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COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC MEETING

Taken February 4, 2019
Commencing at 1:07 p.m.

Pages 1 - 126, inclusive

Taken at
Carlson Center
2010 2nd Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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

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

4 Joe Balash
5 Assistant Secretary

6 Steve Wackowski
7 Senior Advisor of Alaska Affairs

8 Sherman Hogue
9 Videographer

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

12 Ted Murphy
13 Associate State Director

14 Nicole Hayes
15 Project Manager

16 Erin Julianus
17 Biologist

18 Rob Brumbaugh
19 Section Chief, Oil and Gas

20 Joe Keeney
21 Archeologist

22 For United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

23 Craig Perham
24 Wildlife Biologist

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

 Steve Arthur
 Biologist

 Steve Berendzen
 Arctic Refuge Manager

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

2
3 For EMPSI:4 Chad Ricklefs
5 Project Manager6 Amy Lewis
7 Assistant Project Manager8 Kendall Elifrits
9 Environmental Planner

10 For ABR:

11 Alex Prichard
12 Senior Scientist

13 For SRB&A:

14 Paul Lawrence
15 Senior Research Associate

16 Taken by:

17 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

18

19 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken
20 at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before
21 Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary
22 Public within and for the State of Alaska.
23
24
25

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

2 MS. SYDNEY DEERING: I would like to start
3 by expressing my full support for opening the 1002 lands
4 up to lease sales, and I would like to advocate for one of
5 the initial propositions, not Alternative D1 and D2 as the
6 areas in those propositions that are marked as not offered
7 to lease sale are known to include different anticlinal
8 trap structures that could potentially hold oil and gas
9 reserves and that if any sort of lease sales are going
10 forward that would allow for seismic exploration, they
11 should be included in that evaluation of the area's
12 resource.

13 That's pretty much all I've got.

14 MS. GAIL MAYO: My name is Gail Mayo, and
15 I live in Fairbanks. I have lived in Fairbanks since
16 1960. And that brings me right to what I think about this
17 EIS on the oil and gas leasing program. And I understand
18 right up front that you are not wanting to consider
19 Alternative A. However, to me that is the only
20 alternative. And in 1960 when I came here, President
21 Eisenhower designated the Arctic National Wildlife Range,
22 and I have been here and watched and testified and
23 advocated for those lands as they grew to be the Arctic
24 National Wildlife Refuge and as they grew to be respected
25 and accepted by the United States government as an

1 outstanding and unique wilderness area.

2 So I feel as if we need to continue to protect the
3 lands in that way. There are so few lands that are
4 unprotected in the U.S. They are a unique ecological
5 system found nowhere else in the world, probably, and
6 there is a lot that's still very unknown about them. We
7 can't really do an EIS and say what's going to happen up
8 there, as with most places, but even less is known about
9 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

10 The especially large herd, the Porcupine herd that
11 appears to be the herd that uses that area that's being
12 proposed for leasing as a beginning, Porcupine herd is a
13 -- there is no predicting what those animals will do when
14 they find themselves unable to put up with whatever is
15 going on up there in the way of manmade intrusions.

16 It's also essential bird habitat for birds that use
17 all continents in their yearly -- in their yearly
18 migrations between that habitat as their nesting grounds
19 or sometimes just as a molting ground or sometimes just as
20 a stopover ground. But still, it's an essential part for
21 birds, well over 100 birds. I can't say the number. I'm
22 not going to because I'd probably be wrong.

23 The federal law that enabled even considering leasing
24 there is a flawed law, and I would -- you know, I'd like
25 to put my energy into challenging that law. I don't -- I

1 can't believe that in a day somebody could put an
2 amendment on an existing piece of legislation and get it
3 passed in that way. When it was -- it was something that
4 should have been put to the people in the first place,
5 whether leasing would even be considered.

6 The mindset that was used to justify that sort of
7 sneaky law, I call it, was that we need oil now, and
8 that's also flawed. We don't need oil now. We have a
9 glut of oil. If we get more oil, they will have to export
10 it, and the price of oil will go down and we will get less
11 money for it.

12 It all sounds to me like a downward spiral. What we
13 should be doing in the U.S. is figuring out how to use
14 less oil. The draft statement offers Alternative A as its
15 only acceptable -- and that's the only acceptable one for
16 me.

17 Even Alternative D offers way too many ways that the
18 ecosystem there could be impacted without, you know, oil
19 spill accidents, unknown reactions of caribou herd to
20 being crowded. We really don't know what caribou are
21 going to do when they get into that situation. It's not
22 the same situation as Prudhoe Bay where they have a huge
23 amount of coastal tundra land to spread out into. As we
24 get further east on the North Slope and on the coastal
25 plain, the coastal plain becomes narrower and there is far

1 less land to relocate to if you are a caribou.

2 Alternative D would be the only one that I could
3 possibly support, but I don't -- I'm strongly in favor of
4 Alternative A.

5 Some of the shortcomings of the whole -- just the
6 whole concept is the failure to recognize the importance
7 of the Native subsistence uses of the caribou, the failure
8 to recognize the scarcity of water in this portion of the
9 coastal plain. And drilling and building roads and
10 et cetera all takes a lot of water.

11 The lack of consideration of the effects on polar
12 bears and caribou is simply that we don't have adequate
13 knowledge of what is going to affect them, and we don't
14 have -- have any history with this kind of thing,
15 especially in the current situation where polar bears are
16 being forced to change some of their habits by climate
17 change.

18 The failure of the whole plan to confine activities
19 to just 2,000 acres alone, I see lots of references to
20 ways that more acres will be impacted. Besides, if you
21 build a road across an area and it takes only a few acres
22 to allow for the road, still you have split that area in
23 two. You have changed the water flow in that area. You
24 have done who knows what to it. You have extracted a lot
25 of gravel. You have spread it all around, and you are

1 going to introduce traffic, probably invasive species and
2 whatnot.

3 And the next to last failure is to adequately
4 recognize the danger of oil spills. It seems that every
5 year we hear of unanticipated accidental oil spills, and
6 I'm sure that's what they all are. I'm sure that's not
7 going to change with moving into an unknown area. It's
8 probably going to get worse. So we are going to have
9 unexpected danger from oil spills.

10 But finally, just it's unacceptable to have the
11 effects on the wilderness value of that whole Arctic
12 National Wildlife Refuge that would be imposed by anything
13 but Alternative A. So unaccepted effects on the
14 wilderness values.

15 And it was only three or four years ago that the
16 United States completely accepted the dedication of that
17 area as having very high wilderness value and increased
18 the wilderness areas nearby that support it.

19 So that's my -- that's -- my final word is no,
20 nothing but Alternative A will do.

21 MS. DARLENE HERBERT: My name is Darlene
22 Herbert. (Speaking in Gwich'in.)

23 I don't like the way this meeting is run, to begin
24 with. I don't like to talk to a tape recorder and have it
25 written down because I don't know what the person is going

1 to really write down. Are they going to write down every
2 word I say, or are they going to skip some words to make
3 it to their liking? That's the reason I don't like it.
4 I'd rather talk to public speaking than talking to the
5 microphone.

6 I don't like them to open -- what was that -- 1002
7 because they have a lot of animals up there. I worked up
8 there for 28 years. I was a pipe insulator. And I seen a
9 lot of animals that live off the land. And no matter if
10 they say they clean up the oil, they don't clean up the
11 oil. I mean, they are supposed to, but I see a lot of
12 guys just throw snow over it.

13 And a caribou will come by and eat that stuff up or
14 any other animal they have up there. They have a lot of
15 animals up there. And they have polar bear that can eat
16 it. He eats the trash, too, though. And I don't think
17 animals should be eating trash because they won't survive
18 in the woods if they get used to eating trash.

19 And caribou, we live off caribou for 10,000 years.
20 We live off the animals for 10,000 years. I grew up in
21 Fort Yukon, and all I talk Gwich'in. My family talked
22 Gwich'in. I was -- my first language was Gwich'in. And
23 my parents would go out in the woods and live out in the
24 woods for months, and then we would go back to Fort Yukon.
25 And then we had to -- so they put us in school, so we had

1 to learn English in school.

2 But I think we need the caribou more than we do the
3 oil. The oil will be gone someday, but if the caribou
4 disappears, the whole -- basically the whole upper part of
5 Alaska and middle part of Alaska -- and caribou goes
6 everywhere, and everybody uses it. They use it for food
7 to eat, and they use it for their clothes and they -- they
8 use everything in the caribou. They can use the stomach
9 for water, and they put the bones away so someday the old
10 people say it's -- starvation time is coming, and I think
11 it's getting pretty close because we have a crazy
12 president. I think it's going to be here, or it is here.

13 And people will have to depend on the wildlife to
14 survive. And if we don't have our wildlife, I don't think
15 we can survive by eating money or oil. I mean, I don't
16 know what the non-Natives are going to survive on. I
17 guess they will give each other money to survive on, but
18 us, we depend on caribou, moose, fish. And if the
19 mining -- there is already mining up by Venetie somewhere.

20 And my friend, I told him, when you work there, watch
21 what's happening. And he said, yeah, Darlene, you are
22 right. The water -- the water, the dirty water is going
23 right into the -- right into the river. And he said that
24 I don't think it's very good for the animals.

25 And if they open mining all over the place and if

1 they open that little part up there, 1002, they are going
2 to want the whole thing. Once you give something to
3 anybody, they want the whole thing.

4 And my grandma told me the story. She said that a
5 long time ago Indians didn't need paper. Everybody knew
6 in Fort Yukon where their land was. They had names for
7 their lands in Gwich'in, so nobody needed a piece of
8 paper. It just went from generation to generation. And
9 everybody knew where their land was. And they never -- I
10 mean, it's just common knowledge. You didn't have to
11 write it or they didn't fight over their lands.

