and see.

1 Come, please. I invite you to come visit if you have
2 never been, and I'll take you to walk on the beach and
3 look around, and you will see a lot of plastic bags in the
4 ocean. And it's beautiful. Okay. But the ocean and the
5 tundra, there is plastic all over. And this is global.
6 We know this is a global problem. We know that the oil
7 industry has been exploitive from day one in the U.S.,
8 around the globe.

9 People said it was God's will to take this land from
10 the people, from the indigenous people and to ever explore
11 and expand for progress.

12 The problem is that this has been happening at the
13 expense of the whole for a small minority. We all know
14 this.

15 So I'm here today. I'd like to tell -- I'd like to
16 assert that the Inupiaq and the Gwich'in traditional
17 values that we are all connected, that the earth is
18 sacred, is valid.

19 The concern of the impacts, of which we can't fully
20 know because we cannot tell the future -- could they have
21 known that the Exxon Valdez was going to happen? They
22 could not have known that. They probably had a really
23 great bunch of their experts saying that it was not ever
24 going to happen and it didn't, and then something is going
25 to happen. We know that. And these concerns are valid.

1 The belief that Mother Earth is sacred, my belief
2 that Mother Earth is sacred and it's my responsibility to
3 speak up for those that cannot, this is valid. And I
4 thank you for giving me this opportunity to assert that,
5 that we are valid in our beliefs.

6 Our U.S. Congress, the president and many of the oil
7 and gas companies, representatives of ASRC and other
8 Native -- Native multinational corporations that are
9 attached to the U.S. government, they are acting on
10 personal interests. They have from day one, and I'm sorry
11 to say.

12 I have this question for you: If you are acting on
13 behalf of a corporation today, if you are here speaking in
14 favor of drilling on these lands that the Gwich'in have
15 said to please do not drill in this area, this is the
16 calving grounds, I'm asking you to please question
17 yourself.

18 You gentlemen on this panel right now, are you going
19 to receive financial benefit from this action? I actually
20 really want to know how much investment you gentlemen,
21 especially, have in the oil industry.

22 I think I've said enough, so I'm just going to stop
23 talking now.

24 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: In order for Mary, the
25 court reporter, to do the best job that she can do, we're

1 going to give her a five-minute break here so that she can
2 rest her hands a little bit here so she can come back
3 fresh for our next speakers. So let's say we come back
4 here at 3:40. It's 3:33 now. Thank you.

5 (A break was taken.)

6 MS. AMY LEWIS: A few quick things. Just
7 a reminder that we also have a court reporter stationed
8 back here for testimony, too, if you would like to speak
9 one-on-one. Right now we are on No. 30. We have a lot of
10 people that have taken tickets that would like to speak,
11 so when you come up here, just be respectful and mindful
12 that there are a lot of people that would still like to
13 get their testimony heard tonight.

14 And if you don't know if your number is going to get
15 called, you can also utilize the court reporter in the
16 back or one of our computers or a written comment option.

17 Go ahead.

18 MS. MICHELLE LEBEAU: Michelle LeBeau.
19 I'm speaking on my own behalf today. I live in Anchorage,
20 and I'm choosing to raise my young family here in Alaska.
21 And I strongly oppose oil and gas leasing program in the
22 Arctic Refuge. Oil and gas development does not belong in
23 the Arctic Refuge, a place established to protect
24 wildlife, recreation and subsistence values. I have
25 personally been to the Arctic Refuge, and I know this

1 public land is too special to sell to the oil companies.

2 I'm also concerned that this process does not even
3 begin to address the significant impacts that oil and gas
4 development will create for birds and other wildlife.

5 I urge you to halt this leasing program.

6 MS. MARGI DASHEVSKY: Hi. My name is
7 Margi Dashevsky. We are assembled today on Dena'ina land,
8 and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is Inupiat land
9 that is sacred to the Gwich'in people because it is the
10 sacred place where life begins.

11 For the Gwich'in Nation, protecting the Arctic Refuge
12 is a matter of food security, self-determination and
13 ultimately cultural survival. The proposed oil and gas
14 development in the refuge is a direct affront to their
15 Native sovereignty.

16 I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I have been fighting to
17 protect the Arctic Refuge since I was 16 years old. I
18 gathered petitions as a sophomore in high school and sent
19 them to my senators. It doesn't matter how many times we
20 win. We only have to lose once. This is the lesson that
21 I've learned from this lifelong fight.

22 I'm here to advocate for the best interests of
23 myself, my fellow Alaskans, and the future generations who
24 inhabit our state and our planet. Drilling in the Arctic
25 Refuge prioritizes the short-term interests of industry at

1 the sacrifice of the long-term stability of our public
2 lands and climate.

3 I'm looking at you, and I know that you are
4 hard-working, intelligent people who care. And I wonder
5 if I can reach your heart to care about these lands that
6 are so precious. My parents came to Alaska as scientists,
7 field researchers. My mom is a botanist. My dad is a
8 geologist. I grew up steeped in the world of science.
9 I'm trained as a science educator. I translate that
10 jargon and make it accessible and relevant and compelling
11 to young people.

12 And the way that the systems of knowledge and how we
13 are presenting this information privileges western science
14 over indigenous knowledge is oppressive. And there are so
15 many opportunities within the realm of science education
16 to support our indigenous youth in their sense of worth
17 and to directly combat the astronomical rates of suicide,
18 mental health, mental illness, these are top, top
19 priorities, and these are things that money can't buy,
20 developing a tiny amount of oil in the Arctic won't buy.

21 But by investing in these young people in their
22 future, we can support their self-determination, their
23 sense of self-worth. And a vital part of that is how we
24 hold these knowledge systems together, both indigenous
25 local knowledge that is passed through generations and has

1 a climate record that shows us that our Alaska that we
2 care about so deeply is changing.

3 I grew up in Fairbanks. I don't remember it ever
4 raining in the wintertime. One of the things that I love
5 most is cross-country skiing, and now it rains every
6 winter and the snow is gone. That's really superficial
7 and that doesn't matter compared to food security, food
8 sovereignty and the lost knowledge every time an Alaska
9 Native language goes dormant. And I choose that word
10 carefully. They are not going extinct.

11 My own Jewish heritage, we have a -- the Hebrew
12 language is alive and a living language after being
13 dormant for many, many years. So our Alaska Native
14 languages are a treasure trove of this local knowledge
15 that must be stewarded and safeguarded. And how can you
16 separate that world view, that language, from this land.

17 And so the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the
18 reason that we are all here today, is absolutely a vital
19 link in the cultural survival and well-being of the
20 Gwich'in Nation.

21 I stand here today to voice my opposition to any oil
22 and gas exploration or development in the Arctic National
23 Wildlife Refuge. The urgency of the climate crisis
24 demands unprecedented action. Whatever unknown quantity
25 of oil lying beneath the coastal plain and the 1002 area

1 should stay in the ground and out of our atmosphere.

2 I'm here to use my voice to defend the sacred lands
3 and waters that sustain us all. The fact that the no
4 action alternative is not currently under consideration
5 due to the requirements of the Tax Act fundamentally
6 corrupts this process. The fact that we have, what, a
7 45-day comment period right now and it should be 120 days
8 is further corruption to this process.

9 This Draft Environmental Impact Statement is grossly
10 inadequate because it fails to address concerns raised
11 during the scoping process and the action alternatives
12 offer much more acreage than required by the Tax Act
13 anyway.

14 Despite the over 700,000 scoping comments that were
15 submitted, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has
16 substantial flaws, including substantial gaps in the
17 scientific baseline. It conflicts with the refuge's other
18 purposes. The analysis of the impacts is inadequate,
19 including climate change, as Enei so eloquently
20 highlighted earlier. It fails to offer a reasonable range
21 of alternatives. We need to have a no action alternative
22 and change the mandate from the Tax Act. And ultimately
23 it has not been translated into Alaska Native languages.

24 Therefore, the BLM should create a supplemental
25 Environmental Impact Statement and translate it into

1 Inupiaq and Gwich'in.

2 Please record this as a substantive comment and
3 translate it into Alaska Native languages.

4 The BLM is cramming what should be a multiyear
5 process with lots of public input into a single year. The
6 fact that scheduling hearings continued during the
7 government shutdown, even though the public had no way to
8 get ahold of BLM officials, is egregious. And now with
9 lease sales looming, I want oil companies and the banks
10 that finance them to know that they are risking public
11 backlash because the majority of Americans oppose
12 drilling.

13 I speak from my professional expertise as a science
14 teacher with a master's in education. I consider
15 addressing climate change the greatest challenge we face.
16 And pursuing a just transition to a sustainable and
17 regenerative economy is the greatest opportunity before
18 us.

19 I currently work in support of Alaskan youth who care
20 deeply about the health and well-being of our home state.
21 The next generation of Alaskan leaders are depending on us
22 to diversify Alaska's economy so that we don't have to
23 face this false choice between economic prosperity and oil
24 extraction. An intact Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is
25 a legacy we should all be proud to leave them.

1 I urge you to use your power as you sit at this table
2 today in Alaska on Dena'ina land in our beautiful state
3 and reconsider how we can change the situation we find
4 ourselves in, change the mandate so that a no action path
5 is available for those of us living today and for those of
6 us yet to come.

7 Can you stand to have oil drilling in your backyard?
8 What would that be like for the first year? The next
9 seven years? It impacts the animals and their sensitivity
10 will be some of the first signs of these impacts. And
11 killing the animals kills the people. So your opportunity
12 here is to change the future and support a legacy that we
13 can all be proud of.

14 Those most impacted by potential oil and gas
15 development in the Arctic Refuge should have full and
16 prior and informed consent. The Inupiaq and Gwich'in
17 people depend on these lands for their survival.

18 All documentation, Draft Environmental Impact
19 Statement included, presentations and public hearings
20 should be fully translated into the languages of Gwich'in
21 and Inupiaq. Hard copies of the Draft Environmental
22 Impact Statement must be more readily available. Online
23 documents are not enough. They do not provide adequate
24 access to information to those with poor to no Internet
25 access. Hard copies must be made available.

1 The food security of the Inupiaq and the Gwich'in
2 people will be threatened by oil and gas development on
3 the coastal plain. That's the last remaining five percent
4 of northern Alaska that's not been developed.

5 Global science reports agree that climate change is
6 the biggest threat to humanity. We must not continue to
7 exacerbate the impacts by furthering any new fossil fuel
8 development. Oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge
9 is counter to scientific climate action.

10 I stand here today in solidarity and tremendous
11 respect and gratitude to the Gwich'in people who have been
12 leading this fight for my lifetime. The Gwich'in people,
13 who have depended on the resources of the Arctic National
14 Wildlife Refuge since time immemorial are united in their
15 opposition to oil and gas development in the coastal
16 plain. Their way of life is inextricably linked to the
17 caribou of this place, the sacred place where life begins.
18 Protecting the Porcupine caribou herd is a matter of human
19 rights and food security. Many beings' way of life are at
20 stake here.

21 Since it was first federally protected by President
22 Eisenhower in 1960, the Arctic Refuge has been one of our
23 nation's most important protected areas.

24 My middle name given me by my parents is Nularvik.
25 It's an Inupiaq word. It means, literally translated,

1 tent site. And as I have grown older and become more
2 connected with my Inupiaq friends and community come to
3 understand that campsite is my western colonized way of
4 understanding that word. And really it means home,
5 because people move through this land, and the entire land
6 is home.

7 So my middle name is something that, I'll admit, I
8 was kind of embarrassed by it in middle school. You know,
9 people make fun of things that stand out. It's something
10 that I am proud of today because it represents my
11 connection to this land and it's something that, as a
12 white person, I recognize is of another culture and a
13 community that I stand here to uplift and advocate for the
14 people who will be most impacted by this oil development.

15 When I was in middle school, I went backpacking in
16 the Arctic Refuge with my family. My little brother was
17 barely able to carry the oatmeal for our breakfast, and I
18 was 12 and proud I could carry all my own gear and food
19 for the group. And we traversed the Sadlerochit
20 Mountains. We went along the base of the Nularvik River,
21 where my parents first fell in love with the vast expanses
22 of Alaska.

23 And that wide open space is something that is
24 quintessential of what we call wilderness and what we
25 strive to protect. And as an environmentalist, as a

1 conservationist, that land is so vital because of the
2 relationship that people have to capital W wilderness.
3 And these wild places have always been inhabited. And the
4 connection of people to place is what this Arctic Refuge
5 can protect.

6 And being able to share that experience with you
7 today is important because not very many people have the
8 opportunity to travel to those beautiful lands. And the
9 impacts that oil, even just the exploration, has on that
10 sensitive vegetation does irreparable damage. My mom as a
11 botanist uses satellite imagery to look at the seismic
12 trails that are left from the 1980s exploration, and those
13 trails have permanently altered the water hydrology. They
14 have thawed the permafrost and, as a result, that
15 depression collects water so you have a positive feedback
16 cycle where the land is scarred and you can see it from
17 satellites.

18 That is the sort of impact that is going to happen if
19 this goes forward. And so it is within our hands. The
20 time is now to change this process.

21 The fact that the scoping was completed in just five
22 months and Congress authorized four years before the
23 mandated lease sale calls into question whether the Trump
24 administration is conducting this Environmental Impact
25 Statement process in good faith with adequate attention to

1 public input and science and in compliance with the law.

2 The abbreviated timeline and analysis for the
3 Environmental Impact Statement appears to be the
4 consequence in part of Trump administration policies and
5 Acting Secretary Bernhardt's guidance that arbitrarily
6 required the study contractor to confine the analysis to
7 less than 150 pages in less than one year. While they
8 remain determined to adhere to this one-year limit, they
9 have far exceeded the page limit.

10 These 300 pages with appendices and other documents
11 incorporated by reference will need to be reviewed and
12 thoroughly analyzed, and that is impossible in the 45-day
13 comment period. 90 days is necessary. 120 days is best.

14 Despite acknowledging that oil and gas can have
15 impacts on caribou, BLM concludes that there will not be
16 an impact on subsistence resources for the Gwich'in and
17 that the subsistence needs of the Gwich'in do not qualify
18 for an 810 hearing under ANILCA, which is required for
19 development that will substantially affect subsistence.

20 Despite the fact that a significant percent of
21 Gwich'in subsistence comes from the Porcupine caribou
22 herd, which the BLM's own analysis finds leasing will
23 affect, they then find that the Gwich'in subsistence will
24 not be affected. This is circular logic, obviously. And
25 I can tell you, the Gwich'in food security will be

1 affected.

2 Further, this ignores the traditional knowledge and
3 the human rights of the Gwich'in, as I stated earlier.

4 One of the specific purposes of the Arctic National
5 Wildlife Refuge as established is to ensure water quality
6 and necessary water quantity within the refuge to conserve
7 fish, wildlife and habitats. This Draft Environmental
8 Impact Statement must demonstrate adherence and that the
9 lease sale will not negatively impact water quality and
10 quantity.

11 Water on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is
12 particularly scarce. There are few open lakes and rivers
13 compared to the western Arctic, especially in the winter
14 when the surface is frozen. The BLM does no new analysis
15 of how much water is actually available on the coastal
16 plain and, therefore, an insufficient job of analyzing
17 impact to that water quality.

18 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement avoids
19 providing a clear estimate of how much water will be
20 required, but if you piece together the information in the
21 document, the figure is staggering. Center for American
22 Progress did this, and what they found is that the Draft
23 Environmental Impact Statement estimates that drilling
24 each well requires 420,000 to 1.9 million gallons of
25 water. All the alternatives have at least 17 satellite

1 pads and one anchor pad. And that's volume 2, table B-5.

2 Additionally, the Draft Environmental Impact
3 Statement estimates that 30 wells will be drilled from the
4 average pad. Volume 2, B-17. So at least 540 wells will
5 be drilled, requiring a total of between 227 million and
6 one billion gallons of water just to drill these wells.
7 Plus, every mile of ice road requires one million gallons
8 of water. Volume 2, B-13. And each pad requires 500,000
9 gallons of water. B-12. And daily production of 50,000
10 barrels of oil would require two million gallons of water
11 per day. Let me just restate. The refuge was set up to
12 protect water. And this is how much water will be used
13 per day: Two million gallons.

14 In their comments on the Notice of Intent, U.S. Fish
15 & Wildlife Service emphasized concerns about the
16 cumulative impacts of all stages of oil and gas
17 development on water. Water withdrawals from the streams,
18 rivers and springs could have significant and detrimental
19 implications to the populations and habitats of fish and
20 wildlife.

21 I haven't talked at all about polar bears and, in
22 part, that's because charismatic megafauna oftentimes
23 overshadow what is far more important about human rights.
24 But polar bears are an incredibly important part of human
25 rights because of the cultural connections with polar

1 bears. And the impact of development in the refuge would
2 have a huge effect on large areas of polar bear critical
3 habitat. There are currently just 900 southern Beaufort
4 Sea polar bears. And the population has declined
5 approximately 50 percent in the last 30 years. That's
6 volume 1, page 3-125.

7 The land in the coastal plain that they use for
8 denning and as a summer refuge has and will continue to
9 increase with the loss of sea ice pushing more and more
10 polar bears to require the refuge for survival. Polar
11 bear critical denning habitat constitutes 77 percent of
12 the program area. Volume 1, page 3-133. And maternal
13 dens are disproportionately high in the hydrocarbon
14 potential zones. Volume 1, page 3-134.

15 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges
16 that the potential for injury or mortality could be high
17 when developing new oil and gas projects in polar bear
18 habitat. Volume 1, page 3-142. Nevertheless, there is no
19 estimate of the number of bears that could be killed,
20 injured or displaced by the leasing process or seismic
21 testing.

22 Now caribou. And as a daughter of a hunter, I grew
23 up eating caribou meat. I have processed and butchered
24 caribou. I aspire to one day harvest my own caribou,
25 although I have a learning curve there. I will say that

1 since childhood, caribou has been my favorite food. And
2 when I left Alaska for college, it was one of the things
3 that I missed most. So when I come back to college after
4 break, I would bring a little lunchbox, insulated
5 lunchbox, of caribou meat and blueberries. That's what I
6 would bring.