12 But I'm seriously worried about the mining part and
13 also the oil because I think it's destroying the animals.
14 And once the animals are gone, we might be gone. And
15 that's scary. But we are pretty tough people, so we will
16 probably survive.

17 The oil -- there must be other alternative ways to
18 find their heat besides oil. I mean, there is all kinds
19 of ways. I don't know why they think it has to be oil.
20 And there is other ways so the animals can be safe. And
21 mining should never be done in Alaska, but it's going on
22 now. And -- and I guess Trump opened this part, 1002, and
23 I don't like him very much for that, sorry to say.

24 I mean, I guess he didn't think -- a lot of people
25 down that way don't think we are real, but we are people.

1 We know how to live off land. That's why we are trying to
2 save our land. We are trying to save our land, animals,
3 water and air. That's all we need to live on. We don't
4 need money. I guess we don't need oil, too.

5 But everybody says, well, quit driving your car, quit
6 doing this, quit using heat, quit using electricity. But
7 I think it was brought upon us, so we got dependent on it.
8 And I don't think it's fair for people to say quit driving
9 their car and quit using electricity or anything like that
10 because it was brought upon us by them. And for me, I can
11 go out in the woods and live forever.

12 And -- but if somebody -- I traveled down the states
13 in June. I took my granddaughter and my niece and her
14 daughter, and we drove around. And I never seen so many
15 cows in my life. I mean, it's just like the caribou.
16 They love their cows, but if we go to their -- like if we
17 go to California and say, hey, we are going to take half
18 of your land and we don't care what happens to your cows,
19 and we are going to be doing drilling for oil and whatever
20 happens to the cows, we don't care, I mean, it's just that
21 way.

22 And I don't know. It's a terrible thing to do that
23 to us. And maybe we should go kill their cows because
24 they got too many, anyway. I never seen so many. And I
25 never seen so many houses. I mean, a million houses. And

1 if there is a war, they have nowhere, nowhere to go. And
2 if you keep destroying our land for your money, we will
3 just have nowhere to go, too. So we don't want to go to
4 the moon, so can you please leave our land alone and tell
5 that Trump that because I don't think he wants to talk to
6 me.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. SCOTT FISHER: Bingo. My name's the
9 Reverend Scott Fisher. I'm a retired Episcopal priest. I
10 have lived in Fairbanks or points north for close to 50
11 years, originally from the East Coast. I've lived in
12 Fairbanks and communities to the north for close to 50
13 years. I spent 50 years traveling from the Canadian
14 border through the Arctic coast.

15 I guess I have three points to make. The first point
16 is, one of the first rules you learn in Alaska is you
17 better listen to those who have lived here longer than you
18 have. The results can be fatal if you don't. And I've
19 done more funerals than anyone you will ever meet.
20 Gwich'in have lived here longer than anyone else has,
21 13,000 years. And they have been saying ever since this
22 thing started, don't do it.

23 Here is the second point.

24 Actually, there will be four points.

25 Digression. Yes, I flipped through the EIS thing,

1 and I realize this doesn't fit in with any of the initial
2 comments on, these are the comments we need, et cetera, et
3 cetera. This is all just going to disappear someplace and
4 do a sentence someplace, but I would like the federal
5 government to know someplace that I have said no. I have
6 been saying that for 40 years. And I'll end this a story
7 on why I'm saying that. But, anyway, end of digression.

8 First rule is you better listen to those who have
9 lived here longer than you have or you will die. The
10 results can be fatal. Gwich'in have been saying this is a
11 bad idea, don't do it, for as long as this has been
12 around.

13 The Secretary of the Interior, et cetera, should be
14 aware that the entire Episcopal Church in the state of
15 Alaska, which has churches from Ketchikan to Point Hope,
16 the collective bishops nationally of the Episcopal Church,
17 and the Anglican communion, which is third largest
18 Christian body in the world, have all said, don't do it.
19 Got that? Got that, federal government?

20 The Episcopal Church, from George Washington to
21 George Bush -- and the current president attends an
22 Episcopal church down in Florida when he's there. The
23 Episcopal Church, the collective bishops of the Episcopal
24 Church nationally, and the Anglican communion worldwide
25 have all said, we support the Gwich'in. Don't do it.

1 Against all that is this. It's a bad idea. It
2 doesn't fit in with any of the bureaucratic language of
3 the EIS, but somebody needs to be aware of it.

4 The third point is, I'm still waiting for an apology
5 from the scoping hearing. It was disrespectful, poorly
6 run, they never introduced themselves, et cetera. And
7 they cut off 50, 60 people. There were people that came
8 all the way from Canada representing First Nations people
9 who were just dismissed. I'm still waiting for an apology
10 from someplace.

11 Here is my fourth comment: Once upon a time, back
12 before anybody ever heard of ANWR, I was traveling around
13 up in Fort Yukon -- I'll keep the names out of this -- and
14 met someone who was at that stage working as a scientist
15 in the ANWR region. And they came up to me and they said,
16 Scott, you have got to do something. I said what? After
17 he introduced himself, I said, what? What's going on?

18 And he said, so I'm up there in ANWR working, and
19 there is no one else up there. We are just doing research
20 or whatever. Except the oil companies are doing their
21 initial exploratory stuff. And he said, they come camp
22 with us because, of course, they like to hang out with
23 white people. So the white people all camp together, as
24 they do. You notice out here is mainly white people.

25 So they fly over in their helicopters at night over

1 to Kaktovik, et cetera, and then come back and camp with
2 us at night. And they spend all night laughing about this
3 is all going to be easy. Those Natives are so stupid, we
4 can buy the support off just for a helicopter ride. We
5 are going to get this with a song.

6 Here we are. Here we are. And who in the government
7 is asking any of those questions? It's not going to be in
8 that report. It's not a scientific, it's an ethical
9 question.

10 I spent time down in south Texas in recent years in
11 those lovely Texas plains, which are wonderful. And if
12 you read the history, once upon a time there were buffalo
13 down there, and there ain't no buffalo there no more. And
14 the Gwich'in have been standing against this for 30 years
15 saying, no, you don't. They are not going to quit
16 standing there. Amen.

17 MS. SHERRY LEWIS: Okay. I feel it's very
18 sad that the Arctic Refuge has been opened for the
19 possibility of oil drilling. I was a guide up there for
20 many years. And it's a very beautiful place, and clients
21 that came up there said it was so unique they can't relate
22 it to anyplace that they have been before. I think the
23 process with sticking it in on the -- with the budget was
24 not the proper way to do it. So I oppose any oil drilling
25 in the refuge.

1 I think there will be effects on all the animals,
2 particularly polar bears who are having a hard time
3 because of climate change. And the Porcupine caribou
4 herd, which really do not do well with pipelines. I think
5 it's a shame that we aren't able to leave part of nature
6 the way it is. It's a whole complete system, which the
7 coastal plain is part of the complete refuge with the
8 mountains and then the coastal plain and into the ocean.
9 Because there is so much of this world that we have taken
10 over, and if we aren't big enough people to leave some of
11 it for nature and for future generations to see as it is,
12 and also as a place to see how nature takes care of itself
13 so it's a place left on the earth that's whole to study.

14 MS. PAMELA MILLER: My name is Pamela A.
15 Miller. I reside at 1800 Musk Ox Trail in Fairbanks,
16 Alaska 99709. Thank you for this chance to comment to the
17 court reporter on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
18 on Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft
19 Environmental Impact Statement.

20 I'm a biologist, former wilderness guide,
21 conservationist and researcher ever since 1982 in the
22 refuge. I worked on the 1002 baseline biological studies
23 in the 1980s from about 1982 to 1985. I also served as a
24 seismic exploration monitor out there in the winter three
25 weeks at a stretch over the course of the two winters of

1 that program.

2 Subsequently I worked for Fish & Wildlife Service in
3 the Prudhoe Bay oil fields on permitting-related comments
4 under the Clean Water Act process and Fish & Wildlife
5 review. I worked on bird and habitat contaminant studies.
6 I did quite a bit of research in the oil fields, in the
7 Colville River Delta on bird studies, and also for
8 nonprofit organizations on the cumulative impacts of oil
9 and gas infrastructure and activities on the North Slope.
10 I wrote a report, Broken Promises, the Reality of Big Oil
11 in Alaska's Arctic.

12 This is important to me because it's the whole
13 enchilada on the North Slope. We have no business going
14 into our world-class Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
15 It's been protected for over 58 years up until the Tax Act
16 for its value as an intact whole ecosystem of many diverse
17 parts.

18 The coastal plain has always been part of the refuge,
19 and it is a uniquely diverse landscape compared to the
20 rest of the North Slope in its dozen rivers traversing
21 from out of the Brooks Range to the coast and the coastal
22 lagoons, the barrier island and lagoon system, the river
23 deltas and the hilly terrain that is present there.

24 These present unique problems to the potential for
25 oil and gas in the coastal plain, number one of which is

1 the lack of water because there are no big deep lakes like
2 where oil and gas development has happened to date on the
3 North Slope. I'll get to that in more detail later in
4 this.

5 First I'll come out on the problem of this meeting.
6 I'm disappointed that there was no actual hearing where we
7 would speak directly to the officials who are making these
8 decisions and where each person in our community of
9 Fairbanks can learn from each other about the insights
10 they have had from reviewing the impact statement, what
11 they know about the refuge, their decades of experience
12 with this spectacular place that is so important to us in
13 our community.

14 From here it's almost completely unbroken protected
15 public lands from here to the Arctic Ocean. It's unique
16 in the world, and it is part of the quality of life of
17 Fairbanks.

18 There is also no ability for the media to hear what
19 the public has to say without interviewing based on their
20 own questions of what might be good things to talk about
21 and no interplay of people choosing to say something else
22 because of the conversation.