7 The coastal plain provides vital calving and
8 post-calving habitat for the Porcupine caribou herd. The
9 coastal plain offers nutrient-rich forage, protection from
10 predators, and relief from the relentless insects of the
11 Arctic.

12 As an ecologist, I can speak to the detrimental
13 impacts that all those parasites have on the caribou, and
14 they need that vast amount of habitat to be able to move
15 and avoid the huge swarms of mosquitoes. I have been out
16 there in my head net and had to take my bites of food
17 under the head net because the mosquitoes are so intense.
18 And these caribou, they will stick their heads in the
19 water on the river just to get their sensitive nose skin
20 out of the swarms of the biting insects.

21 And if you haven't seen the film Being Caribou, that
22 was a very eye-opening perspective for me of how the
23 caribou move across this landscape.

24 The Porcupine caribou herd use all of the coastal
25 plain for various habitat needs during their animal

1 migration. The BLM acknowledges that oil and gas
2 activities will likely disturb and displace caribou,
3 especially sensitive cows and calves. Map 3-21 shows the
4 Porcupine caribou herd calving and post-calving covering
5 most of the coastal plain. Volume 2, 3-21.

6 The BLM estimates that only 49 percent of the coastal
7 plain is sensitive calving grounds for the Porcupine
8 caribou herd, but this vastly undercounts the value of the
9 coastal plain to the caribou, who use essentially all of
10 the coastal plain during calving and post-calving when
11 they are sensitive to disturbance.

12 The agency fails to adequately address these impacts
13 and to consider the full range of areas that are important
14 to caribou. Anything that moves the herd away from the
15 coastal plain has been shown to be detrimental to calf
16 survival -- volume 1, page 3-114 -- and in fact would
17 likely halt population growth. Volume 1, page 3-115.
18 Additionally, other potential calving areas to the east
19 have a higher density of predators and less suitable
20 vegetation.

21 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement offers
22 insufficient mitigation of the impacts to the Porcupine
23 caribou herd. Even the most restrictive alternative only
24 halts major construction activities, but not drilling for
25 a single month of the year when caribou are calving.

1 Volume 1, 2-13.

2 Now I'm going to get into the nitty-gritty of
3 infrastructure and the 2,000-acre rule because the Tax
4 Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 stipulated a 2,000-acre surface
5 development limit on the coastal plain. The Draft
6 Environmental Impact Statement interprets that ice roads
7 and pads, elevated pipelines and gravel mines, do not
8 count as surface disturbance and, therefore, are not
9 considered in the 2,000-acre limit of surface acres
10 outlined in PL-115.

11 MR. STEVE WACKOWSKI: Can I ask a
12 question? Are you reading from the Canadian -- the study
13 the Canadians have submitted to us? Those are already in
14 our record, the entire study, so --

15 MS. MARGI DASHEVSKY: So those will be
16 addressed in --

17 MR. WACKOWSKI: The Canadians sent it to
18 us three days ago and we've already incorporated it into
19 our administrative record.

20 MS. MARGI DASHEVSKY: Wow. In three days.
21 Rock on.

22 MR. STEVE WACKOWSKI: I just wanted to
23 make that clear so you don't have to read the entire
24 thing. Sorry.

25 MS. MARGI DASHEVSKY: I respect that.

1 Thank you. It is really important that this is thoroughly
2 accounted for so I'm glad to hear that. Thank you for
3 that.

4 I will -- okay. So the oil spills are also part of
5 that. Okay. Out of respect to that comment, I will skip
6 to this part right here.

7 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement minimizes
8 impacts to birds, millions of which from every state and
9 continent, including off the coast of Antarctica, come to
10 the refuge to breed, forage and molt, allowing loopholes
11 for development to continue despite impacts to birds.
12 There is no analysis of expected revenues, despite the
13 projected two billion in revenue, one billion dollars to
14 the state of Alaska and one billion dollars to the federal
15 government being a major factor in allowing attachment of
16 this rider to the Tax Act.

17 Concern with wilderness and recreation values, two of
18 the primary purposes for the establishment of the refuge,
19 Dr. Stuart Smith conducted a GIS analysis of the visual
20 impact of development and finds that the visual impacts of
21 coastal plain development would be significant and wide
22 ranging.

23 For example, oil and gas activity across the vast
24 majority. 88 percent of the 1002 area would potentially
25 be visible to people rafting six of its major rivers, even

1 when structures as low as 15 meters are in place. Further
2 from high points within the federally designated
3 wilderness portion of the refuge, over 99 percent of the
4 coastal plain and any development thereon will be visible.

5 All right. Thank you all for being here today. I
6 really value this public input process, and I think it's
7 really important that Alaskans take stake of what is on
8 the line here. And the fact that we are all here today is
9 just the beginning. And it's going to be a long road.
10 But we are in good community, and we are standing in --
11 in -- in strong numbers and in clear vision to support
12 what really matters.

13 So with that, I close saying thank you from the
14 bottom of my heart, and I stand in solidarity with the
15 Gwich'in, and I look forward to the day where we can look
16 back on today and be proud of fighting for what matters
17 most.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. JIM HILL: Hello. My name is Jim
20 Hill. I'm a born-and-raised Alaskan, and I'm raising a
21 couple kids myself here in the state. Alaska became a
22 state particularly due to its vast natural resources, and
23 the coastal plain has specifically been identified by
24 Congress for its incredible potential for oil and natural
25 gas development. The oil and gas industry in Alaska has a

1 proven track record of responsible development in this
2 area, and has been an incredible steward in protecting the
3 environment, the area wildlife and the lifestyle of the
4 local residents.

5 The 1002 area in question has an extremely small
6 footprint, consisting of just a percentage of 1 percent of
7 the 19.3 million acres in the region. With the Alaska
8 pipeline running three-quarters empty, the seven-plus
9 billion barrel potential for this area is vitally needed
10 to help extend the useful life of TAPS.

11 Opening development in this area will help offset the
12 decline in the Lower 48 shale production, while generating
13 billions of dollars for the Alaskan economy. It can
14 create thousands of jobs, both direct and indirect, and
15 create a stable platform in the region for decades to
16 come.

17 It's good for Alaska and it's invaluable for our
18 nation and will help to keep our country moving forward.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. RICHARD GLENN: Good afternoon. Can
21 you hear me okay? My name is Richard Glenn. Thank you
22 for allowing me the opportunity to speak at this event.
23 It's important to us and important to all Alaskans. It's
24 the safe, responsible exploration and development of the
25 coastal plain.

1 I'm the executive vice president of external affairs
2 for ASRC, or Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. I don't
3 have a lot of time and I don't want to cheat others of
4 their opportunity to speak, and I want to leave a few
5 important messages.

6 You should know the home base for our regional
7 corporation is Alaska's North Slope, eight communities:
8 Point Hope, Point Lay, Atkasuk, Utqiagvik, Anaktuvuk Pass,
9 Nuiqsut and Kaktovik, Kaktovik being the only community
10 that lives in the 1002 area, ANWR.

11 What does this mean? It means that we got the
12 greatest at stake when it comes to the treatment of these
13 lands. These are our lands, our waters, our neighborhood,
14 our birthplaces, our burial places. That's why we support
15 and look forward to a very robust EIS process. We are
16 commenting on it. We have specific issues that we want to
17 make.

18 Welcome to public policy. This is how you try to
19 influence development to the best of your ability for your
20 home region. This has been done on the North Slope for 40
21 years, and countless projects we have commented on.

22 As industry has explored in our region, we have been
23 right there beside because we want our waters clean. We
24 want our fish and our waterfowl, our wildlife resources
25 preserved. We depend on subsistence for our food, but we

1 have got to have a community to come home to.

2 And the real truth that a lot of people don't like to
3 say is today's small villages are small cities. There is
4 power plants and tank farms. There is water and sewer
5 plants. There is a gravel footprint built into every
6 community. People were speaking about drilling for oil
7 and gas in your backyard, and I drill for oil and gas in
8 my own backyard. I promise you, in the 1980s, the seismic
9 acquisitions program that we laid out to find Barrow's
10 supply of natural gas left no marks on the tundra. And
11 that's 1989 and 1990. And it's come a far way even since
12 then.

13 So this issue of scarring of the tundra is something
14 we inherited from the Navy in the 1940s and '50s.
15 Nevertheless, it's the presence of the oil and gas
16 industry in our region. It's the only thing that's hung
17 around long enough to generate an economy, to generate an
18 economy that we depend on. This is not bullying. This is
19 freedom. This is what built our schools in our region.
20 This is what keeps our communities healthy with the
21 physical infrastructure that everyone needs.

22 Question was raised earlier about what did we do with
23 the revenues of oil and gas over these many decades. I'll
24 tell you what we did: We improved the quality of life.
25 The Journal of the American Medical Association posted an

1 article that the quality of life has improved on Alaska's
2 North Slope since the development of resources in our
3 region.

4 As a witness to the three generations of lifestyle
5 change from my grandfather's time to my mother's time to
6 my children's time, I can tell you that there is a
7 significant improvement in the quality of life just in
8 health and sanitation alone, but on much -- all that and
9 much more. So our communities are not bullied. They are
10 empowered.

11 Kaktovik, sitting as the only community with --
12 inside the 1002 area holds special relevance to this
13 discussion. And I look forward to my friend and partner,
14 Fenton Rexford -- we call each other paannaq. That's an
15 Inupiaq word for trading partner. So don't take it any
16 other way. He's my friend. I look forward to his words
17 here tonight.

18 Kaktovik entered this decision with its eyes wide
19 open. They embraced the opportunity that this brings
20 them. As it stands now, they are an island of
21 Native-owned land in the middle of a closed-off coastal
22 plain.

23 Even summertime subsistence access up the rivers for
24 food for the caribou that everyone is talking about is
25 difficult for them, while other people get to backpack and

1 travel downriver on floating rafts. And you can hardly
2 get in and out of the community sometimes because the
3 ecotourism guys have hogged up all of the seats, eaten all
4 the food in the stores. What kind of economic
5 self-determination is that? That's the courage that this
6 community took to embrace this opportunity.

7 The Porcupine caribou herd is a real herd. And I
8 have been in and among the Porcupine herd, the Central
9 herd, the Western Arctic herd. I know the sound of
10 clicking hooves when they walk by your tent. I know what
11 it means to hunt caribou all through every single month of
12 the year.

13 I also know that the caribou are born and raised in
14 and around infrastructure. In fact, State Fish and Game
15 studies show that some of the caribou being caught by the
16 residents of Arctic Village now are Central Arctic caribou
17 herd that are not strangers to oil and gas infrastructure.

18 The value of this resource to our people is real no
19 matter where we are from. But also so is the future of
20 that resource and our dependence on it. Today's lifestyle
21 takes walking in two worlds.

22 It's in the best interest of the Kaktovik people and
23 the North Slope people to maintain the Porcupine, Central
24 and other caribou herds. They migrate south into the
25 explored areas of the Eagle Plain and even into Gwich'in

1 country, which has experienced its own oil and gas
2 exploration heyday.

3 They know that development of the Native-owned lands
4 and the coastal plain can be done safely and responsibly.
5 Kaktovik people know this because we created our home
6 rural government in large part to put those controls on
7 industry.

8 In addition to that, it will provide significant
9 benefits. We are not talking eight years. This is 40
10 years now of industry of what was, quote, an unsustainable
11 industry. That's my grandfather's time, my mom's time, my
12 time and my children's time. And we will hold hands with
13 the rest of the world when we see that we have to change
14 our economy.

15 But I tell you this: If we shut down Arctic
16 development now, the carbon effect won't be even felt.
17 Someone is going to turn their valve a little bit open
18 somewhere else. So by closing Arctic development, you are
19 only hurting our communities, the very ones who need that
20 development to better themselves. That's why we welcome
21 this EIS process. That's why we continue to stand with
22 the village of Kaktovik.

23 MS. EMILY SULLIVAN: Hello. My name is
24 Emily Sullivan. I didn't grow up in the outdoors, but in
25 my near decade of exploring Alaska, I have learned what it

1 means to be hundreds of miles from the nearest road, what
2 it means to coexist with animals in their natural habitat,
3 what it means to walk, float, run, or ski across the
4 landscape far from a single sight or sound that reminds me
5 of civilization.

6 Just making sure you guys are listening. Thanks.

7 I have learned in this experience only a fraction of
8 what Alaska's indigenous people have known for thousands
9 of years. Their experiences are so much deeper than mine.
10 They are far beyond my understanding and far beyond yours.
11 And are these human experiences of no value? Does the
12 word "sacred" have no meaning to the Bureau of Land
13 Management? These lands hold immeasurable value, so much
14 more important than monetary value to so many Alaskans,
15 many Alaskans who oppose oil drilling in the Arctic
16 Refuge.

17 Is keeping the pipeline running at a detriment to
18 Alaska's wildlife, to clean air and water, to a landscape
19 that has existed without oil pads since the beginning of
20 time so important to you?

21 I realize these are abstract concepts, but they speak
22 to the values of lands such as the Arctic Refuge coastal
23 plain to folks like myself. I'm not wealthy, so my values
24 might not matter to you, but I'm here to tell you that
25 they should, just as the values of so many indigenous

1 people who have spoken and will speak today, the people
2 most impacted by this proposed action should.

3 You want to take one of the last places of this
4 planet that has mostly escaped the destructive tendencies
5 of human kind and ravage it.

6 I'd like to remind you that there are resources other
7 than oil in the Arctic Refuge. In fact, oil and gas
8 leasing was not even one of the original purposes of
9 protecting the refuge. You know that. This was added in
10 2017.

11 The resources that so many of us care about have been
12 protected since the U.S. government deemed the Arctic
13 Refuge, quote/unquote, protected.

14 The Draft EIS that you have presented to us is
15 deficient in so many ways. It does not address or
16 mitigate the harm down to the Gwich'in people who have an
17 inextricable link to the Porcupine caribou. Nor does it
18 sufficiently address impacts to clean air or clean water,
19 two of the original purposes for protecting the Arctic
20 Refuge.

21 The EIS recognizes in so many cases that harm may be
22 done, but it does not properly work to mitigate the harm.
23 This is why Alternative A is the only acceptable route, no
24 action.

25 I, like so many Alaskans, go to lands like the Arctic

1 Refuge for solace. I connect with the earth in a way that
2 I never could outside of Alaska. We are so incredibly
3 privileged to live in a state with such unique resources,
4 and we ask that you do not destroy them.

5 It's not true that development won't affect the
6 Porcupine caribou. Science tells us this. There will be
7 irreparable harm to their population. The Draft EIS
8 brushes over this fact and is unacceptable.

9 The only option for the Draft EIS is Alternative A.
10 Every other alternative is a joke. BLM has given us a
11 false choice, and we will not fold. We ask that you do
12 not drill in this place.

13 I will leave you with a quote from Margaret Murie:
14 Therefore, when all the nonrenewable resources have been
15 dug up, hauled away, piped away to satisfy the needs of a
16 certain span of users, Alaska can still have a renewable,
17 self-perpetuating resource of inestimable value, value
18 economical, value spiritual, value for the health of the
19 people. Beauty is a resource in and of itself. Alaska
20 must be allowed to be Alaska. That is her greatest
21 economy. I hope that the United States of America is not
22 so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass
23 by or so poor that she cannot afford to keep them.

24 We implore you to choose Alternative A, no action.

25 MS. MARLEANNA HALL: Hi. Good afternoon.

1 My name is Marleanna Hall. I am the executive director
2 for the Resource Development Council for Alaska. RDC is a
3 statewide trade association. My members consist of the
4 fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas and tourism
5 industries across the state, as well as the 12 land-owning
6 Alaska Native corporations, many individuals, labor
7 unions, and thousands of others who support responsible
8 resource development in Alaska.

9 I'm here today to express strong support for the
10 proposed oil and gas lease program that would allow for
11 limited activity within the nonwilderness portion of the
12 coastal plain of ANWR.

13 It is important that the BLM's EIS evaluate the
14 alternatives that allow for development. Any alternatives
15 that do not allow for eventual development, production and
16 transportation of oil and gas in and from the coastal
17 plain would not meet the requirements established by
18 Congress and, therefore, could not meet the purpose and
19 need of the EIS.

20 Alaskans statewide strongly support oil and gas
21 exploration and development in the coastal plain. In
22 fact, polling has consistently shown more than 70 percent
23 of Alaskans support development of energy resources
24 beneath the 1002 area. Local residents and the Inupiaq
25 people who actually live adjacent to the area also support

1 development.

2 Responsible oil and gas development in a small
3 fraction of the coastal plain proposed for leasing will
4 help ensure America's energy security for decades and
5 allow Alaska and our nation as a whole to realize the
6 benefits that come from expanding energy production.

7 From advances to the technology and responsible oil
8 and gas development in the Arctic to the benefits it will
9 provide to all of Alaska's people, there is no valid
10 reason we should not be allowed to access the world-class
11 resources within just a small fraction of the coastal
12 plain.

13 I brought today with me a pamphlet called Arctic
14 National Wildlife Refuge, the facts. This is a production
15 that the Resource Development Council put out in the early
16 '90s.

17 There are a few facts in here that I wanted to share
18 because things haven't changed. The advocacy for this
19 project continues -- or this opportunity -- excuse me --
20 continues, but I wanted to share some of the points in
21 this pamphlet.

22 Oil production from the coastal plain of ANWR would
23 substantially reduce foreign inputs and help to decrease
24 the national trade deficit. That has not changed.

25 Billions of barrels of oil, which is now over 17

1 billion barrels, have been produced on the North Slope
2 without causing any significant harm to the environment
3 there. Air quality has consistently met federal and state
4 standards.

5 Two decades, which has now been four decades, of
6 experience on Alaska's North Slope have shown the caribou
7 who visit the area a few months a year have not been
8 harmed by development activities. The Central Arctic
9 caribou herd, which migrates into existing North Slope
10 fields, has expanded from about 3,000 animals in 1970 to
11 18,000 in 1988 and now today in the 60- to 70,000 range.