23 I believe that the Interior Department did not want
24 to have a hearing that was a strong turnout of people who
25 care about these lands in our backyard in Fairbanks.

1 And there was five days' notice of this hearing.
2 There was only from February -- I can't remember,
3 actually. The day that the notice was in the paper in the
4 classifieds on Friday in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner.
5 So that is the only public notification that the general
6 public might have gotten. There was an editorial in the
7 paper that didn't have all the information.

8 I'd like to request a 60-day extension. This
9 government shutdown was a real impediment to review, and
10 that time period should not be considered part of the
11 public comment period because we could not get a hard copy
12 of the document or a CD copy, even though we can't get
13 those today, even though the government is back in
14 operation. There was no way to ask questions of
15 officials. Many of the websites were down where you would
16 do review of references that are USGS documents, BLM
17 documents. There were many websites that were
18 inaccessible due to the shutdown and research.

19 Furthermore, it was the Christmas holidays and not a
20 happy time to be reviewing this kind of a document with
21 Christmas, New Year's, Martin Luther King day all in that
22 time period.

23 So the Environmental Impact Statement is a very
24 strange document. It is an unconventional format. It's
25 disjointed. It appears to be structured with its various

1 appendices in order to initially at least meet page limits
2 for the main document. It appears that material is kind
3 of cut randomly. Some tables are in one appendix. Some
4 tables are in another appendix, whether it has to do with
5 caribou, vegetation and so on.

6 Similarly, there is no coherent summary document that
7 a person in the general public would be able to understand
8 at all what the alternatives are because there is no maps,
9 what the wildlife resources at stake that overlap with
10 potential oil are, and just basically an impact summary.
11 There is no conclusions about impacts being major, minor
12 or moderate or the magnitude of the impacts.

13 The cumulative impact analysis is token, at best, and
14 does not provide a long-term view of what this full
15 potential oil development with where the potential oil --
16 all the oil prospect are, what it could look like into the
17 future.

18 One of the real challenges with this Environmental
19 Impact Statement is the hypothetical development
20 scenarios, as well as what's in or out of the 2,000 acres.

21 So there is not described how the government will
22 keep track of the accounting from now until 130 years from
23 now of the infrastructure, the permanent infrastructure,
24 what's included within the 2,000 acres. The EIS assumes
25 in its impact analysis that that 2,000-acre standard will

1 hold for the life of potential oil development 130 years
2 from now till it would reach full restoration after the
3 life of the fields.

4 And it assumes that in many places there are tables
5 or discussion about surface disturbances from activities,
6 and uses the term "surface disturbance" as if it covers
7 all activities, not just what they have defined as being
8 within the 2,000 acres for permanent infrastructure for
9 production activities.

10 So in the discussion of the hypothetical development
11 scenarios, they are only considering what BLM chooses to
12 count within the 2,000 acres. There is no realistic look
13 at whether the two little spider web things that have a
14 central processing facility in the middle and six spur
15 roads with satellite developments, whether you actually
16 could access across the geographic spread of 120 miles of
17 the coastal plain what oil that's found in small pockets
18 could be developed with that typical kind of
19 infrastructure. It doesn't add up based on what we have
20 seen in the Prudhoe Bay oil fields, Alpine, Moose's Tooth
21 1, Moose's Tooth 2, and now Willow in the NPR-A, plus
22 offshore development.

23 They have chosen to ignore any offshore development,
24 even though the Shell Oil facility still has a lease.
25 It's not -- I guess Shell is out of it. Arctic Slope

1 Regional Corporation owns at least most of the lease for
2 Sivulliq project immediately north of -- in the federal
3 waters. There are leases in state waters that are not
4 addressed here. And furthermore, the 2,000 acres does not
5 apply to private lands or state lands, but those impacts?
6 Have not been included even in the cumulative impact
7 analysis.

8 So there has been no addressing potential impacts
9 from the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation lands that are
10 within the program area or outside the program area but
11 within the external boundaries of the refuge. Those are
12 important bird, caribou and subsistence harvest areas for
13 the people in Kaktovik.

14 Furthermore, in the 2,000 acres it does not include
15 gravel mines. It does not include the water, how water
16 will be obtained, and those are very big issues, as I
17 mentioned before.

18 There is only about eight or ten large deep lakes in
19 the entire coastal plain of the refuge. This is very
20 different from Prudhoe Bay or the NPR-A western Arctic.

21 Standard practice has been use of ice roads, at the
22 very least, for transporting drilling equipment. In the
23 past they have relied on ice roads for many activities,
24 but due to the short season of -- due to climate change
25 and the costs occurred by doing basic science work to

1 determine if there is fish, if there is adequate water,
2 there has not been good studies of how the water has --
3 water withdrawals have impacted the fish or other aspects
4 of the aquatic system.

5 So if there is no water in deep lakes, the EIS
6 vaguely mentions that they might take water out of -- by
7 extracting pits in -- or holes in the floodplain of
8 rivers, gravel bars of rivers, and then using that gravel,
9 presumably for roads, and then having a water reservoir
10 within a river system.

11 The other alternative is sea water treatment plants;
12 however, there is no information about the potential
13 impacts of withdrawing zillions of gallons of estuary
14 water, making it fresh, and then disposing of that
15 effluent out into the ocean. It will be warmer. It will
16 be saltier. It will affect the nearshore estuary of the
17 aquatic system that supports migrating fish, both
18 anadromous and otherwise in the lagoons. It will affect
19 the habitat for birds in the lagoons and nearshore waters.
20 None of that has been addressed.

21 And these river systems of the coastal plain are
22 extraordinarily different than coming straight out of the
23 glaciers of the Brooks Range. Some of the water comes
24 from springs that are fed by water on the south side of
25 the Brooks Range, which is very interesting to think

1 about. Where is that water coming from?

2 If you disturb those spring systems that are feeding
3 the fresh waters of the Canning, the Hulahula, the
4 Aichilik and potentially other rivers, as well as --
5 anyway, it will affect the long-term natural diversity of
6 fish and wildlife and their habitats, the populations in
7 the river systems. That's not been adequately addressed
8 in the EIS and is not captured by this 2,000-acre
9 assumption of what facilities will be needed and
10 activities that cause disturbance in the refuge.

11 The other thing that can affect the rivers that was
12 not addressed is -- has a lot to do with where the
13 freshwater is coming from. Is it ground water? Is it
14 fresh groundwater? In Prudhoe Bay area, they assume it's
15 saline, nondrinking water. It's dealt with differently.
16 But there are many springs that are important not only for
17 the overwintering fish and spawning fish in rivers, but to
18 subsistence uses along some of the rivers.

19 And if you have drilling seismic along the rivers,
20 potentially that shaking of the earth could affect the
21 structure of the -- of the earth underneath the rivers or
22 the way that the interplay is between the -- how the
23 spring waters are coming up to the surface.

24 Also, if you have drilling into rivers or directional
25 drilling under the rivers or too near the rivers, it can

1 affect how the spring water as well as the freshwater flow
2 is affecting the river systems.

3 So I'll just -- in the interest of the court
4 reporter, who is doing great, I will mention two other
5 major issues at this time. The 3-D seismic impacts are
6 greatly underestimated in this EIS. First of all, it's
7 not covering any preleasing seismic, which may or may not
8 be allowed at this time. But this EIS should address any
9 seismic activities that have occurred since the Tax Act
10 changed the law and removed the prohibition on oil and gas
11 leasing development exploration in the refuge.

12 The total amount that the application, the SAE
13 company applied for under a separate process that is being
14 dealt with by an environmental assessment at this point
15 outside of the EIS process is just wrong to do it, number
16 one, in an EA and, more importantly, it should be
17 considered with this whole EIS.

18 That program assumed that the entire 1002 area could
19 be covered with 3-D seismic. That acreage is more than
20 the total amount of acreage and seismic impacts that this
21 EIS assumes will ever take place through cumulative
22 impacts in the coastal plain. The EIS fails to address
23 3-D seismic that would occur throughout the life of an
24 oilfield, both preleasing, post leasing, and as companies
25 are deciding their delineation for how -- where they are

1 going to put -- where they would put oil fields and where
2 the oil, if it exists, is located.

3 So the impacts to this surface disturbance to the
4 vegetation, to the subsequent hydrology, to thaw of
5 permafrost is not considered. It's not evaluated in light
6 of climate change impacts which are speeding up the rate
7 of hydrological thermokarsting even today in the coastal
8 plain. You can see from the surface of the lands where
9 it's ponding where when I first started looking at this
10 area back in the '80s, that rate of ponding in many of the
11 regions of the coastal plain was not as prevalent.

12 There are issues related to the banks of rivers that
13 may be damaged by seismic, as well as how the -- both the
14 seismic vehicles and, as importantly, the vehicles that
15 are carrying the camps are addressed. There is very
16 little recognition that the size -- in this EIS that the
17 size of crews are double what they were back in the 1980s
18 era seismic. They are talking a couple thousand miles of
19 seismic compared to 25,000 miles in the survey of a very
20 much tighter grid of lines that may be as close as 600
21 feet apart compared to miles apart in the past.

22 So the potential damage to seismic is much greater
23 just even to the vegetation, the hydrology and the
24 permafrost, much less to polar bears, denning polar bears,
25 their critical habitats along stream banks. And again,

1 the fact that climate change is affecting both the
2 habitats of the bears as well as the potential way that
3 oil and gas operators would be out there. And conditions
4 of the length of the season, the amount of snow, all those
5 factors are underestimated or not addressed at all in the
6 seismic element of this EIS.