12 Federal research and regulatory agencies have
13 concluded that the appropriate environmental regulation --
14 excuse me -- with the appropriate environmental
15 regulation, the coastal plain of ANWR can be developed
16 without significantly affecting wildlife and the
17 environment.

18 The last point I'll read from the pamphlet is that we
19 recognize Congress has also -- Congress also needs to
20 encourage wise energy use and research into the fuels of
21 tomorrow; however, any policy to gain a measure of energy
22 independence must allow for the responsible development of
23 Alaska's petroleum reserves because no amount of energy
24 savings will eliminate the need for large amounts of fuel
25 now and in the future.

1 So not only does Alaska need oil and gas development
2 in the coastal plain; America will benefit from it, too.
3 We are one nation. Let's help one another and fuel
4 America's future with development in ANWR.

5 Thank you for listening to Alaskans and our broad
6 support for development in the coastal plain this week and
7 last week, as well.

8 The Research Development Council will submit formal
9 comments before the March 13 deadline, but thank you again
10 for this opportunity to testify this afternoon.

11 MR. ANDY MODEROW: Hello. Thank you for
12 the opportunity to talk today. My name is Andrew Moderow.
13 I'm state director for Alaska Wilderness League. We have
14 offices in Alaska, here in Anchorage, and also Washington,
15 D.C. and about 100,000 members around the country.

16 I had a chance to speak at scoping, as well. I
17 appreciated that opportunity. And I spoke about the mad
18 rush to get this EIS process going and how it was
19 concerning, as the administration was looking to implement
20 two pages that were in the Tax Act on a very fast and
21 expedited timeline.

22 I spoke how it made me concerned that the decades of
23 thoughtful management would be properly considered and
24 folded into that EIS process. I was also concerned of the
25 thousands of years of history of humans taking care and

1 living off of this land, how that would be incorporated,
2 and I, like the majority of the speakers so far today,
3 really have concern about whether or not those
4 perspectives of the Gwich'in folks are being heard in this
5 process.

6 And I have to say that my concerns have played out.
7 When you look at the alternatives, each of the action
8 alternatives offer up over a million acres for potential
9 development. That's double -- more than double of what
10 Congress put as a floor in the Tax Act.

11 The mad rush continues with some meetings of less
12 than one week of notice before them. Congress gave you
13 four years, still not enough time to do this carefully.
14 But you are trying to get it done in two. That's too
15 fast.

16 And I think the biggest concern -- we will submit
17 some written comments, as well. But it's a blanket
18 disregard for the primary purposes of the Arctic Refuge.
19 While it's true that the Tax Act added oil and gas
20 development as a purpose of the Arctic National Wildlife
21 Refuge, that's the first time it's happened in the history
22 of our refuge system.

23 While that's true, the 1960 PLO that first
24 established it was focused on the purposes of wildlife,
25 recreation and wilderness. ANILCA in 1980 had the

1 purposes of subsistence, wildlife, habitat, international
2 treaties, water quality as purposes as well. These are
3 still the purposes, and indeed they are the primary
4 purposes, more important than the new one.

5 So I just ask as we consider and as this process goes
6 forward, let's follow the lead of the Gwich'in people.
7 Let's think thousands of years into the future and not
8 just about a few decades of profit.

9 And by that lens, Alternative A is the only way to
10 go. Thank you.

11 MR. CHARLES PASKVAN: Good afternoon,
12 gentlemen. Good afternoon. My name is Charles Paskvan.
13 Lifelong Alaskan, born in Fairbanks in '57. Started on
14 the oil pipeline in '75.

15 I am for ANWR development because I've seen what it
16 means to our country, to our state. I grew up in
17 Fairbanks before oil and saw how poor we were and what
18 it's done for Alaska. And for the many people who have
19 said that they are against oil development up in this
20 area, I wish they would have seen Alaska before oil. A
21 lot of them are pretty young still that are saying that.
22 And I wonder what they would think if they look far enough
23 into the future to think about what their kids or their
24 grandkids, if they have the financial stability of a major
25 resource of this area being developed and providing many

1 opportunities they might not be thinking about being able
2 to --

3 Now other issues. In '92 I was in Prudhoe Bay and
4 sitting on a bus, part of a construction crew. And I
5 watched the caribou herd in Prudhoe Bay right in front of
6 the bus. We sat there for over 45 minutes and miles of
7 caribou. And every one of those caribou was born in
8 downtown Prudhoe Bay after oil was flowing. I thought
9 about it.

10 And then I saw this National Geographic project on
11 the caribou. And it was about -- the one scene is -- the
12 guy talking in the movie says, well, the caribou, after
13 they are a few months old, can outmaneuver the hungriest,
14 healthiest wolf because they are so agile. And in the
15 video I'm watching, this little spry little calf is
16 maneuvering the wolf till the wolf just gives up.

17 And the point is, now, all those caribou I saw in
18 downtown Prudhoe Bay, they had their calves in Prudhoe,
19 and those calves were all a few months old before they
20 moved on out. And the wolves don't come in Prudhoe Bay
21 area. They don't like being around where there is too
22 much human activity. So the caribou are healthy and safer
23 for those first few months, and then nature has its way.
24 But I just thought that movie was great.

25 The oil pipeline is at about 500,000 barrels per day

1 now, a little more than that. It's rated for over a
2 million barrels, 1.3, or something like that. We need a
3 full pipeline. The low flow rate and the temperature of
4 the oil -- I know some of the last few years' work I've
5 done was on the pipeline right of way, and the temperature
6 is so low now, and especially with that refinery shut down
7 in North Pole, there is serious concerns about the
8 temperature dropping.

9 So a discovery of this size has the potential of not
10 only national security, Alaska financial security, but
11 also keeping that flow rate at a level where it's safer to
12 manage in an event. So there are so many different
13 variables in this.

14 I know a lot of people would like to say save it for
15 another generation. And I'm all for every technology
16 being developed to make it cleaner, a cleaner environment.
17 When we have the opportunity for new alternative energies,
18 great. But until they come up with the science for it,
19 this is what we need. And I think we would have a great
20 opportunity to develop bank accounts for those other state
21 projects so that all the teachers, all the student
22 projects, anything they want to do, this could help that a
23 great, great deal.

24 And I'm concerned about our state budget and having
25 the money for all the things that we really need. And

1 this could really significantly change the direction of
2 our future for -- and I'm done. I'm retired, basically.
3 It's not for me. But it's for the next generation. And
4 I'd like to see good things happen for them. So let's
5 make it happen as fast as possible.

6 A lot of people would say delay, delay, delay because
7 of whatever reason. That's just what they -- delay,
8 delay, delay until you go away, you know. It's part of
9 the technique of keeping anything from ever happening.
10 And they don't really care about anything else.

11 Now, I thought maybe some of these environmental
12 groups might be paid for by Saudi oil money. I heard down
13 in North Dakota some of the oilfield areas were being
14 bought up by environmental groups and the Saudis were
15 funding it. So I'm wondering if some of these
16 environmental groups might be paid for by Saudi oil. I
17 mean, there is a lot of places in the world they don't
18 want this developed because they want to sell their oil.

19 So make sure it's for Alaska. I know we do it clean
20 and safe. I have been around the oil industry off and on
21 through my years in construction. Most of my work was in
22 town in Fairbanks out of the laborers union. And the
23 laborers union would love the work, too.

24 So Good Lord willing, let's make it happen fast.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. CHRISTINA EDWIN: Thank you,
2 Mr. Ricklefs. Hi. I'm Christina Edwin, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A
3 E-D-W-I-N. I'm 22 years old, and my birthday is coming up
4 on the 27th of February. I was born in '96, and I just
5 graduated from UAF with a Bachelor's of Arts in rural
6 development with a concentration in community research and
7 indigenous knowledge. And my minor is in Yup'ik.

8 And in high school I took advanced placement
9 environmental science at East Anchorage High School. I
10 was born in Anchorage and raised here, but as a little
11 girl I lived in the village of Galena and grew up going
12 back home to Koyukuk. I'm an enrolled tribal citizen to
13 the village of Koyukuk. And I studied law in my degree
14 and have been learning about ANCSA and ANILCA in high
15 school. And I'm also Mexican from California, indigenous
16 to California, as well, and I'm white and Spanish and
17 German and English and Irish, and all these other things.
18 I'm mixed, and I'm light-skinned. So I'd like to
19 acknowledge that and speaking in English and on the
20 record.

21 And I would also like to request that my testimony be
22 recorded as a substantive comment, followed up with an
23 official inquiry with translations into Gwich'in and
24 Inupiaq language.

25 Now I'll begin my formal introduction. Thank you.

1 Thank you all for coming. (Speaking in Alaska Native
2 language.)

3 My Denaakk'e name is Kk'odohdaatlno, and it means
4 person who speaks well. For all of you here today who
5 speak the English language, I would like you to know that
6 my late great grandmother, Degeyenne, her English name was
7 Jesse Edwin, did not write in the English language, and
8 she was well and alive until the year '96, the year I was
9 born. My mother brought me home to the village of Koyukuk
10 for a potlatch, and when she was on the boat to leave, she
11 cried leaving the village. She knew that that would be
12 the last time she saw her grandmother.

13 My story does not start with me. My grandma Flora
14 McCoy was born in '54 on Bishop Mountain in fish camp on
15 October 11th of '54 before Alaska became a state.

16 And for all the indigenous peoples of the world, our
17 story does not start here in this public comment process.
18 Our story starts in 1400s when the Catholic Church decided
19 to write the Papul Bulls document, which is why we are all
20 here today. We are here on Dena'ina land because of
21 manifest destiny, because of slavery of black people of
22 the continent of what we know as Africa. Okay?

23 The fact that we have all these buildings and oil and
24 gas development is because of this idea that uncivilized
25 people can be conquered without fully expressed and

1 excited consent, we can be -- because we don't speak the
2 English language, we don't write it, where our names
3 aren't documented in churches that we can be conquered.

4 And so to come and use this process and fast-track
5 when a man believes that Mexicans are stealing jobs, no,
6 nobody is stealing jobs or stealing entry into this place
7 that was stolen from peoples on this earth for thousands
8 of years.

9 So I've listed that I'm multiracial. To you all,
10 that's a checkbook -- a check on a box in government
11 documents. But I would like to say that I also introduced
12 myself as educated in western science. Now I would like
13 to say about how I'm educated in my people's knowledge,
14 and I have learned from other peoples, which I'll talk
15 about proximity after this statement.

16 (Speaking in Alaska Native language.)

17 That was a poem I wrote, Nunamni, in my land, in our
18 land, in Yup'ik. I would like to honor my late friend
19 Evan Charles from the village of Emmonak. As a person
20 from the Yukon River, I say up here to all of you all, and
21 as a Mexican person from the United States that we know
22 and refer to, that the story of colonization, if we just
23 pay attention, does not do the human population justice.
24 Okay?

25 And to have a lot of people come up here today and

1 talk about their 25 years of living in Alaska and working
2 on these lands or their few years in these places and
3 their proximity to indigenous peoples made me want to cry.
4 But I remember that I need to be up here strong and just
5 speak from my heart that these ideas of proximity are
6 really interesting. And I can speak in the rhetoric of
7 this. I took anthropology and studied social critical
8 theory history.

9 And I guess I just want to get a thumbs up. Has
10 anyone studied the term "white privilege"? Okay. So you
11 know that when you say, you know, you have married someone
12 or you have some type of connection that you can go to
13 places and you see a certain thing, you know that with
14 white privilege, there is a lot that you can say and
15 people will accept and clap for and all these things, and
16 you can attack other people and you won't experience the
17 repercussions of the people most marginalized and most
18 affected by certain issues.

19 So the fact that so many people have been testifying
20 across the United States against oil and gas development,
21 not in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge alone, but in
22 the world because we are facing a global climate crisis --
23 okay, in 12 years our world is going to be, you know,
24 maybe rapidly gone.

25 And a lot of the privileges that most of you all feel

1 entitled to, like flying up to the North Slope and, you
2 know, living on CEO salaries of oil corporations or
3 heavily invested oil monies, you may not see the
4 repercussions of global climate crisis because you may not
5 have to fill your freezer for your livelihood. You may
6 not have had a grandma who was born into statehood and has
7 seen the repercussions of genocide and addiction and
8 welfare.

9 As you all have spoke of that Native people depend on
10 welfare from these oil monies, no. Native people depend
11 on our stories, our knowledge systems, our languages, our
12 connections, our relationships to the land, our
13 relationships to each other. Corporations, if you --

14 How many people have read the whole entire document
15 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act? Can I get a
16 raise of hands? Just a few of you. Okay. Thank you all
17 for participating. I love public engagement.

18 You know, that document is a living document.
19 Original shareholders of 1971 are Class A shareholders.
20 Class A. Okay. So the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
21 Act Class A shareholders does not mean all Alaska Natives
22 today are shareholders. Can I get a raise of hands if you
23 are Alaska Native and you are not a Class A shareholder.

24 Well, I see this room is not jam-packed with Alaska
25 Natives, but I would like to say thank you again for

1 participating with me. And I just want to call out,
2 because a lot of people listen to numbers. All Alaska
3 Natives are not Class A shareholders. And legally, if you
4 study the law, the United States law, the English law, the
5 written law, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 12
6 regional corporations have no legal responsibility to be
7 transparent to their shareholders about their revenue
8 resources.

9 So can you tell me right now with express
10 enthusiastic confidence that the opening of the coastal
11 plain oil and gas leasing for this -- for ANWR for opening
12 of oil and gas development is not connected to the
13 industrial military complex and ICE and police systems?
14 Because when I've looked at where Doyon shares are, where
15 ASRC's shares are, way before Trump came into
16 administration, that our Native corporations, who are
17 supposedly Native, are out there getting monies to be
18 locking children up, locking mothers up.

19 And can I get a raise of hand of all the women in the
20 room. All the women. So when you talk about opening a
21 birthing ground --

22 I have so many points to talk to about this public
23 process and this issue. I can just go on for days about
24 how you talk about, oh, the birthing grounds will be okay.
25 The caribou will still have their babies around a

1 pipeline. Women would just raised your hand, would you
2 have your baby next to a pipeline? Would you have your
3 baby next to a pipeline?

4 And fathers, people of children, of mothers, would
5 you want to be reared next to a pipeline with loud noises
6 and disturbing foreign things that could potentially harm
7 you, risk your water source, risk your food? I don't
8 think so.

9 And I would like to acknowledge the people who said
10 that young Alaskans may not know the poverty faced when
11 Alaska was coming to a state. I would like to say that
12 the person who -- people who say that young Alaskans
13 aren't paying attention to this issue -- or maybe you
14 didn't say that word for word.

15 But I'd like to know -- we are watching and we are
16 loud and we are listening and we are speaking and we are
17 here. We are showing up. And we are getting educated.
18 We are educating our families. We are speaking our
19 languages. We are carrying on our power, the people
20 power. And I want you to know that this is an
21 intersectional issue and that not just the Gwich'in here
22 stand with me, but the indigenous peoples of the world
23 stand with me to say that oil and gas development will not
24 be accepted on unceded territory of indigenous peoples no
25 more.

1 Our women, our children will not be continued to be
2 abused. The human race will not continue to allow
3 injustices of opening up gas and oil development for a
4 system, an economic system, that's supported by the
5 idea -- what is that called, the -- where everyone has to
6 flock for the resources, the -- can you tell me that
7 theory? It's -- I'm sorry. I'm so excited to say --

8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Tragedy of the
9 commons?

10 MS. CHRISTINA EDWIN: Tragedy of the
11 commons. Everyone who is an oil executive lobbyist, which
12 I know Dunleavy is a part of that system, Jason Brune.
13 Everyone who is in office right now who is for oil and gas
14 development is basically an oil and gas lobbyist. So if
15 you had a history of lobbying and now you are in the
16 official government to serve the people, I just want you
17 to know that you're committing acts of genocide and that
18 we do not give you consent to open up on these lands and
19 to say that you represent us on this identity, this put on
20 us tragedy of the commons.

21 Indigenous people have lived on shared economic
22 systems for thousands of years, and still do. Okay? I
23 live just fine with really nothing in my bank. Okay? I
24 look good. I feel good. I eat good. I'm happy. And I
25 can say for hours my story about how this is an

1 intersectional connected movement of human rights
2 violations, environmental injustices, racism,
3 colonization, neocolonialism, settler colonialism wrapped
4 up in the Bureau of Land Management.

5 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, our indigenous
6 youth of Alaska are not being taught. And the oil
7 lobbyists that continue to represent and say they stand
8 with Inupiaq people and Gwich'in people and not actually
9 take the time to understand Papul Bulls and colonization,
10 I think you should think again about your privilege of
11 proximity.

12 And I could just go on, but I know there is a lot of
13 lovely faces showing up to speak as the time gets late and
14 people are probably hungry.

15 So I just want to again request that all of my -- all
16 of my testimony be recorded as a substantive comment,
17 followed up with an official inquiry with translations
18 into Gwich'in and Inupiaq languages.

19 Thank you.

20 (Introductions by Ms. Amy Lewis. Presentation by Ms.
21 Nicole Hayes.)

22 MR. JIM CASWELL: Hello. My name is Jim
23 Caswell. And I want to thank those folks for that nice
24 song and little introduction here and my having an
25 opportunity speak in front of everybody.

1 I'm here to speak on my own behalf because I, too,
2 care. I've heard that tonight. I also care. I'm here to
3 speak for you as a -- not as a hyphenated American and not
4 as a white American, but simply as an American. I'm an
5 indigenous American. And I care. I care about the
6 future.

7 I'm kind of an old American, so what I care about is
8 the future for the young people. And they need to have a
9 future.

10 Most of the people on a numerical basis that have
11 spoken in opposition to this, they don't know what life
12 was like in Alaska before we had the oil wells. They are
13 just taking things for granted. We have all benefited
14 from the oil industry in this state, and we will continue
15 to.

16 I'm here speaking in support of Alternative B, and I
17 want to thank you all for sitting through all of this.
18 Your butt is probably getting tired. And I'm not going to
19 ask you to nod so you know that -- so I know you are
20 listening to me. You are professional people, and I know
21 you are doing your very best to listen as closely as you
22 can to everybody that speaks here, regardless of their
23 position. And I appreciate that.

24 Now, I've heard some people say 70 percent of
25 American people don't want drilling in ANWR. And that's

1 supposed to sway you. That's supposed to mean something
2 because all these people don't want it. Well, I think
3 it's quite possible that the pollsters that gave us that
4 number also said that Clinton was going to be president,
5 so maybe they are wrong.

6 I think most Americans, you know, if they are
7 informed, are for responsible development. And that's
8 what we are looking for here. And I think that you people
9 are doing a good job making sure that if the drilling does
10 happen, it will be done responsibly.

11 Now, I came to Alaska in 1971. I'm not Native born,
12 but I have been here a long time. I've done many things
13 in that period of time in construction and all kinds of
14 jobs. And I will say that -- I want to point out that
15 I've had the privilege -- I'm now retired, but I had the
16 privilege of working in the fossil fuel industry. Not the
17 oil industry.

18 I worked for a very good company called the Usibelli
19 Coal Mine. And it was a privilege to me because that's an
20 Alaskan family who is very much for responsible resource
21 development. I worked there a long time. I've seen many
22 things. And they are very concerned about doing a good
23 job and being in with nature, doing it right.

24 And I also believe that, in general, we can make a
25 general statement about the oil industry. They've done a

1 good job up here. We've all benefited, and I think that
2 will continue.

3 Like I said, I appreciate you listening to all points
4 of view, whether they agree with me or not. But I want to
5 ask you to especially -- and I want to thank speakers
6 No. 34 and 38. The gentleman from Arctic Slope Regional
7 Corporation, I think he spoke for a lot of people. Very
8 good, cogent, smart arguments. Very intelligent. Also
9 the gentleman from -- speaker No. 38. I think he probably
10 left. They had a lot of good points that I was going to
11 bring up, so I won't repeat that. They did a very good
12 job, and please listen to them. They did a very good job
13 there.

14 Now, the opposition here, what they want to do, I
15 think, they want to transfer oil extraction from Alaska to
16 somewhere else in the world because the use of oil is not
17 going to change based on what a few thousand people want.
18 The demand for oil is global. If we don't contribute to
19 the pie, they are going to use it somewhere else. They
20 are going to get it from some other place. And if you --

21 Back in the 1970s, that's when the environmental
22 movement got its start. They had a slogan back then. It
23 said think locally -- think globally, act locally. Well,
24 that was a very good slogan and it made sense. And I
25 think we should apply it today.

1 If we develop oil and extract oil in this state, we
2 have an opportunity to make sure it's done very well in a
3 most environmentally friendly way that it can be done. If
4 we don't produce it here, that same amount of oil could
5 possibly be extracted somewhere else with a degradation to
6 the environment because they are not doing it to the same
7 high standards that we require in this state.

8 So it's a responsible thing to do for us in the high
9 standards to have it done here, that production to be here
10 in this state.

11 People can be afraid of change. Oh, something is
12 going to happen up here. Oh, we don't know. I can relate
13 to that. As an old guy, I get to where I don't like
14 change. But it doesn't matter. You can't stop change.
15 But it's smart to be part of it and try to steer that
16 change in a most positive way that we can have.

17 I think that Alaskans care about our environment and
18 we care about our wildlife, and we will do a very
19 responsible job if it's permitted for us to extract that
20 oil.

21 We as humans, we tend to take past progress for
22 granted. And we don't -- there is a give and take about
23 everything. And we know what we like. We like our cell
24 phones, our smartphones, our computers, and that was --
25 that came from progress. And progress is going to happen

1 here in Alaska, also. Let's not be afraid of it. Let's
2 be part of it. I like personally -- I like it the way it
3 was 50 years ago, but that's not Alaska anymore. And 50
4 years from now it's going to be different than it is now.
5 But our job is to try to make sure that progress is done
6 for the benefit of the future generations in the most
7 responsible way that it can be done. And I want to thank
8 you again for listening to me and all the other people,
9 regardless of their point of view.

10 And thank you again.

11 MR. ROGER JENKINS: Mr. Balash and others
12 here, I'm Roger Jenkins. I'm in my 49th year, 49th state.
13 It's been an interesting run. In 1980, I spent 17 days in
14 95 degree heat in Washington, D.C. watching the nonsense
15 that I call the Alaska Lands Bill.

16 I had mining claims in what were deemed two lands,
17 and they were D1 lands. And D1 lands were going to go in
18 national parks. The D2 lands were going to go in to
19 national forest, which have multiple uses, theoretically.
20 I watched -- I was in the covered office building one
21 evening when I watched Senator Tsongas from Massachusetts,
22 who supposedly was an even-handed fellow, unveil a map
23 that put my D1 land mining claims in the national park in
24 D1 lands.

25 I had spent most of the '70s watching, having great

1 times in what really was the Nutzotin Mountains. It's not
2 the Wrangell Mountains, but it got put in the Wrangell St.
3 Elias park, east of Nebesna, halfway to the Canadian
4 border, a place called Carl Creek. It was a potential
5 porphyry copper, really had possibilities. But it was in
6 between two or three other properties in that same lineage
7 that would have been probably mines today.

8 The mining -- the number of mines or properties --
9 properties that were one in ten of becoming a mine in 1980
10 were 280 in this state. 220 of those went into the
11 national parks, or away from -- we have five mines in this
12 state today and one coal mine. And none of them -- they
13 killed a bear over in Admiralty not long ago, but as far
14 as if you get the permission to do the job, you don't
15 do -- you have -- if you got the permits, you do the job
16 correctly because everybody is -- people here know,
17 Kensington went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to
18 get their permit. And Donlin and Pebble -- I saw Red Dog
19 before it was Red Dog.

20 It is a real serious process that we are in here.
21 And if done right -- the rest of the North Slope has been
22 done right. There are more caribou than there were in the
23 Central Arctic herd when it got developed. And I want to
24 say that mining, of course, is different than the -- here
25 is -- here is the Petroleum Geology of the Northern Part

1 of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Northeastern
2 Alaska, the thing we are talking about today. Now, here
3 is a newspaper. It says, tax bill passes with ANWR. I
4 never thought in my lifetime that I would ever see this
5 newspaper.

6 Now, I know a little bit about the North Slope. From
7 my standpoint, there is a couple things I want to say
8 geologically. When I was a senior in college, I took
9 Plasticine and glacial geology from a fellow who had done
10 his Ph.D. on the orientation of the lakes in Barrow.
11 Barrow has changed, but that's another story. But he
12 showed us things like pingos and ice lenses and all this
13 kind of stuff. I hadn't heard of it. This is before
14 Prudhoe Bay.

15 I eventually got over and saw the largest pingos in
16 the world. And I've been to other places in the Northwest
17 Territories and the Yukon and all across Alaska and many
18 places. It is going to be done right.

19 And for the two things that I want to point out
20 geologically is in the last 400,000 years, there has been
21 four major advances of the ice. In between it warms up.
22 We call those interglacials, we are in an interglacial.
23 Very simple. And as far as ANWR is concerned,
24 geologically -- and I don't know that much and nobody
25 knows that much because there has been only one hole

1 drilled. And that one hole was owned by Chevron and ARCO
2 and Arctic Slope. And I can guarantee you if there had
3 been oil in that hole, Chevron would have got this area
4 opened years ago. That's just an opinion, but I certainly
5 do think it's real.

6 And actually, looking at North Slope, the west side
7 of the North Slope is oil. East side is a gas province.
8 Now we are getting a little gas liquids from Exxon these
9 days, but I think that ANWR is probably a gas province.
10 So with -- I don't know, but all I know is that the KIC
11 well did not show anything that was significant enough for
12 Chevron to go after it.

13 So I don't know what the rest of the thing is. What
14 we should be looking at is the Nanushuk formation has
15 given us unbelievable possibilities that I never thought
16 would have been real, but they are real. And the only
17 problem is that Walker didn't pay the 700 million dollars,
18 and some of those companies haven't been able to go ahead
19 on some of their projects. But they found other partners,
20 and those partners have enough money to go ahead.

21 So in all seriousness, I hope you open this because
22 it's real. This state needs it. This state has lived on
23 oil.

24 I have been here a long, long time, I think. I'm
25 lucky to still be standing. And in that time I worked for

1 the City and Muni of Anchorage for 15 years as an
2 engineering tech, and then I was two years in the
3 legislature, and then I went out to -- on the Iditarod
4 trail to a little town called Nikolai. And I was -- for
5 about 25 years was city administrator there.

6 And in that process, I've known -- this is no brag,
7 just fact. I've known most of the politicians in this
8 state. I've known virtually all of the Iditarod racers.
9 And I have a picture which I love of Joe Reddington and
10 myself. I have a picture of Governor Sheffield signing a
11 bill that I passed.

12 I was in the minority. I got a minority -- I got a
13 bill, and I got a resolution. There was only -- there
14 were 12 of us in the minority. We only got seven bills
15 and six resolutions. And I got two of them, and I was a
16 freshman. The other ones were more senior legislators.

17 But this has been a great state to me and a wonderful
18 time here, and I hope it isn't over. Go on with this ANWR
19 thing and get her done. I'm Roger Jenkins.

20 That's my story, and I'm sticking with it.

21 MR. SAMUEL H. JOHNS: I won't yell at you
22 guys this time.

23 My name is Ch'eedaih Zhee Kaii. My colonized name is
24 Samuel Johns. It's a biblical one, ironically. My mother
25 is from Arctic Village, so that's -- that's why I'm here

1 today, to speak on her behalf.

2 So much -- it's so hard to compress. There is so
3 much I want to say. And it's really hard to compress.
4 One thing I really want to start with is, do you guys know
5 the suicide rate for Alaska Natives here in the state?
6 You guys happen to know that at all? It's twice as many
7 than non-Natives. Twice as many. And the Alaska Native
8 people are only 20 percent of the population. That is
9 very, very high.

10 Now, I know maybe a lot of people did studies on
11 that, but most of the studies were done by non-Natives.
12 So I would like to give you a little perspective on that
13 from my end.

14 Growing up, growing up in my community, all I seen
15 was non-Natives coming into my village telling me what
16 would be best for me. My whole entire life I've had
17 non-Natives coming into my village telling me what was
18 best for me at many different levels: Education,
19 religion, development. Do you see a connection there? Do
20 you see that there would be a lack of confidence in myself
21 when there is perpetuation through white savior mentality?
22 It's real. I'm not just saying that. It's real.

23 As a young Alaska Native, I only saw non-Natives
24 coming into my town coming to save the day. I have never
25 really seen other Alaska Natives come in. I brought that

1 up last week.

2 Again, I come into this space and I see one person of
3 color with a name tag, one person of color with a name tag
4 working with you guys. Do you guys see a problem with
5 that? I do. I would love to see you guys hire more
6 Alaska Natives so you guys could have some consult --
7 consulting. People in this crowd are thanking the BLM for
8 having an open comment. No. You thank Defend the Sacred
9 Alaska for that. We showed up in Fairbanks last week, and
10 made sure they changed the rule for all of you, even you
11 people that are for drilling.

12 All right. What I'm trying to tell you, all right,
13 is that suicide rate has a lot to do with confidence. And
14 in order for you guys to help us build confidence, take a
15 step back and let some Natives get in these positions that
16 you are sitting in. I promise you that. One thing --
17 yeah, Anchorage -- there is one thing that is very
18 highlighted about Anchorage. It's diverse. We are
19 always, yeah Anchorage is so diverse. It's not in the
20 political realm. It's not diverse where people are making
21 decisions. You see that?

22 There is no Alaska Natives working for you guys here
23 in this building right now helping you make these
24 decisions, asking you, hey, do you think -- do you think
25 this would be appropriate for an elder. Do you think any

1 of those things?

2 So I'm just letting you know what you are doing here
3 today does perpetuate suicide. It does. You are sitting
4 in here making decisions for us. You see that? Making
5 decisions for indigenous people. I'm not -- I'm not okay
6 with that. I'm glad my daughters aren't here today. I'm
7 glad they are not in this building right now because I
8 wouldn't want them to see this. I want them to have some
9 confidence in themselves. I want them to see some Alaska
10 Natives up there on the stage with you guys, but it's not.
11 Everybody see that? There are no Alaska Natives on the
12 stage right now talking about indigenous land.

13 And all you people are for opening ANWR. We have 13
14 years left. Scientists are making these decisions, saying
15 right now that we have 13 years. You guys know that. I'm
16 sorry your boss doesn't care about that, that orange dude.
17 I'm sorry. I'm sorry you guys have to have him as a boss
18 right now. Full apologies. I'm sorry.

19 Last thing I want to say -- and please take this --
20 please, I hope you -- I hope you all hear this. To my
21 Inupiaq relatives, to my Inupiaq relatives, do not put
22 value to currency, to people. Do not put value next to
23 our socialized currency because when those jobs are gone,
24 I'm going to be praying for your area that you guys are
25 still confident when you are broke. I'm going to pray

1 that you guys are still confident in yourselves when you
2 don't have any more jobs and your land looks just scarred
3 up. I'm going to be praying for you all.

4 I'm not here to talk down to anybody. I love every
5 one of you all. And some of you all in here know who I
6 am. And if any of you all family members were stuck on
7 the streets, you know what I would do for them. I would
8 help them get back to the village. That's what I would
9 do.

10 What I'm telling you right now is I'm praying that
11 when those jobs are gone, I'm praying you guys have
12 strength and you do not put value next to currency. You
13 don't put value next to me. I'm broke, but I have a lot
14 of value. And I see that. I pray that the suicide rate
15 does not rise when all those jobs are gone. I pray that.
16 I don't want that for any of you.

17 And Joe, when the economy collapses, when it
18 collapses, I will confidently give your family moose or
19 caribou meat because where I'm from it's recession proof.
20 When the government was shut down, nobody cared. When the
21 recession happens, when an economic collapse happens and
22 this -- everything you guys are working for fails, I
23 promise you, Joe, hit me up; I'll give you some caribou
24 meat.

25 MR. JOHN SCHOEN: Good evening. My name

1 is John Schoen. I'm a wildlife scientist. I spent 20
2 years as a scientist working for the Alaska Department of
3 Fish & Game. I'm retired now. Then I spent 14 years
4 working for Audubon Alaska. I'm retired from them, too.

5 I've had personal experience in the Arctic National
6 Wildlife Refuge. In 1989 I was part of a team that did
7 the photo census of the Porcupine caribou herd. I'll
8 never forget that day in early July flying a Beaver at 500
9 feet over a concentrated aggregation of 90,000 caribou.
10 We counted them on the photographs. That's a lot of
11 caribou.

12 The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge protects an
13 entire ecosystem, both south and north of the Brooks
14 Range. Decades of study within the Arctic Refuge have
15 confirmed that the coastal plain is vital to the
16 biodiversity of the entire refuge. The highly compressed
17 habitats of the narrow coastal plain in an Arctic
18 Refuge -- they vary from 15 to 40 miles to the foothills,
19 compared to Prudhoe Bay and NPR-A which is 100 to 150
20 miles. This concentrates a wide array of wildlife native
21 to the Arctic, including, polar bears, grizzly bears,
22 wolves, caribou and more than 140 species of migratory
23 birds. According to the Fish & Wildlife Service, the
24 Arctic Refuge coastal plain contains the greatest wildlife
25 diversity of any protected area above the Arctic Circle.

1 Over 280 scientists have signed a letter to BLM
2 describing our concerns over developing the Arctic Refuge
3 coastal plain and deficiencies in the DEIS, and we are
4 going to submit that letter to BLM later this month.

5 I will summarize here some of the key concerns
6 identified in that letter.

7 One: The DEIS fails to thoroughly assess cumulative
8 effects of a program and subsequent development in the
9 context of oil and gas and other industrial activity, as
10 well as changing climate across Arctic Alaska.

11 Two: The DEIS does not address or remedy the
12 conflict between the oil and gas program and the other
13 purposes for which the refuge was established. Those
14 other purposes include to conserve fish and wildlife
15 populations and habitats in their natural diversity,
16 ensure water quality and quantity, and fulfill
17 international treaty obligations.

18 Three: The DEIS draws on incomplete, outdated and
19 otherwise inadequate baseline data.

20 Four: The DEIS does not adequately address how the
21 area to be covered by production and support facilities
22 will be limited to 2,000 acres, as required by law. This
23 is especially important in view of the National Research
24 Council's 2003 finding that the impacts on Arctic
25 development extend far beyond the physical footprints of

1 the necessary facilities and infrastructure.

2 Five: Differences in North Slope landscapes.

3 Although there is oil exploration and development to the
4 west of Prudhoe Bay and the northeastern NPR-A, there are
5 major differences in these landscapes compared to the
6 Arctic Refuge coastal plain. The refuge, as I said
7 earlier, is very narrow, much narrower than the area to
8 the west where oil and gas development has occurred. This
9 has huge implications for the impacts on wildlife and fish
10 and the natural landscape.

11 For example, the Porcupine caribou herd, which is now
12 at estimated 218,000 animals, laying an oilfield
13 infrastructure over this narrow coastal plain would
14 significantly disrupt the natural movements of this large
15 caribou herd during calving and later when they are
16 seeking relief from insects.

17 We know the caribou, particularly large groups of
18 cows and calves, are displaced up to 2.50 miles from
19 oilfield infrastructure, including pipelines and roads.
20 These affects are estimated to have significant population
21 level impacts on the productivity of this herd. There are
22 also significant concerns about the impacts on denning
23 polar bears.