7 Finally, I'll speak to -- this has been a refuge
8 since it was -- the lands were withdrawn prior to
9 statehood for the purpose of a refuge in 1958 -- 57, '58.
10 Many Alaskans, people from Fairbanks, citizens from
11 Fairbanks, were involved. Even the Fairbanks Daily News
12 Miner was in support of the refuge in that era and the
13 fact we had a rare chance to protect the integrity of a
14 landscape at the ecosystem scale. The loss of that value
15 is not well addressed at all in this EIS.

16 The history of the refuge, why it was founded
17 initially, as well as the additional four purposes for --
18 that were added under ANILCA to protect fish and wildlife
19 and their habitats and populations in their natural
20 diversity, water quality and quantity, subsistence uses
21 and to uphold our international treaties on wildlife,
22 those are core purposes for the refuge that exist today
23 even with this element of oil and gas leasing mandated by
24 Congress.

25 So the EIS is deficient in considering those purposes

1 of the refuge. They address some of the wildlife, but not
2 how it all fits together and the intact natural landscape.

3 The EIS also fails to address the existing wilderness
4 values of the coastal plain area of the refuge, which are
5 still a purpose in effect today. And it addresses a
6 little bit about visual impacts, but not really about
7 noise and kind of assumes that people will have a -- the
8 same kind of experience if they are going down a river and
9 they pop up their head on the bank and can see 20 miles
10 away some oil activity; it will not be the same kind of
11 experience.

12 Furthermore, from the slopes within the designated
13 wilderness that you can today see across the broad sweep
14 of the coastal plain all the way to the ocean, that
15 vantage point has sight, sounds and a great loss of the
16 ability to see that natural landscape from the mountains
17 all the way down to the coast as we have today in the
18 refuge.

19 So at this point, I've spoken enough for now. And
20 I'll see what else I come up with and give your colleague
21 some business later in this hearing.

22 But in closing, I urge -- I've thought of one other
23 thing I need to address. The alternatives, especially for
24 caribou, have a faulty analysis that needs to be
25 completely redone with comparing the alternatives.

1 The EIS assumes that no leased acreage and no surface
2 occupancy acreage are the same. And it does not
3 distinguish the true difference of no leasing from -- so
4 two alternatives would offer 1.5 million acres, the entire
5 coastal plain. The only other alternative would offer one
6 million acres of the coastal plain, holding back about
7 500,000 acres from leasing, but the analysis does not even
8 break down the difference between those choices. It
9 muddies the water by assuming that no surface occupancy
10 will give the same level of protection.

11 But even under no surface occupancy or any of the
12 required operating procedures, they can be waived by a BLM
13 official. They will not -- only lease stipulations would
14 be binding in a lease. Operating procedures that aren't
15 leasing stipulations would not be within a lease. But
16 even if they are within a lease, the EIS says they can be
17 waived. It does not provide any kind of meaningful
18 criteria about how they could -- by what provisions they
19 could be waived, accepted or exempted, all of which are
20 ways to say that -- that there would -- could be
21 occupancy.

22 Furthermore, the occupancy only applies to certain
23 permanent facilities. It does not appear to apply to
24 gravel mines. It does not apply to water reservoirs that
25 might be dug in rivers. It does not apply to 3-D seismic

1 activities, winter exploratory drilling or even summer
2 exploratory drilling. If they did that without it being a
3 -- well, it's unclear for exploratory drilling.

4 No surface occupancy doesn't affect the ability for
5 airplanes and helicopters to land and take off, and there
6 are no timing restrictions for exploratory drilling
7 operations, geophysical seismic -- geomagnetic operations
8 involving low level aircraft flights or other things that
9 may take place even in caribou calving grounds, much less
10 the post-calving grounds.

11 And in this EIS, calving grounds are -- there is
12 errors in how -- and deceptive graphics and poor graphics
13 about how calving areas are defined. All the coastal
14 plain is important for caribou calving, post-calving,
15 insect relief, movements. This is a very vulnerable,
16 critical period in the life of a caribou, and they are an
17 integral part of the landscape, both vegetation, other
18 animals, and they have been using this area for many, many
19 millennia.

20 The EIS has downplayed and made arbitrary definitions
21 based on unknown range of dates for how they are showing
22 what's important for concentrated calving, much less all
23 calving, and the very important post-calving use, which is
24 not adequately protected from -- considered as no leasing
25 areas in its entirety in an alternative.

1 So to sum it up, the range of alternatives is not
2 sufficient to adequately address the potential impacts.
3 The no action alternative was not accurately described in
4 terms of what's there today, how the land would change.
5 It's basically a non -- it's not addressed well at all.

6 And in order to truly see the difference between what
7 would happen for 100, 130 years of oil operations in this
8 area, we need to see the no action alternative better
9 addressed.

10 So thank you very much for this opportunity to
11 comment. And I ask for another -- for a real hearing in
12 Fairbanks so people can speak directly to each other and
13 to the public officials. And I think I already requested
14 60 days more for a public comment period. The public
15 deserves it, given the magnitude of the change this area
16 will face. Thank you.

17 MR. GIDEON JAMES: I have been involved
18 with the tribal organization for the last 30-some years,
19 and I'm retired. And I work for Native Village of Venetie
20 Tribal Government, and they have their -- their option out
21 of the land claim bill. So we don't get benefits from the
22 land claims.

23 One of the things that it bothers me, it bothers
24 the -- is that the process the government used to develop
25 resource, especially in Alaska. And you and I know that

1 these leases happened in 1967 when they first discovered
2 oil, and there is 900 million dollars in leases that
3 happened before 1970. So they went on and they got into
4 Pad 4 and did the same thing. They didn't hold a hearing
5 on that one, but they lease there, too.

6 And both lands, there is a lot of lease that are
7 given out to the oil company. Over half of it is still
8 there. To me, they -- we have enough lease, both federal
9 and state land, to continue. Maybe you know, they want to
10 drill some more, there is lease available.

11 They don't need -- they don't need ANWR because
12 that's where -- that's where animals use that area to
13 begin new life, you know, like, the ducks come from the
14 south, caribou migrate over land, and they go into that
15 area to calve.

16 And in my experience -- I'm -- I'm 78 years old now.
17 In my experience, when you -- when you come close to ducks
18 with their eggs, they come and try to attack you. Same
19 thing. Same thing will happen in -- same thing will
20 happen. They go to the area because it's -- it's -- it's
21 remote and it's close to the shore and a lot of mosquitoes
22 in that area. And -- and they -- they get -- they kind of
23 get relief from that.

24 So they should leave it alone and let it -- let that
25 animal continue to use that area. That's where they can

1 nest and they can -- calving ground would be there and
2 continue to -- to do -- to exist like that.

3 They don't need no more leases. You know, the
4 leases -- the leases happen. I see it over my lifetime in
5 the north that -- the one at Prudhoe Bay and the one at
6 Pad 4, a lot of lease are still in. They are still there,
7 and they have never been tapped. So has Prudhoe Bay.

8 And all the government is going to do is give the
9 industry more -- more lease to sit on because I know for a
10 fact that the reason they don't tap those leases is that
11 the oil price go down. When they go up, that's when they
12 tap -- when they drill. And you and I know that.

13 The resource -- we are talking about only one
14 resource. Alaska have tourism. It's got -- it's got
15 fish. It's got timber. It's got minerals. That's five
16 resources.

17 For the life of me, you know, the state doesn't
18 have -- doesn't generate enough money and enough funds
19 to -- to have a good educational system or a good health
20 program. They never did. Instead, they just keep
21 continuing to cut, cut, cut.

22 And I'm telling you, the corporation, the big
23 corporation like Exxon, big corporation like big mining
24 company, they -- they come in there and just take it.
25 They take it and leave, just like Exxon. Just like Exxon

1 made over -- almost over 200 billion dollars from up
2 north, and they are still doing it.

3 But educational system is so bad in Alaska that our
4 kids don't get a level of education they are supposed to
5 have at a certain age. I see some dreamer that they want
6 to go to college and stuff like that, but grade level is
7 so low that they don't qualify. And it goes on and on and
8 on like that.

9 And what we need to do is -- is put a restriction on
10 these big corporations and just don't scatter all the way
11 around where they could ruin the water or they could ruin
12 the water what the animal use. They could contaminate
13 that vegetation that caribou eats, stuff like that.

14 And right now, we have -- we used to have control
15 over our fishery, and we don't have it no more. We don't
16 have it no more. Same thing with the timber industry.
17 See, like plywood, maybe this table, we have all the
18 resource in the state to make it in state and be able to
19 get value added -- value-added money to support the
20 education system, but we don't have it. They would rather
21 take it down in the Lower 48 somewhere and do it there,
22 and we pay for it more. Same thing they do with oil.

23 I know that's going on. I know that's going on. And
24 under Native land claim bill, there is a section to see
25 how much money that they would give out. They agreed to

1 give out \$500,000,000 to set up the corporations in 1971
2 or '72, like that. And then they going to wait.

3 In the next 13 years or so, they are going to pay --
4 they want to give out the rest of it. But during that 13
5 years, they built the roads. They built the pipeline and
6 they started pumping in 1977. And I tell you, the oil
7 company is having a field day since 1977.

8 The oil -- there is oil that can go down to 20 bucks
9 a barrel, they still can make money. That's how --
10 that's -- that's how -- that's how they do it today. They
11 want to go to ANWR and they don't need it there.

12 Plus that, they -- they going to ruin that water and
13 they are going to contaminate that vegetation that animal
14 use when they come to breed. I live in Arctic Village,
15 and we optioned out of the land claim bill.

16 And I see the animals that come through there. When
17 they go to calving ground, it's amazing to see. It's a
18 line. It's a straight line that just goes through the
19 mountains and down the valley and go that way. Same thing
20 with geese. Same thing with geese. They fly over the
21 whole week. They are going over there where they -- they
22 say they are going to drill. I just don't see -- I just
23 don't see any benefit at all to ruin the land the animal
24 use.