24 Six: Starting with an intensive grid of seismic
25 exploration tracks, oil and gas activity within the refuge

1 coastal plain will compromise the value of the Arctic
2 Refuge coastal plain as a benchmark against which
3 scientists can measure environmental change in an Arctic
4 landscape free of direct industrial influence. This in
5 itself is an irreplaceable loss of international
6 significance, and it should be acknowledged in the DEIS.

7 In addition, the DEIS is seriously flawed without
8 describing and committing to a comprehensive monitoring
9 plan for the coastal plain.

10 Finally, No. 7: The DEIS largely lacks adequate
11 scientific justification for its conclusions. For
12 example, in the section on the impacts of oil spills on
13 birds, the DEIS does not provide a single literature
14 citation or a reference, making it difficult for the
15 public to follow the agency's logic. This lack of
16 scientific support undermines the very purpose of an
17 Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA.

18 The scientists' letter concludes by stating: As
19 scientists and resource managers, we are opposed to oil
20 and gas exploration, leasing and development on the
21 coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge because we believe such
22 development is ecologically unsound and cannot be
23 accomplished, while also honoring the original purposes
24 for which the refuge was established.

25 Now, finally, in my opinion, the Arctic National

1 Wildlife Refuge is our nation's only conservation unit
2 spanning an intact ecosystem from the Arctic Ocean south
3 to the Brooks Range. The coastal plain of the Arctic
4 Refuge represents only five percent of Alaska's Arctic
5 coastal plain, most of which is open for industrial
6 development.

7 This is also a national wildlife refuge. This is a
8 national interest, not just a state interest. Certainly
9 there are state interests, but it's also a national
10 interest. Managing the Arctic Refuge for its wildlife,
11 ecosystem and subsistence values and as a baseline for
12 monitoring climate change will be important for increasing
13 our scientific understanding of Arctic ecology and
14 achieving balance between conservation and development.

15 The agency should not move forward with a leasing
16 program under this EIS given the inaccuracies, scientific
17 gaps and misleading information.

18 Thank you very much for your attention. I appreciate
19 the opportunity to testify.

20 CHIEF GARY HARRISON: (Speaking in Alaska
21 Native language.) Good day. I'm Chief Gary Harrison.
22 I'm from the village of Chickaloon. We are Ahtna peoples.

23 There was a young lady up here who reminded me that I
24 need to tell you all a little bit of history. By the way,
25 I'm not a writer, so I don't have this written down.

1 In about 1824, around that time, Russia tried to
2 claim sovereignty over Alaska, but the United States and
3 Great Britain both protested immediately because Russia
4 had neither conquered Alaska, nor had they discovered
5 Alaska. And later on, they asked the Russians, all right,
6 what did we really buy. The Russians sent back the kazlic
7 [ph] of memorandum descriptive, which basically said they
8 sold them two forts on two islands, and they never got
9 into the mainland Alaska. The only thing there was
10 readouts and unshuguks [ph], or temporary trading posts.

11 I used to argue this with Professor Cohn [ph] here at
12 the university. And he would say -- after a while he
13 would say, you are right. You are right. They assumed
14 Alaska. I thought, well, that's interesting. So I had to
15 look up this word "assumed," and in the dictionary it says
16 they took it without law. And I agree with that. They
17 have taken Alaska without law. If you look at the UN
18 treaty that was signed in -- whenever it was signed --

19 Anyhow, they were supposed to decolonize their
20 colonies. And they had a colony in the Matanuska Valley,
21 close to where I came from. And so I know a little bit
22 more about colonists than I really want to.

23 And I went to a decolonization meeting in Antigua one
24 time. And Gibraltar was there saying they wanted to
25 decolonize Gibraltar. Well, the chairman said, you can't

1 decolonize Gibraltar because Gibraltar has been conquered
2 by almost every nation in the Mediterranean. And the only
3 ones who are supposed to vote for decolonization are the
4 original peoples. And there is no more original peoples
5 left in Gibraltar.

6 So it made them think, what happened here in Alaska?
7 Well, they had the statehood vote. And on the laws on the
8 books until 1970 was if you were a Native, you had to
9 prove that you could read and write and have five
10 Caucasians sign that you were competent. So who really
11 voted for statehood in Alaska and assumed ownership?
12 Well, it was the miners, merchants, military and other
13 ne'er-do-wells. It wasn't the indigenous peoples, the
14 people who were supposed to be doing the voting. They
15 weren't allowed to vote.

16 So that's why I say that it was assumed. In other
17 words, taken without law. And the United States has
18 signed the treaty, so they are supposed to uphold that
19 treaty, yet they have not. They have done nothing but
20 steal the lands and resources of the indigenous people in
21 Alaska.

22 And I heard people say that, well, everybody has
23 gained from this oil exploitation. Well, there is -- I
24 have also been involved in the Arctic Council. And the
25 Arctic Council does mainly scientific reports. And one of

1 them say that the Arctic is warming faster than they had
2 originally intended, which is why many people are saying
3 we have got about 13 years before there is no return.
4 Well, let's hope that that's not the case. But scientists
5 are proving that that is the case.

6 One of the reports also says that there is a lot of
7 resources that have left the north and that the people of
8 the north are getting very little of those resources. And
9 the indigenous people are getting even less. So do you
10 think that most of the indigenous people want this
11 resource exploitation when -- what are they going to get
12 out of it? A mess left behind.

13 And I've heard people say, well, it's all well and
14 good. Well, I also was a mechanic, and I worked at
15 Prudhoe Bay, and I've seen the pollution. One time they
16 told us to hurry up and get all these loaders done because
17 they were having an inspection, and they had to bury all
18 this junk, trash and environmental degradation. So I know
19 about that.

20 And people say, oh, it's so clean up there. Well,
21 what about the hundreds and thousands of spills that have
22 been up there since they have been up there? People don't
23 talk about that. They just try and sweep it under the
24 rugs like, oh, everything is great. Well, it's not.

25 I could tell you about the Central herds, but other

1 people have. I can tell you about the Porcupine herds,
2 but people already have. But one thing that did happen
3 was I was at a meeting with the Gwich'in, and they were
4 talking about how they were going to have to curtail some
5 of their hunting because the herds were shrinking. We
6 just heard the last speaker talk about how important this
7 calving grounds is that is being proposed to have this
8 environmental impact.

9 Well, we all know that it's going to be detrimental.
10 People can say that it's not and they know that they are
11 wrong because they can just look at what's there now. If
12 they can tell me that that's not detrimental, then I must
13 be blind, or they are, one of the two.

14 You know, also, the land claims act some people talk
15 about, it was a genocidal act. Defines of genocide, one
16 of them is the fact that they left out the children. So
17 when they try and tell us about what they have done for
18 us, what they have given us, well, they have given us
19 genocide. And many of us know that. And to think that
20 this isn't going to perpetuate genocide, that's
21 incredible.

22 And another thing that I want to let you guys know
23 about is International Covenant on Civil and Political
24 Rights. 1.2 says no people shall be deprived of their
25 subsistence. Yet what's being proposed here will deprive

1 many of the people of their subsistence. And the guy that
2 spoke before me can probably go into detail on how that
3 could happen. He's a very intelligent speaker, and I hope
4 you listened to him because he's the kind of guy that has
5 all of the facts and figures behind what he's saying. I
6 have these laws and stuff behind what I'm saying, but I
7 don't have the facts and figures in my mind like some of
8 these other people do.

9 But I know that when people come up here and make
10 outlandish statements like, oh, it's not going to have no
11 harmful effects, it's ludicrous for anyone to think that
12 this kind of thing will not have an impact on what's
13 there, a detrimental impact on the life that's there, the
14 environment that's there. And if you don't believe me, go
15 look at Prudhoe Bay yourself.

16 And the other thing that struck me was when we are
17 getting this information on all of these here, the only
18 one that makes sense is A, yet we are told in this meeting
19 here that A is off the table. Why did you even bring it,
20 then? To give some people hope, or just to show us how --
21 how this don't really mean anything? Because the thing
22 that most of us are trying to get done here, it's not
23 going to happen. And we were told so by the lady who just
24 gave that other report. Is that consultation? Is that
25 coming into this open-mindedly? To me, I don't think so,

1 not when we are told that in the presentation that's given
2 to us on what's going to happen.

3 And I hope you take some of this to heart and
4 understand what some of us are trying to say and say no to
5 your boss that we shouldn't do this in this unstable area.
6 And it's getting even more and more unstable by the day.
7 And the Arctic Council reports show that, and they also
8 show that human development is one of the problems. This
9 is another big human development. It's a human
10 catastrophe, if you ask me. So you are asking me, it's a
11 human catastrophe.

12 Have a good day.

13 MR. PAUL JOSLIN: My name is Paul Joslin,
14 and I'm a resident of Anchorage. I'm a retired wildlife
15 biologist. I've had the good fortune to see the beauty of
16 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to have floated
17 down the Kongakut River to the coastal plain where I saw
18 the thousands of Porcupine caribou as they did their
19 dropping of their young. Dr. Schoen just a few minutes
20 earlier talked about the importance of that refuge and the
21 fact that hundreds of scientists specifically to do with
22 the Arctic Refuge are saying don't go and exploit it for
23 oil.

24 But no matter where you fall on your feelings about
25 protecting this jewel in the crown of the refuge for its

1 wildlife, I want to talk about something else much more
2 serious when it comes to why you should not exploit the
3 oil in the refuge.

4 Over the past few decades, there have been hundreds,
5 literally hundreds of scientific reports on climate
6 change. The answer is the same when it comes to the
7 consequences of burning fossil fuels. No matter if you
8 measure changes in the extent of sea ice, shrinking of
9 glaciers, rising CO2 levels in the atmosphere, rising
10 temperatures in the tundra soil, the warming of the
11 world's oceans, increasing acidification, et cetera, et
12 cetera, et cetera, we have entered a period of rapid mass
13 environmental change occurring literally within a few
14 human generations since we began burning fossil fuels in
15 earnest.

16 Scientists tend to be very conservative when making
17 predictions. The last thing they want to be accused of is
18 hyperbole and doomsday scenarios. Most of the earlier
19 predictions made by scientists about climate change have
20 tended to underestimate rather than overestimate the
21 seriousness as to the oncoming threat. As the data keeps
22 coming in, what scientists are discovering is that climate
23 change is happening even faster than their cautious early
24 warnings had predicted.

25 In October, the United Nations Panel on Climate

1 Change went so far as to say that if we don't make major
2 serious cuts in CO2 production entering the atmosphere in
3 the next dozen years or so, we will likely reach a tipping
4 point where it becomes nearly impossible for us humans to
5 prevent climate change from becoming calamitous. Future
6 generations will suffer immeasurably if we do not. And
7 the economic costs are going to be astronomical.

8 Then in November, the U.S. federal government
9 released the combined findings of 13 different agencies
10 giving its own set of warnings, including its impact on
11 Alaska, if addressing the climate change issue is not
12 taken seriously. Global warming is occurring twice as
13 fast in Alaska, as you all know, as it is in the Lower 48.

14 For the sake of our children and our children's
15 children, I ask that we not only not drill for oil on the
16 coastal plain in the Arctic Refuge, but that we and the
17 fossil fuel producers start listening to the voices of our
18 scientists -- they are not stupid people. We spend a
19 fortune on them -- and seriously cut back on the
20 production of greenhouse gases by sharply reducing our
21 dependence on fossil fuels.

22 Yes, it will cost us and it will cost you something
23 to do this in the short-term. However, the costs will not
24 be as much if we use our ingenuity, if we create more
25 green jobs. Other states and some countries are doing

1 just this and proving, in fact, hey, it's an economic boom
2 in its own right.

3 In the longer term -- and this is the most important
4 part -- the benefits we will reap will be profound in
5 keeping our planet more livable and healthy for future
6 generations.

7 Thank you for listening.

8 MR. JESSE THACKER: We have had some
9 extremely talented speakers, and I really appreciate your
10 attention today. I don't mean to make light of a
11 situation, but I'll try to keep it maybe a little less
12 intense, and out of respect for all of our guests.

13 So my name is Jesse Thacker from All Pro Alaska. We
14 are a humble service company in Anchorage here, and I want
15 to thank you to the panel and the honored guests, the
16 indigenous people of Alaska and the honored Native tribes.
17 It's with respect that I come to you as a guest on this
18 land.

19 Although we are a different color, we all believe
20 red, which are the common interests, and that's for one
21 word, and that's legacy; legacy of our families and our
22 people. And I believe all people have this concern in
23 common. And along with legacy is inheritance, what we
24 pass onto our kids and our future generations. We have
25 that in common. I'm pro development, but I'm only pro

1 development with the responsible leadership of those
2 people who know how to manage the lands best, and that's
3 the indigenous people of Alaska.

4 Natives are not only necessary, but they are crucial
5 to resource development in Alaska. Who has lived here for
6 generations upon generations? The people who know how to
7 best manage the land. Alaska Natives, if you want to have
8 a stake in your future, your family's future and in the
9 state, I beseech you, please grab the mantle of
10 leadership. Lead us into this future. Don't doubt for a
11 second.

12 You know, it's nice to be -- even if it seems, for
13 lack of a better term, oppressive, but I want you to
14 understand that Russia and China and global countries
15 outside of this are here to dominate you if you do not
16 advance America. They will dominate you. You will be
17 merely a Russian subjugate. You will be merely a Chinese
18 statesman, an employee of the state. You will not have
19 the rights you have today as an American citizen.

20 If you don't know nothing about Communism, you are a
21 number. Socialism is not an ideology as far as, like, in
22 importance. Socialism is you are a tool of the state.
23 Communism is you are a tool of the state. You have no
24 idea until you have lived in that society, which I have.

25 They are oppressive. They do not care whether you

1 care about your land. You are a number and they will
2 dominate you. This is the greatest country on earth, and
3 we care, and we need your leadership, Alaska Natives. We
4 need you. We don't want you. We need you. You are
5 important. You are important to the very fabric of our
6 society. You have made this great state.

7 So anyway, I appreciate the history, the rich history
8 that the Alaska Native culture has contributed here.
9 Without you, we would not have a state. We would not have
10 a future. And I really appreciate you. My family
11 appreciates you as a guest on this land.

12 So thank you for the love of this state. Thank you
13 for your family and your embracement of your culture. We
14 are richer for it. And most of all, thank you for your
15 legacy. God bless you all.

16 MS. ROCHELLE ADAMS: (Speaking in
17 Gwich'in.) Before I translate, for myself and for all of
18 us, I want to acknowledge the traditional homelands of the
19 Dena'ina people. And I want to say Chin'an to them,
20 Mahsi' Cho for allowing us to be here today and in this
21 center named after them, Dena'ina people, the Athabascan
22 people, my cousins. So I want to honor them and say
23 Mahsi' Cho.

24 What I said to you was my introduction, and when we
25 do that, we know that we are relatives and we know who our

1 family is. And what I told you was I'm Gwich'in
2 Athabascan. I'm Koyukon. I'm Inupiaq, among other
3 things. I call Alaska home. I call all of Alaska home,
4 but more specifically I call the Gwich'in Nation my home.
5 I have family over in Canada, as well, Vunta Gwich'in. We
6 have very close ties to this land.

7 There are so many things that I want to say today.
8 I've sat here all day listening to people speak, listening
9 to people stand with the Gwich'in, and I thank them so
10 much, and I thank you for going out to our villages. And
11 I know that my -- because Gwich'in people are very humble,
12 caring, loving people, and I know that when you were in
13 our villages that you were well taken care of and you ate
14 some of our vadzaih. You ate some of our caribou, and you
15 were fed that nourishment. And so I know a part of that
16 is within you now, as it is with me.

17 It's really hard for me to stand here today. I feel
18 like I'm carrying the weight of the world on my shoulders
19 as one Gwich'in person standing here. And I know that you
20 went out to our communities and you talked with our elders
21 and you listened to our leaders and you heard what they
22 have to say, but I also know that our people, specifically
23 when we talk about this issue, when we talk about our
24 land, we specifically speak in our language.

25 And so I want to acknowledge and honor that, not only

1 for the Gwich'in people, for the Inupiaq people and all
2 the indigenous people of Alaska. All of our languages are
3 the official languages of this state. And I want to
4 acknowledge that these languages should be interpreted
5 because there is an entire world view that you are not
6 listening to and putting into the EIS and into all of
7 these documents.

8 Like I said, this is hard to stand here today. And I
9 know that at the end of the day we are all just people.
10 We are all going to go home to our families. And I want
11 to make sure that I have a home to go to. I know that you
12 have a home to go to. And you don't have to live under
13 the constant stress right now of being questioned, you
14 know, will my children be able to live the way I lived?
15 Will my children be able to go out onto the land the way I
16 was raised? Will there be the land there? Will it be
17 healthy?

18 You know, when we think about our animals, we have to
19 study all of them because we are so tightly connected. We
20 have to think about the caribou. All of our villages, the
21 Gwich'in villages, are along the migration routes of the
22 caribou. You should know that, right?

23 Because that's how important it is to us in Alaska
24 and Canada. And so when I think about that, I think about
25 the international treaty rights that we have with our

1 cousins over there, and I know that they would be very
2 upset, too, you know. They are feeling the stress, as
3 well. And I know that they have a lot to say about what
4 happens to the Porcupine River caribou herd and all the
5 other animals and the plants, the water, the land. They
6 have just as much a right in this process with saying what
7 happens to that.

8 And by not acknowledging them, that's a violation of
9 treaty rights, international treaty rights that should be
10 held up between the U.S. and Canada, both.

11 There is a lot of points I want to make. I thank
12 people who are standing with the Gwich'in Nation all day.
13 There have been very eloquently stated, the facts. There
14 are so many gaps within the EIS.

15 One of the big things for me is that I feel rushed.
16 You know, I don't feel like we have even had time to look
17 through it. 300 pages, and we have only had a few days to
18 look over it. And I don't see from what -- what I can see
19 in that, I don't see anything from what my people have
20 said in their -- in the villages. I don't see it in
21 there. That traditional knowledge, you know, our
22 subsistence, I don't see it in there.

23 And so I'm asking you to learn throughout this
24 process and include the indigenous people's perspective,
25 and that means including our languages.

1 When I see this picture up here, I see home. You
2 know, when I hear people talk all day, they say oh, ANWR,
3 you know. And it's an acronym. It doesn't mean much to
4 people. But what I see, that's a sacred place. And it
5 just seems, like, ridiculous to me. I feel like I have to
6 stand here and beg you people for my people to continue
7 living. As a human being on this earth, can you imagine
8 how that feels? I have to look at you and hope that you
9 will find it in you to let my people live in a healthy,
10 intact ecosystem.

11 You know, I was raised on the land. I really was. I
12 was raised on the rivers. I was raised on a trap line
13 with my dad. I have a very tight connection with this,
14 you know.

15 And as a linguist, as a cultural bearer, you know, as
16 an elder in training -- I was trained by our elders. I
17 have spent a lot of time learning our traditional stories
18 and specifically our creation story. I know these stories
19 about the caribou, our relationship with them, you know.
20 And these are -- this is how we pass that knowledge on.

21 And like somebody said earlier -- I think it was
22 Shawna Larson. She said there is not a word to translate
23 subsistence. It's not just one word. And so I think
24 that's a really good example of how you really have to
25 listen to the stories of our people to understand, you

1 know, that there is not only facts, you know. There is
2 science, all these things that go into this process. And
3 I know you have a lot of work ahead of you. But for us,
4 the indigenous people, this connection, is embedded in our
5 language. And I want to reiterate how important that is,
6 that whole world view. And they are in these traditional
7 stories, you know.

8 And I think about the whole process, you know, this
9 setting. And the relationships that we have with one
10 another, the Gwich'in people, the Inupiaq people, all of
11 us here, there are so many people that I love and care
12 about that have stood up today. And I thank you so much.

13 But the people of that area, I mean, nobody can speak
14 for me as a Gwich'in person. And I really don't -- you
15 know, I don't want to feel this division between the
16 Gwich'in and the Inupiaq. I have family that's Inupiaq.
17 I have family that's Gwich'in and Koyukon, all these --
18 I'm even Japanese. I'm Swedish, you know. I'm related to
19 most of the state. These are my family. I don't want to
20 be divided with my family. I care about people.

21 I understand sovereignty. I want us to be able to
22 govern our own homes, but I also think that in this
23 process, it has to be fair. It has to be just, equitable,
24 and not just who has the most money.

25 I mean, right now as we speak, we are in the middle

1 of climate chaos. Our rivers are not freezing. You know,
2 it's raining. There is places flooding, you know. Our
3 land is burning. I'm sure you have heard these stories.
4 I'm sure you are aware of what's happening all across our
5 land. And maybe you know why. I would hope that you know
6 why.

7 And right now with your stroke of your pen, you have
8 a lot of power over people. You have power, you know.
9 And these seats that you are holding, you have the power
10 to do the right thing. And that can't be measured with
11 money, but it can be measured with our future.

12 And so I'm asking you and I'm giving it to you with
13 this knowledge that you get from our people, because I
14 know you have been to our villages. You know, I'm honored
15 that you got to listen to our elders because I stand here
16 to represent and echo what they have told you in Arctic
17 Village and in Venetie and Fort Yukon.

18 But there is also the other villages that you haven't
19 been to. You haven't been to Beaver. You know, you
20 haven't been to Birch Creek, other Gwich'in communities.
21 And I feel like we are all greatly impacted, all of our
22 Gwich'in people. And I think for this to be an equitable
23 process, that you would listen to all of us. You would
24 listen to all of our people.

25 I just wish that -- you know, I know that this isn't

1 enough time. This is one snapshot of, you know, our lives
2 coming together in this moment, but it's so important for
3 me. I couldn't tell you what I'm feeling right now, but
4 it's really heavy and it's going to take some time for me
5 to process even today because this is -- it means so much
6 to me.

7 And seeing people come up as their job and
8 representing corporations and businesses, that's not the
9 voice of the people. This is a public process. This is
10 supposed to be the voice of the people, not the voice of
11 somebody's job, not the voice of someone's position and
12 where they are working. This should be from people's
13 hearts.

14 And when people come up here and they say, I have
15 been in Alaska 20 years, you know, I'm an indigenous
16 Alaskan or whatever, you know, whatever their reasoning
17 for calling this place home and putting ownership over
18 this land, to me it's -- it can't compare to the thousands
19 and thousands and thousands of years that my people have
20 lived on this land.

21 When we go out on the land and -- don't get me wrong.
22 We don't step foot on this. That's sacred. You are not
23 supposed to touch that. But when we go out on our land,
24 we know every bend of river, you know, like you are
25 driving down Northern Lights and you are like, oh, take a

1 right here. You know, maybe you have a connection with
2 that place.

3 But I'm trying to tell you, we have stories, you
4 know. We have people that are buried. We have just so
5 many connections that I don't think I could explain to you
6 in this short amount time, you know. But let me just tell
7 you, our ancestors are sleeping on this land. They are
8 sleeping in the water. My dad is in the river and my
9 stepmother is in the river. We were never able to find
10 her body.

11 I just want you to know you hold that power. You
12 have the authority to keep this home clean so we can
13 maintain that connection. I could know that our rivers
14 are going to be clean, our land will be clean because my
15 family is sleeping in there.

16 We have lived here for so long. We don't have
17 anywhere else to go. The dirt that's my ancestors, the
18 trees. When we talk about the caribou, they don't have
19 any other birthing grounds. The whales that will come
20 here, the dinjik, vadzaih, dats'an, luk choo, dats'an, all
21 of these, all of these species of animals, all these
22 birds, they come from around the world just to nest here,
23 the one place in this planet that we have. And those
24 species have nowhere else to go.

25 I know that you guys have a really big job, and I

1 thank you for listening to us. And you know, like some
2 people said, there is inequity in these systems. You
3 know, as an Alaska Native woman, it's hard for me to stand
4 here. It's hard for me to stand here and speak English
5 and try to represent my people, but I do it with honor. I
6 was instructed by our elders to do this in a good way.
7 And I'm sure you have heard all about that going to our
8 villages.

9 And so I just want you to remember, you know, when
10 you were there with our people, you were sitting and
11 listening to Trimble Gilbert in Arctic Village and Judify
12 in Venetie, you know, and our chiefs in Fort Yukon. You
13 know, think about them, think about me when you are making
14 decisions that will directly impact our life and our
15 future.

16 There is a lot of other things that, you know, I want
17 to say, and I'm going to include these in writing, but I
18 just want to make sure that, you know, how do you
19 determine what's substantive? Because it seems to me, how
20 can you -- how can you know that without, you know,
21 translating all of our languages? And how can you have
22 this DEIS when, you know, it doesn't include any of those
23 things that they have shared? It doesn't include the
24 stories, these connections to the land, you know, this
25 sacred place where life begins. How can you know that

1 when you don't even hear a word that they have said in
2 their language.

3 So you know, I just want to say again that that needs
4 to be translated. And even with the -- you know, the UN
5 Declaration for Indigenous People, I think that's article
6 13, you know, that we are supposed to be able to conduct
7 these processes in our language when we deem it necessary.

8 And again, I just, you know, want to echo what some
9 people said. This process, it's been fast-tracked and
10 there is not adequate time, you know. And it's rushed.
11 And it has to be a just process. We need our Gwich'in
12 experts. We need our Inupiat experts. They may not be
13 sitting up there with you, but they sure -- they exist and
14 there has to be a way to incorporate that knowledge into
15 this system in a fair and just way.

16 I just want to say, you know, again, Mahsi' Cho to
17 everyone that's standing with the Gwich'in Nation and know
18 that a lot of us -- a lot of us are in D.C. now. We will
19 be meeting with you there. Thank you for meeting with our
20 people in the village. I'm glad that you got out there to
21 experience that. I'm sure that you, you know, enjoyed
22 eating the vadzaih and that -- and that's something so
23 invaluable.

24 You know, I know what it was like flying into Arctic
25 Village. And I don't know if you have actually seen the

1 caribou when you were landing, but that's really
2 something. And it's hard to put experiences like that
3 into words, but I know that you feel it in your heart.
4 And I know that that will stay with you because what we
5 are talking about is sacred. We call it the sacred place
6 where life begins. And that land has the power to heal
7 us. And if we do this in the right way, in a fair, just
8 process and we listen to the people, you know, if we are
9 able to choose Alternative A, I'm sure that many people
10 would like to choose that option. And so that should be
11 an option.

12 But I just want to say Mahsi' Cho. Thank you. And I
13 wish you all well, wellness and safety in your travels.
14 And I hope that you come back to our communities to talk
15 with our people. And I would like you to visit all of our
16 Gwich'in communities. So I invite you to work with all of
17 our Gwich'in communities. And that means in Canada, too.

18 MS. KARA MORIARTY: Good evening. My name
19 is Kara Moriarty and, for the record, I'm the president
20 and CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, commonly
21 referred to as AOGA.

22 AOGA is the professional trade association for the
23 industry in Alaska. My members represent the majority of
24 companies exploring, producing, refining and transporting
25 oil and gas in the state of Alaska, both on the North

1 Slope and in Cook Inlet.

2 As a reminder, the oil and gas industry has been a
3 long provider of jobs and wages and revenue to the state
4 and local governments. Since statehood, the oil and gas
5 industry has provided over 160 billion dollars, not
6 adjusted for inflation, since statehood in the form of
7 royalties, production tax, income tax and property tax.

8 Right now we provide about one-third of all jobs in
9 the state of Alaska can be attributed back to the
10 industry, as well as over 30 percent of private sector
11 wages in our state's economy.

12 This current fiscal year, when you roll in the money
13 that we provide in property tax to the local government of
14 the North Slope Borough, we will provide over three
15 billion dollars to state and local governments this
16 calendar year alone.

17 The Alaska Oil and Gas Association has long supported
18 responsible development of the coastal plain of the Arctic
19 National Wildlife Refuge. You often hear the majority of
20 Alaskans support development, and about a month ago we did
21 a public opinion survey in the state of Alaska, and 64
22 percent of Alaskans strongly support development in the
23 1002 area.

24 As a bit of history, the Arctic National Wildlife
25 Range was created in 1960 at nine million acres. With the

1 passage of the Alaska Native Interest Lands Conservation
2 Act in 1980, 20 years later, the area expanded to 19.2
3 million acres with over 90 percent designated as permanent
4 wilderness.

5 There has been mention about there has never been a
6 purpose for oil and gas in this area, and that is not true
7 if you go back and look at the history. Because there is
8 a section in ANILCA, Section 1002 -- that's how we have
9 come to know this area as the 1002 area -- that
10 specifically states that an area should be set aside for
11 future oil and gas development if approved by Congress.
12 So for almost 40 years, there has been the potential
13 purpose for oil and gas development in this area.

14 The U.S. Energy Information Administration, referred
15 to as EIA, predicts that by 2050 -- 2050 -- petroleum and
16 other liquids, closely followed by natural gas, will
17 remain by multiple magnitudes the most consumed energy
18 source in the United States.

19 Global estimates from the IEA, the International
20 Energy Administration, also predicts by 2050 that over 50
21 percent of the world's energy will still come from
22 traditional sources of oil and natural gas.

23 Why is that important when we bring it in context for
24 the 1002 area? Conservative estimates from the 1980
25 seismic and exploration, geologists predict that the mean,

1 the average, production could be between 10 and 11 billion
2 barrels of oil. To date we have produced over 17 billion,
3 and counting, over 40 years.

4 So this could be the next generation of oil and gas
5 development. It still remains the best single opportunity
6 for onshore development on federal land, and I know of no
7 other prospect on federal land onshore that could have
8 this potential.

9 So production from the coastal plain will
10 significantly reduce the U.S. reliance on foreign oil for
11 the next couple of decades. We know that production will
12 take time. So even if we do have a successful lease sale
13 in the next year or two, we will not see production for at
14 least 12 to 15 years. So this is the future oil that we
15 need so that we do not have to rely on foreign oil.

16 The EIA also projects that from 2031 to 2050 --
17 again, the next couple of decades -- production from the
18 coastal plain could reduce the U.S. expenditures on crude
19 oil and petroleum product imports by almost 600 billion
20 dollars.

21 The Draft EIS is an important step toward fulfilling
22 Congress' directive that the Secretary of Interior
23 establish a competitive oil and gas program for the
24 leasing, development, production and transportation of oil
25 and gas in and from the coastal plain. The industry has a

1 history of safe, effective and environmentally responsible
2 development of our Arctic spanning almost five decades.

3 This record of development on Alaska's North Slope
4 and associated offshore areas provides strong support for
5 BLM's proposed leasing program. We have been able to
6 reduce our footprint. Technology has changed.
7 Development on the coastal plain today would be a much
8 smaller footprint to get to a larger area underneath with
9 horizontal drilling.

10 In general, the Draft EIS is well organized and
11 provides a thorough analysis of reasonably foreseeable
12 impacts of a coastal plain leasing program. The BLM has
13 made a tremendous effort to prepare the Draft EIS that is
14 responsive to Congress' directive, while analyzing
15 anticipated effects of future development consistent with
16 the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act,
17 or NEPA.

18 It is essential that BLM's EIS evaluate alternatives
19 that meet the purpose and need established by Congress.
20 And although we, as industry, are still fully evaluating
21 the alternatives, some of the alternatives could
22 provide -- could be challenging for actual development of
23 the coastal plain because the developable areas would be
24 so small, isolated and removed that it would not support
25 integrated development, which is safer and more

1 environmentally conscious.

2 Any alternatives that do not allow for the eventual
3 development, production and transportation of oil and gas
4 in and from the coastal plain would not meet the
5 requirements established by Congress and, in our opinion,
6 therefore, would not meet the purpose or need of the EIS.

7 So we encourage the BLM to carefully consider all of
8 the detailed written comments and oral comments that you
9 have heard in the state over the last week and a half and
10 the many comments that I'm sure you will get by the March
11 deadline. And to continue to proceed with the preparation
12 of a final EIS.

13 As a representative industry in Alaska, I often get
14 the question, are any companies going to show for the
15 lease sale, especially because the seismic program looks
16 like it may not happen this winter. I can't guarantee
17 that any company is going to come to the lease sale, but I
18 can guarantee that they won't if the lease sale is not
19 held.

20 So as a personal perspective and lastly as a mom and
21 someone who has taught school on the North Slope, I
22 started my career in Alaska teaching first and second
23 grade in Atqasak. It's in NPR-A, so west of the coastal
24 plain. But I can assure you that my desire to have a
25 strong and safer, healthy community is not just for my

1 children here in Anchorage who are here tonight, but also
2 for the kids back on the North Slope who are now parents.
3 My first and second graders are now parents with kids in
4 school and in the village. And some are in Nuiqsut. Some
5 in Anaktuvuk Pass. Some are in Point Lay.

6 So we need strong and healthy economies. We love to
7 recreate here personally, and we enjoy the state and want
8 to see it successful for years to come.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10 MS. AMY LEWIS: The meeting was scheduled
11 to end at 7:00. There are still a large number of people
12 that would like to give public testimony. We will try to
13 accommodate as many as we can. We have this room until
14 8:00. We have to be physically out of this room at 8:00.
15 So we can take public testimony, continue until 7:45. So
16 we will try to get as many speakers in as possible in the
17 next 45 minutes. Please be cognizant of others that want
18 to speak and keep that in mind as you are giving your
19 testimony, but we will keep going, try to get as many as
20 we can in for the next 45 minutes.

21 MS. ELENA CHARLES: Hi. As my grandma
22 would say, my gussuk name is Elena Charles. I was given
23 the Yup'ik name Ala and Alaq from my grandparents, which
24 means older sister. I am Yup'ik Eskimo from the city of
25 Bethel, as well as my father, Frank Charles. My mother,

1 Priscilla Hunter, is from the village of Hooper Bay. And
2 we are nowhere near ANWR, but it directly affects us and
3 affects our cousins up there in the Interior.

4 I will be the first to stand up here and tell you I
5 don't know much of anything about this, but I do know that
6 ANWR was designated a refuge for a reason. It is a very
7 fragile ecosystem, not just there but the entire state of
8 Alaska. And any impact, any little thing that will throw
9 that environment off balance will not only impact the
10 people of the region, not just the people of Alaska, but
11 this entire -- on a global level.

12 I remember the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and I -- I
13 know it was a completely different issue from drilling,
14 but just imagine if something like that, even on a tiny,
15 minute scale of that happening, what the effects would be
16 on the environment, the animals and the land.

17 It's also been shown that the use of fossil fuels is
18 directly linked to global warming, climate change, and it
19 really affects here in the north because it melts our
20 permafrost. And as the permafrosts melts, more methane is
21 released into the atmosphere, and therefore we are just
22 destroying ourselves.

23 You know, our people don't look -- we don't work for
24 ourselves. We work for the generation that's coming after
25 us and their children and their children and their

1 children because this land is not ours. This land is on
2 loan to us from our children. And when my children have
3 children and they see pictures of the planet and what it
4 used to be, I would like to ask you, what answer do I give
5 them? What do I say to them when they look at pictures of
6 what this world was and why is it not the same?

7 So you know, I don't know a lot about anything, but I
8 do know that there is a Hopi prophesy, and it's called the
9 warriors of the rainbow. Says when the earth is ravaged
10 and the animals are dying, a new tribe of people shall
11 come into the earth from many colors, creeds and classes
12 and who, by their actions and deeds, shall make the earth
13 green again and they shall be known as warriors of the
14 rainbow.

15 So I think all of you guys who are here helping
16 defend ANWR, protect the sacred, we are the warriors of
17 the rainbow. We are that Hopi prophecy. Not just us, but
18 all of the nation and all of the world.

19 So thank you.

20 MS. ANN RAPPOPORT: Thank you for this
21 opportunity to comment and for your patience in listening
22 to everyone. My name is Ann Rappoport, and I'm a resident
23 of Anchorage representing myself. And I'll tell you about
24 my experience and background for commenting.