25 See, we are doing okay. We are doing all right as

1 people. We have jobs and stuff like that. We are doing
2 okay. So the fuel is high, but it's been high since as
3 far as I can remember.

4 But like I said, even though the state has so many
5 resources, the educational system is so bad. We should be
6 able to get to have a scholarship program. At the
7 university level, we should have the top athlete that
8 comes to the state, but we don't have it. We don't have
9 it.

10 What we need to do is -- is corner our legislator,
11 corner our senator and really -- really put them in a
12 corner where, you know, they have to answer -- they have
13 to have an answer to the people of the development of
14 this. It doesn't -- it doesn't -- it doesn't benefit.
15 The only place that benefit that when North Slope created
16 the borough, they do better than the state of Alaska does;
17 way better.

18 Our legislature is every one of them, including our
19 governor, is nothing but puppets to the big corporation.
20 That's what they are. And I'm ashamed of them. That part
21 I -- I have it in -- I have it together where, you know, I
22 see what happened in the past, you know. I see what
23 happened. It's not going to change. It's not going to
24 change. It's not going to change the way our educational
25 system runs. It's not going to change. We are just going

1 to ruin more -- more land, pollute more water. That's
2 all -- that's all it's going to do.

3 And our nation is being -- is where they call it the
4 climate change. And climate change come from burning of
5 fossil fuel. You and I know. And it cause tornado, it
6 cause flooding, and it cause fire. And it -- and it cause
7 climate change in different areas. Just like right now
8 upper state New York, they are getting cold weather, and
9 it's never been like that in my lifetime. We have a
10 president that don't want to understand. We have a
11 president that's stupid.

12 What really need to do is conservation measure,
13 conservation measure. That's what we need to do is to
14 educate our kids from the very grade school. This is what
15 we need to do to -- to keep the climate balanced, not like
16 this. It's like this right now. It's not going to come
17 back, even. It's not going to do that. We need to
18 educate our kids what will happen in the future. It's
19 happening already.

20 Like people 1,000 people lost their home to the fire
21 in California this year, and that's climate change. And
22 our president is so stupid that he don't understand that.
23 He don't want to understand that. I don't know why -- I
24 don't know who voted for him. Sure as hell I didn't.

25 He has attacked many of our allied nations, and it's

1 unstable today. And the young people that are in the
2 service, they are in danger of being called to unnecessary
3 conflict. Right now it's like that.

4 Thank you for writing it down.

5 MS. HELEN HOWARD: I joined the Fairbanks
6 Climate Action Coalition because I'm particularly
7 concerned about the environment worldwide.

8 As global warming is obviously being caused, we see a
9 lot of that in Alaska. And I'm concerned from the
10 worldwide point of view not to damage the North Slope with
11 oil development, not only for the -- for the sake of the
12 Gwich'in people and the caribou, but particularly also for
13 the nesting of wild birds.

14 And I'm concerned that we have some areas of the
15 world that are kept pure to help heal the rest of the
16 world from the damage being caused by mankind's
17 activities.

18 So I do not agree with the idea of developing the
19 North Slope for oil, although it is already being
20 developed partially, but I do not want to impact it even
21 more than that.

22 I think that's generally what I wanted to say. So I
23 appreciate it. Thank you.

24 MR. MICHAEL TRITT: Well, I would just
25 like to say, as a Gwich'in Athabaskan, I oppose this, as

1 it causes encroachment on our ancestral lands. You know,
2 every year we fight. Every year we fight. No other
3 communities, no other cultures have this kind of problem
4 in America. If I wasn't from America, if I was Pakistani
5 or any other race, we wouldn't be doing these same things
6 all the time.

7 I just don't understand how -- I don't know if these
8 can be called successes since each one of these unlimited
9 reserves seems to be very limited. They barely last five
10 years, if that, you know.

11 So mostly what I'm saying is the human element is not
12 being considered here. These are actual people, living
13 people. This land base has always been our land base
14 before America was America. Mostly I just came up here to
15 say I am in disagreement with this whole plan that somehow
16 got through the system. I mean, all of this stuff is
17 legal until people no longer recognize the law,
18 apparently.

19 So my whole thing is I just -- I just -- I don't
20 understand what a 20-year plan is here. Everything is
21 getting destroyed. This is the last piece of earth left.
22 Basically you go up in an airplane, everything is
23 devastated. When is enough enough? \$8? \$80? \$800?
24 Eight million? 80 million? Eight billion? 80 billion?
25 Eight trillion? When is it enough?

1 So, I just came up here for rant. I think I'm done.
2 Thank you very much.

3 MS. CAROLINE TRITT-FRANK: My name is
4 Caroline Tritt-Frank. I'm from Arctic Village. I grew up
5 in Arctic Village and I was raised in Arctic Village. And
6 I know it's going up there. The whole village, the
7 majority of the population depend on caribou for -- for
8 subsistence use, and -- and the elders in those days don't
9 usually eat store meat. They always depend on the
10 caribou. And as the years go by, people are still using
11 caribou. And because of that economy, it's been too high.
12 We don't usually get meat from the store here in
13 Fairbanks. And we get meat in Arctic from somewhere at
14 the store, but people don't usually eat it or use it.

15 And the reason why that the caribou, the migration,
16 the places where caribou are calving, I do not -- I just
17 have a strong feeling that it would destroy our culture
18 because it's already on the base of being lost because our
19 language are used only by people that are in their late
20 40s now on up.

21 And the kids, they don't -- they don't use Gwich'in
22 anymore. They are speaking English, which is not -- which
23 is not very appropriate for them to speak English because
24 it's not their language and it's not -- it's not what they
25 understand.

1 And I think if they interfere with the caribou, that
2 will destroy their language, their way of talking because
3 everything that they use on caribou is used in Gwich'in.
4 And so every single piece of the caribou has a Gwich'in
5 name.

6 And a lot of people -- a lot of elders, they usually
7 speak about hunting, about everything that happened in the
8 past because the caribou is so important that -- that we
9 really need it. I mean, if -- if they interfere with
10 their migration route, it's going to change -- it's going
11 to change our route because it wouldn't be able to follow
12 the same route again and they don't go through Arctic
13 Village and Venetie.

14 So my grandfather said that if they interfere with
15 where the caribou go, the caribou will make a different
16 route, and it's not going to go through Arctic Village.
17 And that would be hard on the people.

18 And I think caribou is more important than the oil
19 that they are looking for. I mean, you know, we don't
20 live on oil before. You know, we don't depend on that.

21 And all it's going to do is just disturb our ecology,
22 and it's not going to be very useful anymore. And I don't
23 want that to happen because in the future, the kids are
24 still going to live on caribou. It's not going to go
25 anywhere. It's going to go on and on and on.

1 So what I'm really concerned about is that I don't
2 want them to disturb the caribou because that's where all
3 the language is coming from. And if the kids know their
4 language, it will make more sense to them. Right now
5 caribou is nothing to them because they don't speak the
6 language.

7 So caribou -- caribou has a lot of meaning in
8 Gwich'in, in the language because they tell you where they
9 live or they tell you where to go. They tell you all this
10 stuff about caribou, which the Gwich'in people can talk
11 about in their language. So I think the language is a
12 major concern for me and the caribou that the elders live
13 on. We hardly got any elders, but there is still elders
14 up there that really live on caribou, and they don't
15 really care about store meat. This is my concern.

16 I think that's it.

17 MS. JODY HASSEL: Hi. I'm Jody Hassel.
18 I'm a third generation Alaskan, and I've lived in
19 Fairbanks, Alaska all of my life. And I am very concerned
20 about the proposal to open up the Arctic areas for further
21 development. I think further developing fossil fuels in
22 this country and in the world is a mistake. And I believe
23 we need to invest in alternative energy sources and
24 protect our wildlife and our wilderness in this state
25 especially.

1 That's the end. Thank you very much.

2 MR. KENNETH FRANK: I just want to say a
3 little comment I learned from my grandfather. Our
4 ancestors said that -- they told us this word about
5 (speaking in Gwich'in). It mean -- they told us not to --
6 not to get away from their guideline of survival. They
7 said don't forget their name, don't forget their -- their
8 way. And it's a good message for us and not to forget
9 them.

10 And in the past they -- they -- the way they learn
11 about caribou was -- was one of them, was one of the
12 guidelines. They learned -- they learned the way of the
13 caribou. The caribou is the one that taught them how to
14 survive. And the caribou taught them how to -- how to use
15 whatever is on those caribou. And they gave us all the
16 stories and the knowledge and everything to the people.

17 That kind of -- I don't know where it started, but it
18 was way back in early time. And from that they learned a
19 lot from the caribou how to -- you know, how to use
20 whatever is being used on the caribou, like the skin, the
21 meat and the intestine. And everything is being eatable,
22 you know, the head and down to the hoof and -- and that's
23 what they -- that's what the caribou taught us.

24 And then they taught us to -- how to take care of
25 them. They taught us how to -- not to disrespect the

1 caribou. They taught us not to neglect the caribou or,
2 you know, to do wrong to them.

3 It's a good message that our people had. So with
4 that, you know, we -- we use every part of the caribou for
5 survival. And so that's how we survive from way back. So
6 I think it's a good message. And some of our people, you
7 know, we still hang onto these stories to -- so we can
8 bring that to our generation for our people, for our kids
9 to depend on the caribou.

10 I think it's a good message that our ancestors --
11 when they said not to forget them, and that's one of
12 the -- one of the main message that we have today. Our
13 people don't know these message, but there are some people
14 that are out there that know a lot of story about Gwich'in
15 people. And that's one of the stories that I want to hang
16 on to to build on it so I can care for the caribou and in
17 return the caribou will help me to survive.