25 I'm retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as

1 a supervisory biologist where my 33-year career included
2 nine years implementing Section 1002 of ANILCA, whether
3 the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge should be open to
4 oil and gas drilling.

5 I participated in monitoring the previous 1983 to '85
6 seismic and surface geology exploration program on the
7 coastal plain in public meetings and affected villages and
8 in leading the environmental assessment team for the 1987
9 EIS.

10 More recently I attended multiday public meetings in
11 Fairbanks and Utqiagvik with BLM's Regional Mitigation
12 Strategy for oil development in the NPR-A, which is some
13 other federal lands that have a lot of potential for oil
14 and gas, contrary to a previous speaker.

15 But there are many people from the North Slope
16 communities who recounted how current oil development, as
17 well as climate change, are negatively affecting their
18 ability to harvest fish and wild resources for essential
19 subsistence, causing significance health and other
20 concerns.

21 And you are hearing about these tonight, as well as
22 from the Gwich'in people who are spiritually and
23 culturally tied to the health of the coastal plain
24 Porcupine caribou herd as a significant food source.

25 Since the 1987 EIS, the geology of the coastal plain

1 has not changed. Neither the biological importance, nor
2 subsistence values of the coastal plain have lessened
3 since the 1980 studies. If anything, the area is more
4 important and unique as development has covered and
5 affected a greater and greater area to the west.

6 The posters in the back of the room, the information
7 in the Draft EIS and what many others here have said
8 graphically document the specifics about the diverse,
9 numerous and international species for whom the coastal
10 plain is an essential habitat and likely impacted from oil
11 and gas development.

12 These would occur to the international Porcupine
13 caribou herd who calve on the coastal plain and about
14 whose protection there is an international treaty with
15 Canada. You know about the immense numbers of snow geese
16 breeding here and the other couple hundred nearly
17 migratory bird species. You know that polar bears den and
18 increasingly use the coastal plain as their sea ice
19 hunting platforms melt with our warming climate. You know
20 the fish in the rivers feed the people and fertilize the
21 Arctic biome, and countless other species depend on this
22 unique ecosystem for various life stages.

23 And you have heard about the importance of this place
24 to the Native Alaskans who consider it their sacred home
25 and have subsisted of these renewable resources for

1 thousands of years. All of these have been protected
2 under the purposes of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
3 as initially established 60 years ago and updated in the
4 1980 Alaska Lands Act.

5 After extensive analysis in 2015, U.S. Fish &
6 Wildlife Service recommended a wilderness designation for
7 the area.

8 So what's changed? Well, there is two factors that I
9 really want to mention and are why you can add to all this
10 for selecting the no action alternative in the final EIS,
11 even if that is contrary to a clause in a completely
12 unrelated tax bill that was passed by Congress and that
13 you have, unfortunately, been assigned to implement.

14 So the first factor is that current and planned
15 development over the past few decades now extends over
16 about two-thirds of the North Slope.

17 So the undeveloped Arctic Refuge coastal plain is now
18 even more critical as the last remaining Arctic ecosystem
19 in the United States where there is not oil and gas
20 leasing occurring. It's the last migratory corridor from
21 mountains to the coastal plain to the coast and sea
22 beyond.

23 There are adjacent state lands to the west crossed by
24 an extensive infrastructure of spider web and activities
25 of oil and gas production, and then there is the

1 BLM-managed NPR-A, where drilling and leasing with some
2 initial production is west of the state lands.

3 The people in Nuiqsut did not worry when Prudhoe Bay
4 developments were 70 miles away, but now that drilling is
5 within sight and sound, they are concerned about asthma
6 that their children are suffering, cancer rates and
7 decreasing availability of subsistence resources.

8 The second factor that's very important now as you
9 consider this issue is our warming climate, which is
10 exacerbating all these changes, and it's faster and faster
11 that it's happening.

12 Polar bears spend more time on land and have greater
13 difficulties finding food with a potential increase in
14 human/bear conflicts. Invasive species are moving north.
15 Freeze up is later and snow melt earlier, shortening the
16 period when ice road and winter exploration can occur
17 without damaging the tundra. Coastal erosion, melting
18 permafrost and changes in rivers freezing and thawing all
19 affect the ability of those from Kaktovik, Arctic Village
20 and other villages to safely travel and obtain needed
21 subsistence resources.

22 Moreover, the social and economic costs of climate
23 change, which is speeding up as we develop and burn more
24 fossil fuels, are not sustainable. The cost in the United
25 States of extreme weather influenced disasters, such as

1 wild fires and hurricanes, was recently tallied as 91
2 billion dollars in 2018 alone, as 306 billion dollars in
3 2017.

4 So how do those figures balance against the maybe one
5 billion for the U.S. and one billion for Alaska that could
6 result from leasing the coastal plan? What if instead we
7 could put those funds to improving and implementing
8 renewable energy technologies across our country? Put it
9 to mitigating and slowing down climate change?

10 We need to transition from an Alaskan economy
11 dependent on oil to one embracing clean renewal energy
12 resources and the new jobs that represents. But
13 unfortunately, that is not what's being considered here.

14 So while the Tax Act limits the specific development
15 footprint to 2,000 acres, one look at a map of the
16 existing spider web of oil development on Alaska's North
17 Slope shows that much, much larger of an area is traversed
18 by this development. It will cause secondary impacts and
19 disturbance throughout a significantly much, much more
20 extensive area. With two potential lease sales of 400,000
21 acres each, at least half the total area of the coastal
22 plain could actually be involved.

23 During preparation of the 1987 EIS for the coastal
24 plain, I witnessed appointed officials at the highest
25 levels influence and modify the recommendations from the

1 field scientists and experts. If your recommendations are
2 changed as this process moves up the decision ladder, it
3 should be transparent so all Americans will know and can
4 weigh in on the future of this important national
5 treasure.

6 The information presented in the EIS, my comments and
7 those of many others clearly justify that the final EIS
8 must recommend the no action alternative. Otherwise,
9 there is no alternative for the fish, wildlife, habitats
10 and subsistence users of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain
11 if oil and gas development proceeds, nor is there much
12 hope for slowing down and reducing climate-induced
13 disasters, like communities sinking into our seas and
14 rivers as sea levels rise or for communities affected by
15 more and worse wildfires and hurricanes.

16 In closing, I hope you can be brave, listen to the
17 people who depend on these resources for their food and
18 way of life. Pay attention to the ecological and
19 biological values and the legislative purposes for the
20 Arctic Refuge. I urge you to be the leaders who can help
21 us pursue other options to diversify and add jobs to our
22 Alaskan economy, such as with renewable energy.

23 The correct conclusion for this EIS process is
24 selection of the no action or no leasing alternative.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. MALINDA CHASE: Good evening. I'm
2 Melinda Chase, and I'm here speaking on my own behalf.
3 And I am definitely not as prepared as the last speaker
4 was. However, I do feel strongly, as she does, that the
5 no alternative is to be put forward.

6 My home village is Anvik. It has the largest chum
7 salmon run in the world. I did not know that until about
8 five or six years ago. And this is -- I do stand with the
9 Gwich'in people and I do stand for those people up north
10 that do not want to see this development.

11 But this is not just about them. It is about us
12 right now. It's about our animals. It's about our
13 future. And it's about our livelihood as we move forward.

14 And the previous speaker asked you to be brave, and I
15 think that's exactly what is needed for all of us as we
16 move forward. Heavy conversations are definitely needed.

17 Two years ago I flew into my home village. Maybe,
18 yeah, two years ago. And when I hit Holy Cross, I could
19 see -- and it was in the end of July when cranberries and
20 the berries are ripe. And I could see no -- I could see
21 no leaves from Holy Cross up to Anvik. And I got on the
22 ground, and I went to my little house, and I was thinking
23 there is no leaves anywhere.

24 And I went down to the store and I asked one of the
25 gals there. I said, what's -- how come you have no

1 leaves? What's going on? And she said, oh, all the
2 caterpillars. Didn't you see it on Facebook how much
3 caterpillars we had that came through? And I walked out
4 of my house, and I started to look around, and there was
5 no berries, common berries. Common berries that we rely
6 on: Cranberries and xushreds, which are rosehips.

7 Anyway I got back, because I live in Fairbanks, and I
8 ended up asking a colleague who works in climate, you
9 know, about this. And she said this is definitely
10 related. The insects are definitely related to a rising
11 temperature.

12 And so what I share is that story with you because
13 what struck me at that time when I was home and I could
14 see that the most common berries that we rely on were not
15 available. And this is in my area. This has to do with
16 just one impact of a warming climate. And I think about
17 this for all of Alaska.

18 And today upstairs if you would have listened to the
19 speaker on salmon and the amount of resources -- the
20 amount of money that we get from salmon in this state and
21 the return on investment that he cited, the keynote
22 speaker, Schindler [ph], today.

23 He said for -- we get a return on investment between
24 40- and 300 billion for fish in the state of Alaska, much,
25 much greater than the return on investment for oil. Oil

1 is flat. So one to one. And he showed it today.

2 And he also showed that in the watershed, you can
3 have one year that fish go up into one watershed in one
4 area in one creek, and three years later they go into
5 another one. And it was very compelling. And if you
6 watch that -- you need to watch it because it was
7 recorded. And he shows the entire ecosystem for fish.

8 And so we have definitely a warming climate. You've
9 heard it here and you heard it from this gal who has got
10 expertise from being on these studies from years ago. I
11 think this is not just about the North Slope. It's not
12 just about the caribou. It's about all of our animals.
13 And we are in a position where we can make a significant
14 change.

15 I am a Doyon shareholder. Have I benefited? Very
16 little. I get a \$600 dividend once a year. That's very
17 different than some of the other -- excuse me -- I'm
18 pretty nervous.

19 And I think that when I look at how much fish goes in
20 my freezer and how much moose goes into my freezer and
21 what a difference that makes, the fact that I can work
22 with my daughter and work with my family, nobody can buy
23 that. Nobody can buy that with any amount of money,
24 definitely not with a \$600 dividend. And who has been
25 able to benefit?

1 I have been raised -- I was raised under ANCSA. I
2 was born into the system and raised, and I watched the
3 development. And I never once had access to one of those
4 North Slope jobs. Very much who you know, when you know,
5 when you showed up. And I still look at this system and I
6 come in, and who are in those positions? Who are in the
7 VP positions? It's not our people. We have a very small
8 number. 25 percent of Doyon's and Doyon subsidiaries is
9 how much employ our shareholders. Ten years ago it was
10 only 11 percent. That is not very much after 40 years.
11 So that's just one story.

12 If you were to look at our leadership, of course they
13 are benefitting. If you were to look at our board, of
14 course, they are benefitting. But it's a sliver of people
15 across Alaska. And you have to look at what is happening,
16 and what are we going to be paying with. What are we
17 going to pay with for the next 30 to 40 years for this
18 short-term development? We are going to pay a hell of a
19 lot, and it's going to be not just for us, but for
20 generations after us. And what really bothers me is when
21 I was looking back here and I spent time -- because I'm --

22 Part of the reason I'm so nervous is I'm not a person
23 to talk off the top of my head, and I feel unprepared,
24 so --

25 But I went back there to look to see because you had

1 so many young people sitting up here. And when I walked
2 in here, you had a young person saying, where are we in
3 this picture? And I looked back at these posters, and
4 there is not one poster that demonstrates or shows the
5 climate projections and the impacts as they happen on the
6 North Slope or for Alaska, just for all of Alaska in the
7 next 30 years or looking at the development 50 years out.
8 And that's -- you know, you are missing information.

9 So I just -- I think that looking at that no action
10 alternative -- it was very undermining what Murkowski did.
11 It was undermining to all of us. It was not something
12 that we had a chance to weigh in on. And to see our
13 leadership go down -- and I say our leadership in the
14 Interior. We have a leader that went down, and he went
15 and testified, and he was relying on a 1995 resolution.
16 Not one of our shareholders got to weigh in. My daughter
17 was born in 1995. And did she get to weigh in on that
18 decision for Doyon to support this? No, she didn't. And
19 does she get to weigh in on this?

20 So I just -- I urge you guys to be brave, to be brave
21 and to look at all these -- we have the national climate
22 assessment that's out that says we need to be adapting
23 now. We need to be mitigating now. It's a better
24 investment right now. Read those chapters. There is key
25 messages in those chapters, and they are easy to

1 understand. We have the Intergovernmental Panel on
2 Climate Change. Read that. That should be part of all
3 this.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. AMAYA SHAW: My name is Amaya, and in
6 my language it's Paulopsin [ph], which is night rain. My
7 name Amaya is Japanese, and it means night rain, the same
8 as my Gwich'in name. I'm from Beaver, Alaska. And I'm
9 19.

10 And I just wanted to come up here and say how much
11 this hurts to think about. Like, I'm not too sure
12 about -- I'm not too well read in this or anything, but I
13 just want to say that I just -- I feel like being born to
14 be an indigenous woman, I feel like being Native to this
15 land I have been born with a hole in my heart from the
16 colonization of my ancestors and of me. There is a hole
17 in my heart. We are losing our language. We are losing
18 our culture. There's a lot of pieces of the puzzle that
19 are missing.

20 And I realize that, but a lot of my -- a lot of the
21 youth around me, they don't realize that. They don't know
22 why they feel a hole in their heart. And I do feel like
23 that hole keeps growing and growing the older I get and
24 the more that I learn and the more aware that I have
25 become of things around me.

1 Like growing up and going out fishing with my grandpa
2 every summer having a fish wheel was so fun, I didn't
3 think of that, there were laws against, like, we have
4 to -- we have to wait. We have to call every day in the
5 summer now to make sure that it's legal for us to fish.
6 And we don't even get enough fish to supply our family
7 with what we need. So that's another -- another piece
8 missing, another piece missing.

9 And I can just feel this hole in my heart growing.
10 And I have to worry about if my family will get enough
11 food, and now I have to worry about if my grandkids will
12 even be able to get food, when I have them some day, and
13 if we will even be able to live on this land if it's going
14 to be healthy enough, you know.

15 So that's just what I wanted to say as an indigenous
16 youth of the land you guys are looking at.

17 Thank you for listening.

18 MS. ADRIENNE AAKALUK TITUS: Hi. I had to
19 get on your level, guys. (Speaking in Inupiaq.)

20 Is there something that I can, like, get on their
21 level so I can look eye to eye with these men? I just
22 want you to know that I want to look in your eyes today as
23 I speak to you.

24 I'm standing here tonight as an Inupiaq woman. I'm
25 standing here tonight as an act of survival, not just for

1 myself, but my people, and the rest of the indigenous
2 people in this state. I'm standing here as an act of
3 survival for my children, their children to come, and
4 those who come after us that will speak my name.

5 (Speaking in Inupiaq.) I speak my grandparents' name
6 tonight to honor them. I speak my parents' name to honor
7 them. I stand here tonight to honor the three young men
8 that we lost to suicide this summer alone. I stand here
9 tonight to honor the mothers that are tired at home
10 waiting for their husbands to leave that damn Slope job
11 that they have been forced to work.

12 I stand here tonight for the people that are torn in
13 their hearts that don't have the courage to come up and
14 speak out against this suppression of dissent that is put
15 upon them by these corporations that represent them
16 falsely.

17 I stand here tonight in honor of my people that
18 cannot be here because of their health that has been
19 impacted by this industry that you say is such a success
20 in our state, because we have not seen that success.

21 As an Inupiat woman that has grown up on the land,
22 I've seen nothing but desecration throughout my life. I
23 lived through the Valdez oil spill. I watched my dad, my
24 uncles, their family, I watched them cry every morning
25 until the day they died because they wanted to feel that

1 hole in their heart to be filled. And it never was.

2 And tonight I stood here and I listened to a young
3 woman who pleaded with you for her own survival. And as
4 you sit up there and you look down at our people today
5 with your authority, I feel sorry that you have to go home
6 and go to bed with all of these words running through your
7 minds. And this DEIS that you propose, the 300-some pages
8 that determine the rest of my life and my survival, my
9 people's survival, the 300-some pages isn't enough. It
10 isn't enough to comprehend who we are.

11 In Alaska we are all, every single one of us, are all
12 connected as indigenous people since time immemorial.
13 Those seal grease trading trails that you guys have
14 labeled as national park trails, the Iditarod trail, all
15 of these different trails that have been labeled were once
16 where our ancestors have walked and where we still carry
17 and we still touch the ground and ask for them to return
18 to us.

19 And that's the very thing I did today before I came
20 in here. I prayed for words. I prayed for them to come
21 up in through me to be able to share their message so that
22 my children can know that I did not leave this world and
23 give up, so that my dad, who looks down at me from those
24 stars every night when they start shining, knows that I
25 never gave up.

1 Who we are as indigenous people is a gift, and it's
2 not yours to take away. Our land is our identity. It's
3 who we are. It's our language. It's our rights. It's
4 our stories. It's been given and passed on to us since
5 time immemorial. We didn't need a pen to bring that down.

6 Oral history has carried on since the beginning of
7 time. We still share those moments. On Sundays I host a
8 family dinner, and I open it to people that have been
9 displaced from their homes in the villages that have been
10 forced to move into urban -- in these urban communities
11 because they can't afford gas, because they can't afford
12 the high cost of processed foods in those stores, because
13 they aren't offered those jobs that you talked so freely
14 about giving.

15 I got on a plane last week to go to Utqiagvik. We
16 landed in Prudhoe Bay. There was six of us left on the
17 plane, six indigenous women. And the rest were white men
18 that got off the plane to work those fields, those oil
19 fields.

20 Where were our Native brothers in the hiring process?
21 What part of that benefits our people? Where is that
22 dividend benefitting our people? How is desecrating more
23 of our sacred places benefitting our people?

24 There are 33 communities that face relocation because
25 of erosion right now because of climate change. 33.

1 That's 33 communities with generations of people that have
2 lived in that place since the beginning of time. I know
3 it's hard for you to think about that concept, the
4 beginning of time, but it's right here in my hands. My
5 DNA carries it with me. My heart carries it with me. The
6 stories that I hold inside me carry it with me. And I
7 pass that on to my children.