18 That's probably the only message I have for today.
19 It's a good story.

20 MS. MARTHA RAYNOLDS: So I am submitting
21 written comments that address technical flaws in the draft
22 EIS, but I also want to comment on the more spiritual
23 aspects of the development in the Arctic National Wildlife
24 Refuge.

25 When are we going to draw the line? When are we

1 going to recognize that human beings without a robust
2 natural environment to inspire them are just a shell of
3 what they could and should be? Every indicator in these
4 times say that we have reached the limits of what the
5 natural systems of the earth can sustain.

6 Our emphasis should be focused on how to live
7 sustainably in harmony with natural ecosystems, not on how
8 to extract even more from them. We cannot burn the
9 currently known oil and gas reserves and keep below
10 catastrophic levels of global warming. We do not need to
11 explore for more and certainly not in this most sacred
12 place.

13 This is simply a case of the tragedy of the commons,
14 a greedy rush to get the last drops where all lose from
15 the greed of each separate person, company and nation. We
16 can and must do better than this.

17 MS. HEATHER MACFARLANE: Hello. I am
18 here today to express my concern about opening the coastal
19 plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and
20 gas exploration and extraction. There are innumerable
21 studies demonstrating that our climate is warming at a
22 record pace, which will have disastrous effects on the
23 global population, biodiversity and economy. With this
24 knowledge, we cannot in good conscious continue to extract
25 more fossil fuels.

1 ANWR was set aside as a public resource, not as an
2 economic and corporate resource. This land must remain
3 preserved for the wildlife already threatened by a
4 changing climate, including polar bears using the land for
5 den sites and the Porcupine caribou herd which uses it for
6 calving.

7 It must be preserved as matter of human rights for
8 the indigenous people who have a spiritual and physical
9 connection to this land and wild inhabitants. It must be
10 preserved for all citizens whose public land it is so that
11 everyone can experience the beauty and wonder of wild
12 places.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. SAMUEL DEMIENTIEFF: Well, I'm here
15 representing myself. I was born 79 years ago here in
16 Alaska, Holy Cross on the Yukon River. My family, my mom
17 and dad, operated riverboats up and down the Yukon and
18 Tanana rivers for many years during the war years and
19 right on up through the early 1960s.

20 During this time, we got to know many people, young
21 people up and down the rivers; at least I did, and going
22 to school at Copper Valley school and Holy Cross Mission,
23 and going to school in Holy Cross, Nenana, Fairbanks and
24 Copper Valley.

25 In the boarding schools, I met many of the people

1 that were my age and generation that were growing up
2 during the pre-ANCSA period, Alaska Native Claims
3 Settlement Act. So we got to know each other.

4 Now, during this time, the kids were always sending
5 back home for fish or food from the villages because they
6 aren't used to eating the food from the schools. So as a
7 result of that, we learned about each other's areas where
8 we come from.

9 So I come from the Interior, all of the Interior of
10 Alaska, and I knew people, young people from all over the
11 whole state.

12 So the thing I want to say is that during those early
13 years and before that, my family and the older people
14 lived off of the land. That means they used fish, furs,
15 game, moose, caribou, all the different things from the
16 land. So their livelihood comes from the land.

17 And so they have developed a feeling of understanding
18 that this land, this earth and this land, all the waters
19 and the air and the animals provide for us. They provide
20 food for us and have sustained us for thousands of years.

21 And now we see that, as you see economic development
22 take place, development of resources in Alaska, of gold,
23 coal, oil, all the other things, they leave behind some --
24 some disturbed parts of the area they were in. And I
25 believe that these disturbed parts are going to be -- not

1 going to be able to provide what they used to provide for
2 the area, meaning furs, animals, fish, plants, clean air
3 and water because they are disturbed.

4 And so I'm opposed to the development of the Arctic
5 Wildlife -- National Wildlife Refuge, the 1002 area. I've
6 flown over the area, and I've worked up on the North Slope
7 at Prudhoe Bay and Deadhorse. And I worked for the
8 federal government for 13 years as a Bureau of Indian
9 Affairs Regional Director here in Fairbanks. And I've
10 worked for a number of nonprofit Native associations here
11 in Fairbanks. I was on the State Board of Fisheries for a
12 term. I worked for Atlantic Richfield, Alyeska Oil,
13 Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

14 So I've seen the oil development as it relates to
15 Prudhoe Bay in the early years. In 1969, I went to school
16 at the university, got my certificate to go to work in the
17 oil field, so I was hired by Atlantic Richfield. And I've
18 seen the early development years of the Prudhoe Bay fields
19 and see how the oil companies operate and how they
20 develop. And I was up working on the Alyeska pipeline
21 when the oil came through the pipeline all the way down to
22 Valdez.

23 And my points I want to try to make is to understand
24 that the earth has to keep producing what it does for
25 people as it has for many thousands of years. There are

1 different time cycles. And I believe that the emissions
2 from oil is polluting the air. It's polluting the water.
3 And it's polluting the ground and everything that it comes
4 in contact with.

5 So I know the oilfield people do everything they can
6 to clean things up, but still it's like saying clean coal,
7 you know. It's like saying not oily oil. Oil is oil.
8 And it's -- so when you develop it, when you produce it
9 and refine it, it provides -- it does a lot of different
10 things to the products it produces: Plastics, grease,
11 oil, fuel, gas. All the different things that come from
12 oil in their development causes also pollution of the area
13 that it's produced. Could be anywhere for the Arctic.

14 So I'm really concerned about the future of the
15 world, my kids and grandkids. Whenever you see a huge
16 mine in an area, and depending upon what kind of a mine it
17 is -- if it is cyanide leaching to get the oil out of the
18 ground, a cyanide body of water that's left over after it
19 leaches out gold is left at the mine site, and it's there.
20 And the tailings that are -- where the oil is dissolved
21 through and come out on the bottom in a slurry, it goes
22 into that lake.

23 The dirt that's left as a result of the gold taken
24 out of it is put in a stack out in the mine area. So when
25 the mine -- when the mining company, that mineral company

1 leaves the area, they reclamate the whole area, they say,
2 but they leave. And the only thing that remains there is
3 the cyanide-laced water and the cyanide tailings. And
4 they are -- they are there for many years. Cyanide lakes
5 are -- in the Lower 48 they are pretty much all around the
6 midwestern states.

7 And I think this -- my concern is if they develop the
8 North Slope, continue to develop it, especially in the
9 calving area, the caribou -- there is a place between here
10 and Nenana called Caribou Crossing on the Tanana River.
11 And it's called Caribou Crossing for a reason, because
12 caribou used to migrate through this area, too, and they
13 used to cross at that area.

14 There are places on the Yukon River that they used to
15 cross. They are called caribou crossing areas. In the
16 village, people know of these areas. And you can ask
17 village people now if there have been any caribou crossing
18 in those areas. There is none. There have been a few
19 recently. About 15 years ago, there are some caribou came
20 through here once, but that's it.

21 So what causes the caribou to change their migratory
22 patterns is a good question, but I believe that if you
23 disturb the calving area for caribou, which is on the
24 North Slope, it's a perfect area for calving: Protection.
25 The caribou can see for miles. They can see any danger on

1 them. The site that they are on is level. And all of the
2 food they need is all over that area. And it's perfect
3 for their calving area.

4 So if that's disturbed and that's where this oil
5 development is going to take place, I have deep concerns
6 that it's going to change the livelihood -- not the
7 livelihood, but the birthing place.

8 And also if it's done, what I mentioned earlier about
9 all the pollution of the hydrocarbons in the world is it's
10 just going to continue to develop. So I'm opposed to any
11 development on the North Slope. I'm concerned about the
12 pollution of the earth. And I believe that for the
13 generations to come we have a responsibility to say
14 something when this takes place and this is happening to
15 the earth.

16 So I'm just here to oppose the drilling, and I say
17 I'm mainly concerned about the future generations, and I'm
18 especially concerned about the earth, its environment, the
19 water, the air, the sea and the land.

20 So that's my testimony.

21 Mr. JOHN D. CALLAHAN: Thank you. My name
22 is John Callahan. I was born in Alaska. I've lived here
23 all my life, and I've followed this issue for years and
24 years.

25 Basically, I thought this refuge was set aside for

1 wilderness and that the people up there have been living
2 there for thousands and thousands of years would be left
3 alone to live.

4 And this new action that was put through in a
5 backdoor deal by Lisa Murkowski, our senator in Alaska, is
6 not the people's will. This has not been through because
7 most people in America did not want this opened up and
8 disturbed. Now here we are at this time. And I believe
9 that it's going to just be a permanent change of that
10 whole natural pristine wilderness up there.

11 And also it's going to impact those Native people
12 that have gone through so much in Alaska and throughout
13 America. And they -- they need to be respected and let
14 them live their lifestyle. This oil development in Alaska
15 has impacted the Natives, and it's going to impact those
16 people, and not in a positive way.

17 We need look at the long term. This project is only
18 for a small -- it will be a small amount of oil getting
19 out of there that's not needed. We are now exporting our
20 oil in America, so all we're going to do is be pumping
21 this and selling it somewhere, so it's just for profit.
22 And it's not -- it's not necessary to go and destroy that
23 area up there.

24 That coastal plain up there is one of the few areas
25 in the world left that has been virtually untouched, and

1 that caribou herd is the largest caribou herd that I know
2 of. We used to have them all over Alaska. Now it's the
3 last great caribou herd, and that doesn't need to be
4 disturbed.

5 The bottom line is we have to change. We can't keep
6 doing the same thing over and over. We have a definite
7 problem with global climate change. It's getting worse
8 and worse. The scientists have said we have, like, 12
9 years to change our whole economy. And to just keep on
10 doing the same things over and over is just going to take
11 and make things worse. We have to listen to sane people
12 and change this whole idea.

13 A little bit of money for disturbing this great,
14 great area is just outrageous. It's just plainly
15 outrageous.

16 We are getting into the point now with global climate
17 change, from what I've read, that now we are getting into
18 these feedback effects where the tundras that have been
19 frozen for thousands of years are being disturbed and they
20 are starting to thaw, and the oceans have warmed so much
21 that now they are causing release of even more greenhouse
22 gases. And that's what is not -- it's getting beyond what
23 man is doing now. Now nature is starting to release
24 what's been frozen and encapsulated for who knows how many
25 thousands of years.

1 And so we have to make a stand. We have to stop this
2 development of oil. And as far as what's been developed
3 and what they are doing, I say we have to use that as a --
4 to get by until we have got a replacement in renewable
5 energy.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. JOHN D. BENNETT: My name is John
8 Bennett. I'm here representing myself. My email is
9 hydrojohn@gmail.com. My street address, 1479 Farmers Loop
10 Road, Fairbanks 99709.

11 I think opening up the coastal plain is a
12 ill-conceived idea. I've worked up there since the
13 mid-'70s, first as a laborer where I was working outside
14 in the winter. Now -- in between I worked as an engineer
15 and geologist for years for DOT. And I'm a hydrologist
16 for DOT right now.

17 It's a harsh environment, but it's very sensitive,
18 and there are still scars from early exploration. When I
19 go up there, you know, I still see Cat tracks from the
20 '50s and '60s. A lot of the projects we do along the
21 Dalton Highway, you disturb the organic mat and it
22 starts -- it disturbs the thermal regime, starts melting.

23 Right now the fiber optics companies are up there and
24 they are putting trenches in the tundra, and you are
25 ending up with linear lakes that parallel the highway for

1 miles and miles for the entire stretch from the Brooks
2 Range to the ocean. We are having fires up there on the
3 tundra. The tundra -- the permafrost is melting and it's
4 collapsing as a mat.

5 The road was taken out a few years ago. And I have a
6 suspicion it was Great Bear. They were doing fracking up
7 there and doing seismic lines on the Franklin Bluffs
8 Foothills. And there has always been aufeis accumulation
9 on the Sag, but I think it's being exacerbated or it was
10 that year exacerbated by the exploration and the fracking
11 that they did.

12 Right now we don't have to worry about energy
13 independence. This is going to be for export to our
14 competitors and to our military adversaries. You know, if
15 the Huns were at the door and we needed to defend
16 ourselves -- anyway, I think it's for profit and it's --
17 it's not warranted right now. This will be for export.

18 I didn't prepare anything. I think I hit my high
19 points. I don't think it should be done. I think most of
20 the oil is offshore. I think that's even more dangerous
21 than being onshore.

22 I worked outside, 100 below zero with chill factor.
23 It's tough enough for people to perform, but there is
24 metal fatigue. It's tough designing things on that. And
25 if there is a spill or some kind of accident, you are not

1 going to be able to -- you are not going to be able to do
2 anything. It's just going to be saving the people and
3 saving the equipment. And it's going to decimate the
4 environment up there.

5 Anyway, thank you. That's it.

6 MR. PETE PETER: I'm a tribal member of
7 Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government. And I served
8 15 years of my time in the government, all honorable. It
9 was like serving on the village council -- city council.
10 We take care of all the elders, our trash, you know,
11 anything like that, or hazardous material like --

12 I really know all this stuff as hazardous material
13 is -- in the Army, I served 26 years, then retired. And I
14 retired here in Fairbanks. I got a house. I take care of
15 my dementia mom.

16 But I go hunt up there in the Arctic Village for this
17 rich caribou because each caribou, wherever it's from, it
18 tastes different. The caribou -- we are talking about the
19 Porcupine caribou herd. It eats that lichens off the
20 mountain. A lot of that plant grow up there. It eats
21 that, and that's why it tastes real good. Even moose is
22 like that. If you harvest a moose from the lakes that's
23 been eating in the lake or out in the open country, it
24 wouldn't be that rich. It has to eat that lichen like the
25 plant, their food. Like Arctic Wildlife Refuge is full of

1 the caribou, their food.

2 Also the reason they are surviving all these years,
3 thousands of years, is because the caribou, it -- when it
4 calves there, the babies will survive. Or otherwise the
5 mosquitoes will kill the babies. So as -- that's the only
6 place it's -- it's been surviving for thousands of years.
7 And it's our main traditional food source.

8 And getting back to, like, my mom who has dementia at
9 Denali Center, I have been cooking for her traditional
10 food since 2014. And we notice that the elders that they
11 bring from the village when they get too old, can't take
12 care of themselves, they put them at Denali Center. And
13 we cook traditional food.

14 And like stuff they don't eat -- you know, in the
15 village, they are used to traditional organic meat like
16 caribou, but when you bring them in here, a lot of them
17 just die off because they give up eating. And one of the
18 important things to stay alive in old age is you have got
19 to eat good food.

20 And also during the Cold War from 1945 to 1989 is
21 when the Berlin Wall fell, and that's when the Cold War
22 ended with the Russians. But before that during that
23 time, our people, we trained -- we trained U.S. Forces
24 Brooks Range where it's really cold. And our scenario is
25 if the Russians would have took Alaska, we would have went

1 into the mountains and fight them just like Afghanistan.
2 That was the Army's goal with that.

3 But to get back to the caribou, we used the caribou
4 to teach the guys how to survive, how to harvest caribou,
5 how to skin it, the bones that you could make tools out
6 of. Basically survival.

7 So the tribe, Venetie and Arctic Village Tribe,
8 Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government, they really
9 helped the war by training U.S. Forces to be able to fight
10 in Alaska. And main source we used was caribou, the
11 caribou meat. And we mix it with MREs and stuff like
12 that, make stew like that. Those guys also learned live
13 off the land, like catch rabbits and with the skin make
14 clothing.

15 And during all that time, 1945 all the way to 1989,
16 the tribe was real instrumental in training the U.S.
17 Forces to be able to survive because World War II, when
18 that started, our troops went on the Aleutian Islands,
19 about 50,000 troops to fight the Japs, Japanese without
20 even one shot -- one round shot, 30 percent casualty of
21 cold weather.

22 So you could see that's like -- that's like a regular
23 combat. You go to combat, 30 percent casualty, that's
24 expected. But not cold weather. So the Army had to
25 learn.

1 So since the caribou is a big food source for us, we
2 cooked that for them, hot meals. Sometimes we make -- you
3 know, you use caribou for Hamburger Helper, stuff like
4 that. Like here in Fairbanks in the urban, you go to
5 stores, big store and you could buy -- you know, you could
6 buy Hamburger Helper. What you going to buy? Hamburger,
7 right?

8 And our traditional food back home, it's the same
9 source of meat like in the urban where if you go home
10 tonight and you are going to cook, you are probably going
11 to get either chicken, pig or beef, right? For your
12 breakfast you got to have chicken, right, for the eggs?
13 Back home, it's the same thing, the caribou. It's a main
14 food source. Because if you buy a little chunk like this
15 (indicating) almost as big as your hand, a chunk of meat
16 in the village, it would probably be like about \$50,
17 almost. Why would you spend so much that money?

18 It's survival, too, because you can't -- you can't
19 survive on that little chunk of meat in the store. You
20 rather get caribou, bring it home, butcher it, bless it.

21 Part of our big thing is our religion. It's part of
22 our religion because when the weather gets real cold, you
23 know, the way the caribou acts, we even know how the
24 weather is going to be, like if it's going to be cold or
25 if it's going to be warm weather.

1 And all the beliefs come with that caribou. And the
2 bones is our tools, you know. We use our regalia. Back
3 in the day, we used it for knife.

4 Also I want to testify in my language. I'm also a
5 federal translator for Gwich'in. Anyway, translating this
6 (speaking in Gwich'in).

7 Getting back to the English, caribou is very, very
8 important to us. The trails are there for thousands of
9 years, and they are still there. And you know, it's old
10 ecosystem, like the geese, waterfowl, they all breed
11 there, too.

12 And those little, tiny shore birds, we call it dill.
13 It's like dill pickle. They are -- dill are little
14 shorebirds. And those are -- those used to be a lot, you
15 know, around, but even that, this little bit cut back, we
16 don't see it that much. But those are really born in the
17 Arctic Refuge, too, because the water, waterfowl, geese
18 and those are important, too. Important, also.

19 One of these days we are going to have no animals by
20 what man is doing. We are getting greedy here. In the
21 North Slope, Deadhorse area, they found 40 more years of
22 oil already. And why are they interfering with the Arctic
23 Wildlife Refuge? Congress designated it.

24 The American people really appreciate our last
25 frontier. And Alaska, everything out here is last

1 frontier. Everything down Lower 48 is contaminated. And
2 as Americans, we should treasure our Alaska as a natural
3 resource.

4 And also like Yellowstone. Because Yellowstone was
5 created, too, to save the buffalo and the animals. You
6 know, buffalo was -- about 100 million buffalo roamed the
7 United States before, and the U.S. government came in and
8 basically massacred a bunch of them, \$4 a skin. The
9 United States Army paid for that so people put down the \$4
10 a skin. The reason they did that was because they wanted
11 to starve the Native Americans, and they did that.

12 And now they are trying to do a similar form of waste
13 with paperwork with the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. They are
14 trying to do that, too.

15 When is man going to learn that you can't destroy
16 your own environment? That's like we are destroying our
17 own house. It's the same thing because, you know, Arctic
18 Village and Venetie is close together. All the land
19 around it belongs to the tribe. But Arctic Wildlife is
20 north of us. And for thousands of years we protected that
21 area so the caribou would breed there. We always protect
22 that area. We are talking about thousands of years here.