8 I stand here today in honor of those missing and
9 murdered indigenous women whose lives were cut short
10 because of all of this that has come into our land. I
11 stand here today to all of the -- to honor all of the
12 people that have died of cancer and autoimmune diseases
13 inflicted upon them because of this desecration of our
14 land.

15 We see all of these things grow and you say that this
16 is going to grow our people, grow our economy, give us
17 better houses, help improve our infrastructure, give us
18 better roads. We don't need any of that. We need our
19 languages. And in order to keep those, we need our land.
20 And without it, we are nothing.

21 So you sitting up there telling us that you are doing
22 what's best for us is telling us that we are nothing to
23 you. And that means nothing to me because I know that my
24 children and all of these other people's children in here
25 that have been here today to stand in front of you and all

1 the rest of them that come forward and they speak out, it
2 means everything to them. Each and every one of them.

3 And we honor our people in a good way, in a sacred
4 way. We honor our stories. We honor our land, the water.
5 (Speaking in Inupiaq.)

6 Water is life. The land is life. I am water. You
7 take anything away from this today, I hope that you take
8 each and every one of our prayers that we have said for
9 you for the decisions that you make that you hold on your
10 heart and in your minds as you leave this place and that
11 you use that with dignity in a good way. And not just for
12 yourselves or that better salary that you get for sitting
13 up there or for that raise that you get or that promotion
14 that you are working for.

15 I ask that you take our prayers home for the
16 betterment and the greater good for all of us, each and
17 every one of us, even your own children, your families
18 that you take -- you work so hard to take care of. And
19 remember that we work so hard to take care our families,
20 as well. And we don't need more money. We don't need
21 more oil. And we are not asking for anything else but the
22 ability to be able to live in a place that we have been
23 since the beginning of time. Our people, we don't want
24 anything other than that.

25 Right now in Unalakleet where I'm from, there is open

1 ice. There is open water. No ice. In Gambell yesterday,
2 the waves swelled up to 50 feet. We are seeing this
3 change. We are seeing it with our own eyes. You don't
4 need science to tell you that. You don't need people
5 sitting at universities or in these labs or flying in
6 their little helicopters to see that our land is changing.
7 Our world is changing.

8 And it's up to us to keep it going to be -- to become
9 this healthy place again. And they rely on us as
10 indigenous people to set that example because they see
11 that our knowledge really is true. They see who we are as
12 people, real beings as protectors and defenders, as
13 stewards of this place since the beginning of time.

14 I ask that when you visit these lands, that you touch
15 down on that earth and that you ask your ancestors to come
16 up in you and you ask that our ancestors also be there
17 with you and that helps you make those decisions that you
18 are making in a good way.

19 It's nerve wracking to get up here to stand in front
20 of you, sitting on that podium looking down on us. It's
21 so uncomfortable. And I applaud each and every one of
22 you, you young people and you elders and everyone that's
23 been here today to listen to this. (Speaking in Inupiaq.)

24 Thank you for standing here with us, for sharing
25 what's on your heart, what you carry. It's intimidating.

1 You guys have this process where you sit up there and you
2 look down on our people and you flick your pen and you rub
3 your head and you act like you are tired of hearing us.

4 I'm sure that you are because it's going to be over,
5 and over again. That's all you are going to hear is we
6 don't want development. We don't need it. We don't need
7 any of it. We don't need those loud trucks. We don't
8 need new land, new roads. We don't need more men coming
9 up to our land and taking those flights from clear across
10 the country to spend a couple of weeks up on the Slope to
11 go home and spend that money somewhere else.

12 What we need is to be able to carry on who we are as
13 indigenous people, to be able to sing our songs, to gather
14 our food together, to celebrate together, to mourn
15 together, to be able to carry on our ancestors in a good
16 way, to where when I get up and I leave this place, that I
17 know, my children know that I'm going to visit them in the
18 Northern Lights where the stars shine.

19 That's what we need, and we need your help to be able
20 to do that, each and every one of you. We have heard
21 scientific facts over and over again. You know all this.
22 You know about climate change. You can deny it all you
23 want to, but it's there and it's just going to continue to
24 get worse until you make the decision that you want this
25 world to continue to thrive in a good way.

1 Economic growth for indigenous people is not based on
2 monetary wealth. It's based on being able to feed your
3 family. It's based on being able to tell those stories.
4 Economic growth is being able to be healthy as a
5 community. The last time I went home was for a funeral,
6 over and over and over again. I'm tired of it. I want to
7 be able to get on the plane and go home and celebrate our
8 land and our people, not have to mourn another death.

9 So tonight when you leave this place, I ask that you
10 think about all of these testimonies that you have heard
11 over and over and over again since this process has begun
12 with you in this position where you are at and take that
13 into consideration.

14 And I pray for them to reach your heart so that your
15 heart and your mind meet because as Inupiaq people we say
16 if your heart and your mind meet, you are just going to
17 keep on wandering this place until they do, and you won't
18 be able to think right because they have to connect for
19 you to be whole, your inu. That's what we call your
20 spirit is your inu.

21 Thank you for giving us all an opportunity to say, to
22 speak. I waited on this whole week, and I wrote over and
23 over and over again. Then I decided, why tell that story
24 because you have heard it over. So I just came out here
25 and I prayed for my ancestors give me the right words, and

1 I hope they were.

2 Thank you all for standing with us today. (Speaking
3 in Inupiaq.) Water is life. (Speaking in Inupiaq.)

4 MR. FENTON REXFORD: Good evening. Hello,
5 everybody. Been a long day. My name is Fenton Rexford.
6 (Speaking in Inupiaq.) Oldest people of the Arctic,
7 migrated from area by Wainwright all the way to Greenland.
8 Several generations, handful of generations, 20, 30
9 generations ago. But I live in Kaktovik today.

10 First I want to thank my lord and savior for giving
11 me this opportunity. Thank him first for placing the
12 Inupiaq on the Arctic lands. And also thank you for the
13 opportunity and extending the time this evening. I
14 traveled two, three days ago just to miss the blizzard.
15 And thank you for the opportunity. I really appreciate
16 it.

17 I was born and raised in Kaktovik. I come here to
18 speak to you on behalf of my people and myself. I know
19 that you all visited my community last week and have been
20 traveling across our region while you are in Alaska, and I
21 hope your visit has been a good one.

22 As a reminder, Kaktovik is the only community within
23 the boundaries of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I
24 repeat: Kaktovik is the only community within the ANWR.
25 Most importantly, we are only the community within the

1 1002 coastal plain.

2 First I would like to give you a short history of our
3 land and our relationship with outside groups. 1947 the
4 military came in. They wanted to defend our country, the
5 Cold War era. We were on the barrier island on the end of
6 the island on the strip. It was ideal for the military to
7 build a runway, so they dislocated us. We are in our
8 third location without any U.S. government or military
9 assistance. This is injustice.

10 Then in 1950, during the Alaska territorial days, a
11 gentleman named Mr. Rhodes -- he was the Fish & Wildlife
12 director -- came to Kaktovik. In those days the military
13 were coming in. And he told Chief Andrew Isaac, you can
14 only get one caribou and one sheep. This started 70 years
15 ago. This is injustice for the people of Kaktovik.

16 We have considered our homeland to extend from the
17 Continental Divide with the rivers flowing north, from the
18 Sagavanirktok by Prudhoe Bay west, well into Canada on the
19 east. Our tribe roamed that area. 23 million acres of
20 that land in our area, we inhabited that for many years
21 with hunting, fishing, gathering, getting berries. We
22 raised our families. We buried our families up there for
23 many thousands of years, 11,000 years maybe.

24 Then in the 1970s, we heard about all this ANCSA.
25 The federal government took over our 23 million acres and

1 gave us 92,000 acres for our -- our land. We lost it. So
2 now with the conservationists or the environmentalists and
3 the industry fighting this battle and now we -- we are at
4 this stage where a private landowner cannot do anything on
5 their own land that was given to them. We will have
6 nothing if the environmentalists or the conservationists
7 succeed in this. What are we going to have? We were
8 given resources. What are we going to do with that little
9 92,000 -- we used to roam east and west in that area.

10 So the deal was they gave us -- this land was locked
11 up. We couldn't use it. No, it was part of the National
12 Wildlife Refuge.

13 Let me give you a little bit of history of the -- the
14 history of the -- the history of the violent displacement
15 of the American Indians that when they created the
16 national parks, historian William Cronon, C-R-O-N-A-N
17 [sic], began unearthing forgotten stories of indigenous
18 peoples in the 1980s. He just started writing this in the
19 1980s, followed by Mark Spence and Karl Jacoby.
20 Historians. Their writings revealed the displacement
21 hidden with an enduring romantic idea about national
22 parks.

23 Conservationists used it as a tool of colonialism.
24 Conservationists basically trying to say that --
25 conservationists are saying we are the state and the state

1 bureaucracies have the appropriate knowledge to manage the
2 environment in the best way, rather than the indigenous
3 peoples and other prior inhabitants. Jacoby's book Crimes
4 Against Nature draws on case studies from the Adirondacks,
5 the Grand Canyon and the Yellowstone to demonstrate the
6 history of displacement that underlies the American
7 conservation.

8 I quote: In the 19th century there is a very strong
9 critique of Native environmental practices and a lot of
10 conservation literature that you can read. These are the
11 recent discoveries. And these -- the bureaucrats were
12 told, the only way you can come in and say we, the state,
13 need to manage this place and manage the environment is
14 you have been in some way present, the current managers of
15 the Native peoples as incompetent. That's wrong. Native
16 peoples like the Ahwahnechee, however, did not leave their
17 homes in the parks of their own accord and often had to be
18 removed and kept away from their home land by force. This
19 is by force.

20 Mr. Rhodes coming into Kaktovik, only one sheep and
21 one caribou. What in the world -- this started -- 1960s
22 the Arctic National Wildlife Range was created. We
23 couldn't get to our Native allotments because of the
24 policies. We can't run around in the summertime. We can
25 see the caribou about two or three miles up in the coast,

1 but due to the conservationists' policies, we cannot even
2 go up there and hunt them. We have to wait for adequate
3 snow for our snowmachines. And with the freezing coming
4 later and later, when we used to go across the island in
5 September, we are now crossing the island in November. We
6 have to wait for adequate snow to gain access and hunt
7 because of the conservationist policies of the
8 environmental nongovernmental organizations. This is not
9 right.

10 So all too often over the years, national debate
11 frames development and preservation as an either/or
12 argument, as if preservation cannot exist together.
13 Within our Inupiat community, we believe this is a false
14 model and one that is illfitted to the realities of our
15 existence.

16 We do not need to choose between the long-held
17 traditions that are our birthright and the economic
18 security that comes with oil and gas development of our
19 resources, our land, as long as that development is done
20 responsibly and with concerns of local communities in
21 mind. And this is good.

22 Ultimately, the Arctic is a region with an interest
23 in striking balance between environmental stewardship and
24 economic growth. As Inupiat, we maintain our traditional
25 values. While our culture continues to evolve and adapt,

1 we have to adapt to the changing rules around us. There
2 were policies and rules -- did you use four-wheelers or
3 three-wheelers? Have you used that before? These were
4 invented just recently.

5 Our modes of transportation to get into the -- where
6 the caribou are two or three miles up inland, we would
7 have used those modern modes of transportation, but the
8 policies of the conservationist idea restricts us from
9 that. This is true fact. I'm telling you the truth.
10 Kaktovik people cannot hunt in the Arctic National
11 Wildlife Refuge before there is adequate snow. We have --
12 you know, the only people that travel to gain access is to
13 their Native allotment. And there is only a handful of
14 Native allotments that were successful in getting their
15 Native allotments during that process. And most of them
16 are up inland.

17 So we know over the years that industry and wildlife
18 can co-exist. Based on our experience, we have strong
19 confidence in our government, the North Slope Borough's
20 ability to protect our national -- natural wildlife and
21 environment and resources from adverse impact,
22 particularly if decisions are made after considering local
23 input -- and I've heard that earlier -- regarding
24 subsistence resources as caribou.

25 Responsible development in the coastal plains means

1 all people will continue to have access to running water
2 and flush toilets throughout the region. Responsible
3 development means access to local schools, health care
4 facilities, public safety, power stations, infrastructure,
5 things that people from outside rural Alaska take for
6 granted. We just started flushing our toilets the year
7 2000, 18 years ago. We are happy about that.

8 So for many generations, the only options for my
9 generations, for many in my generations, the only option
10 for a school beyond eighth grade was to attend Indian
11 school in the Lower 48. I had to travel 15 years, told to
12 go to Salem, Oregon to attend the Chemawa boarding school
13 nine months out of the year.

14 Now our children, my grandchildren can stay home K
15 through 12. Would he have a college in Utqiagvik,
16 four-year accredited -- northwest accreditation, four-year
17 college. So we are happy for that.

18 The Inupiat have always been able to adapt and
19 embrace the opportunities we are given. We consider the
20 resources that the land provides to be our greatest gift.
21 And God gave us that land. He made us live there. You
22 going to be the Inupiaq people of this Arctic. So
23 whatever God ask of us, we continue that as a gift. We
24 consider what comes from below the ground as a symbol of a
25 gift just as important.

1 We were living in treeless country. We have been
2 living in treeless country, and we are fortunate.
3 Mackenzie River is a few miles away from us. And that's
4 where the driftwood is. It's hard with driftwood, but now
5 we are able to -- we will be able to have natural gas.

6 So you do not have to tell the Kaktovikmiut, who have
7 lived on this land for generations, the importance of our
8 land. We see it. We know it. We live it. We depend on
9 it. We are part of it, just like the rest of the -- my
10 fellow natives in Alaska and Lower 48.

11 So with collaboration -- and I heard this from the
12 testimonies this evening, this afternoon. So with
13 collaboration between the federal government, our local
14 people, and groups committed to legitimate environmental
15 conservation, we can secure the protection of this land
16 for generations to come. Collaborate. Let's collaborate.

17 We have something very important in common that often
18 gets lost in this debate. We all share a commitment to
19 protecting this land, and we will protect the land. We
20 will protect the caribou. We will protect our waters.
21 Yes. We will be on the table. And collaboration,
22 that's -- it's not going to be easy. We could take the
23 easy road, the easy route. It's tempting to take that
24 because this is hard. The NGOs are making it hard for
25 people of Kaktovik. I just briefly mentioned the history

1 or the creation of national parks dividing us.

2 So with collaboration with the federal government,
3 our local people and groups committed to legitimate
4 environmental conservation, we sure can secure protection
5 of this land for generations to come. We have something
6 very important in common that often gets lost in this
7 debate. We all share a commitment to protecting this
8 land.

9 And if we work together in pursuit of this goal, even
10 if we disagree, I know that we will be successful. It is
11 tempting -- temporary tempting to take the easy route and
12 reduce this issue to black and white, for versus against,
13 Republicans versus Democrat, industry versus environment,
14 people versus animals.

15 And yes, collaboration is difficult and takes time.
16 But the outcome will be a land that has potential to
17 peacefully sustain both human and wildlife communities
18 well into the future.

19 I want to be clear on one last thing. I was happy to
20 hear my neighbors, the Gwich'in and the Dinjii Zhu -- I
21 have relatives. I have grand nephews that are from Canada
22 that are Dinjii Zhu. I have a nephew living in Arctic
23 Village, Gwich'in. Do not take the bait of the
24 nongovernmental organizations. They don't speak for us.
25 We must not let them divide us. We were here thousands of

1 years before they stepped foot on our sacred lands, and I
2 promise you, we will be here for thousands of years after
3 the oil and gas has gone. We will be there.

4 I extend my hand to you, neighbors, Canada, that this
5 development can occur safely within our region. We
6 support it. And what you do as well, as we have proven
7 that the right balance of development and conservation is
8 what has allowed us to live the best of both worlds.

9 I have seen numerous family members of mine go out to
10 college and get a degree and start careers. We have
11 better health care, better infrastructure and a better
12 quality of life. I believe that we can do this safely and
13 responsibly. Do not let the NGOs divide us. This is our
14 decision.

15 While I'm always mindful of the need to protect the
16 environment and our subsistence way of life, the North
17 Slope Borough and the majority of our residents have long
18 supported careful development of oil and gas resources in
19 the coastal plain. Our people working through our
20 government, the North Slope Borough and our regional
21 corporations, will act in the same careful, responsible
22 and cautious manner. We always have when dealing with our
23 lands and the seas.

24 We have the greatest stake possible in seeing that
25 any and all development is done in such a way to keep this

1 land safe because it is our world, your world. This is
2 where we live. It holds the remains of our ancestors. It
3 holds the economic future of our state's children and
4 grandchildren.

5 Let me just get back to the forgotten history of the
6 violent displacement that helped create the national
7 parks. It's worth hearing. This is the truth. Historian
8 William Cronon began unearthing stories of indigenous
9 people in the 1980s. Conservation is used as a tool of
10 colonialism, Jacoby told Huff Post.

11 Conservation is basically trying to say that we, the
12 state, and the state bureaucracy have the appropriate
13 knowledge to manage the environment in the best way,
14 rather than the indigenous people or its prior
15 inhabitants. The only way you can come in and say, we,
16 the state need to manage the space is for you to be in the
17 same way present, the current managers of it, the Native
18 peoples as incompetent is outrageous. The United States
19 Army, for example, was stationed in Yellowstone from 1886
20 to 1918 to keep out indigenous people and others with
21 threat of violence. Jacoby said scholarship isn't
22 necessarily well received by conservation advocates. He
23 said my book has not made me very popular in the
24 environmentalist circles.

25 So these NGOs, the industry, put the regular people

1 of Kaktovik in a rock and a hard place. This is -- we
2 need collaboration. We can do this together. And I thank
3 you. I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to
4 comment. God bless you all.

5 MS. AMY LEWIS: This marks the end of the
6 public meeting and testimony that will be given. If you
7 would like to comment, the comment period is open until
8 March 13th. Thank you.

9 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:00 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of February 2019.

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

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020

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