23 And the oil company, they just existed not long ago.
24 You know, first contact with outside with Native American
25 in Alaska was -- for us, the main contact was the Hudson

1 Bay Fur Trading Company in 1847. That's when Hudson Bay
2 got first contact. And got introduced to the rifle and
3 pots and pans and stuff like that. And that really made
4 our life easier for us.

5 And the rifle made it a lot easier. Before the rifle
6 we had to make caribou fence because caribou without rifle
7 is hard to get. You got to chase it into the fence and
8 you got to close it, and there is guys inside with a
9 spear, and that's how we used to harvest our caribou a
10 long time ago. And the fence are still there all over the
11 place up there. It's basically a historical site.

12 And speaking about historical site, it's very, very
13 important that the historical sites are protected, too,
14 within the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. And there is tracks,
15 and our long period of survival, the Gwich'in, the Native
16 people, Gwich'in Indians, for all these thousands of years
17 we used that area. Our trails, our natural trails are
18 there. We walk there or dog team.

19 And my father, Noah Peter, he passed away. He also
20 served 30 years. A lot of our people are veterans, the
21 Cold War veterans, and they protected the United States
22 flag. We stood up for our constitution against communist
23 aggression from World War II all the way to 1989. And
24 they are still our enemy. Even today we still got to
25 watch out for the communists. And they are still next

1 door.

2 And they should not touch it. They should not touch
3 Arctic Wildlife and make it into a wilderness. That's --
4 that's -- once that happen -- you know, the Gwich'in
5 people they are not really against oil. I mean, there is
6 oil drilling going on right now elsewhere, but just that
7 one area we are talking about, they need to leave it alone
8 because that's just a little iceberg and that's -- it's
9 like trying to save the buffalo, but we are talking about
10 the Porcupine caribou herd.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MR. HENRY ESHLEMAN: I'm not really happy
13 with how this roll-out of public input was done. There
14 wasn't a lot of notice. Like I only heard about this
15 meeting because I'm Facebook friends with people who heard
16 about this meeting. So a lot of that didn't really sit
17 well with me. It feels like it's kind of rushed. On the
18 diagram out there, there is nine steps to the process, and
19 it's like we are on step six. And how did that happen?

20 Also I have a sort of knee-jerk opposition to
21 development in the coastal plain just because I've never
22 been out there. I've never benefited from any of the
23 natural resources out there, but I have friends and
24 neighbors for whom it's part of their cultural identity
25 and their sense of self. They have been asking very

1 politely that this not be done for decades, and it seems
2 like there is just no consideration given to that.

3 Also, when you talk about identity and sense of self,
4 this is a community that within living memory had its
5 children taken away to boarding schools and told not to
6 speak their language. So any facet of the cultural
7 heritage that still exists is something that is kind of
8 like an endangered animal. You need to preserve it
9 because it's -- it's important to people I consider my
10 friends and my fellow Alaskans.

11 So that's my two bits.

12 MS. ALLI HARVEY: Thanks for making the
13 time to hear public input about this. I'm not originally
14 from Alaska, but I came from back east, and one of the
15 first letters to the editor I ever wrote was about
16 protecting the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge because
17 surrounded as I was by concrete, it mattered to me that
18 some places in the world remain protected from the
19 seemingly endless appetite for oil.

20 So ever since then when I was young, I've become more
21 and more convinced that as I've seen more and more
22 encroachment on wild places that we do need to save some
23 of these that are just too special to drill, and
24 particularly the coastal plain which is so important for
25 the livelihoods of the Gwich'in people. I think this

1 place should be off limits.

2 And so I'm in favor of Alternative A. I strongly
3 oppose any development in the coastal plain of a refuge
4 because it is one of the world's last remaining intact
5 ecosystems. And I hope that message gets carried through
6 because this process feels like a sham process, like it's
7 a disingenuous process.

8 I think that the pulse I'm getting on this room is
9 that there is a lot of other folks here that also oppose
10 drilling in the coastal plain.

11 So thank you for your time.

12 MR. KARL MONETTI: Thanks for the
13 opportunity to comment. However, shame on you for such
14 short notice and making the comment period so short and
15 for limiting the size, scope and time period for the DEIS
16 to be delivered.

17 I have flown, floated, hiked, fished and hunted
18 across much of the refuge, and it is a magical place and
19 constitutes the last intact contiguous land to include
20 boreal forest, alpine tundra and peaks and the treeless
21 but life-giving coastal plain.

22 The area is sacred to the Gwich'in people. For 60
23 years Americans have shown their support for maintaining
24 ANWR as wilderness. I understand the need for good jobs,
25 but the skilled jobs that would be lost to oil and gas

1 development can be replaced by jobs in renewables and
2 energy efficiency and conservation.

3 The idea that only 2,000 acres of the plain will be
4 disturbed is a farce. Dozens of pads connected by miles
5 of roads and pipeline making a network of obstacles to
6 animal migration and peace. Primarily we must stop
7 burning fossil fuels if we are to have a chance of
8 stopping global climate change.

9 I urge you to support the no action alternative.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. ALLAN HAYTON: Thank you for allowing
12 this opportunity to speak on this issue. You know, I grew
13 up in Arctic Village, and it's a very special place for
14 myself and our ancestors, and we have always been pretty
15 clear on our position as far as Arctic Refuge, especially
16 with regards to the Porcupine caribou herd, their calving
17 grounds. That area ought to be protected. And the
18 caribou especially to be available for future generations.

19 I just feel like it seems like the process has been
20 rammed through through a tax bill and then limited public
21 comment. And Ryan Zinke had to step down for ethics
22 charges, and his replacement apparently was an energy
23 lobbyist for many years. Are these the people we want in
24 charge of this area? And many other areas around the
25 country. But are they going to make the best decisions,

1 or are they just in it for the money?

2 I know it's a controversial topic and people have
3 very strong feelings pro and con, but Gwich'in people have
4 always spoken for protecting this area and the caribou.
5 And I just wanted to echo those feelings.

6 I think that's about it.

7 MR. RONALD YARNELL: My name is Ron
8 Yarnell. I live at 1231 Sundance Loop, Fairbanks, Alaska.

9 I have been leading trips into the Arctic Refuge,
10 wilderness trips, floating rivers, backpacking, base
11 camping, bird watching, observing wildlife since 1976.
12 I've led clients from all over the world across the
13 coastal plain from the mountains, out of the mountains,
14 through the valleys, out of the mountains, across the
15 coastal plain all the way to the Arctic Ocean.

16 This is one of the unique things about the Arctic
17 Refuge compared to other areas in Alaska. I have been
18 leading trips all across the Brooks Range since the early
19 '70s. Didn't start in the Arctic Refuge until 1976. But
20 since that time I've led hundreds of people, actually
21 probably thousands of people out of the mountains, across
22 the coastal plain to the Arctic Ocean. There is no place
23 like this anywhere else on Alaska's North Slope.

24 We have many, many areas west of the Arctic National
25 Wildlife Refuge that we can be and are developing for oil.

1 We do not need to be searching for the oil that's in the
2 Arctic Refuge.

3 Some specific comments that I want to make about the
4 proposals is you mentioned the number of people that use
5 this area, recreational users. You do not -- partly --
6 it's partly wrong. You have only gone to the air charter
7 services to find out who is using it. I think you need to
8 coordinate the information that's in the EIS with the Fish
9 & Wildlife Service. You need to figure out not just the
10 number of people that use the refuge, but you need to
11 figure out the number of visitor days that are used. You
12 need to economic analysis to figure out what this is
13 worth.

14 As a permitted outfitter who leads trips across the
15 coastal plain and through the 1002 area in the Arctic
16 Refuge, I actually have to pay a client fee of 3- or \$4
17 per person per day for every person I take across in the
18 Arctic Refuge.

19 The least you guys could do is figure out the actual
20 economic impact this is going to be having on recreational
21 visitors in the Arctic Refuge, especially the guides and
22 outfitters. And that should include hunting guides, river
23 guides, backpack guide, bird guides, all guide --
24 permitted guide operations in the Arctic Refuge. No
25 mention is made about any of the economic impacts that are

1 going to be made upon us, other than saying there is going
2 to be an impact. Tell us the dollars. You can figure it
3 out.

4 So that was just the recreational part. I mean,
5 there is all the biology and botany and things like that.
6 Obviously, the caribou impacts are going to be major and
7 significant, but I'll let other people comment on that.

8 One of the things that I noticed looking through the
9 maps and the alternatives is you are opening up areas not
10 only of high potential -- only a third of the 1002 area or
11 less is of high potential petroleum province. The rest is
12 moderate or low potential.

13 I think the law says that you have to open up 400,000
14 acres within, whatever it was, four years or something
15 like that. And then you had to open up another 400,000
16 acres by 2025 or something. There should definitely be an
17 alternative in here that opens up only the minimum
18 necessary, the 400,000 acres. And that should be the
19 western -- if --

20 Okay. I'm saying this under protest because I don't
21 think any of the coastal plain, any of the 1002 area
22 should be opened up for seismic testing or exploration.
23 But if you are going to open any of it up, you should do
24 the absolute minimum the law requires, the 400,000 acres,
25 of which that would be most of the high potential oil

1 province. And that's all in the very western part of the
2 1002 area. Nothing else should be in this EIS.

3 A few years down the line if you have to meet your
4 obligation to get another 400,000 acres, you should go
5 ahead and do another EIS. As I've stated, this is the
6 last place we should be exploring for oil. You should do
7 the minimum necessary. The EIS needs to include a minimum
8 necessary alternative, and it should be that far western
9 part, only 400,000 acres, nothing more. That should be
10 one of the alternatives in it, and that should be the
11 selected alternative.

12 The public is -- the American public all across the
13 United States supports protect of the whole Arctic Refuge,
14 the entire 1002 area, by 75 percent. It's crazy this law
15 ever got passed. It would never have passed on its own.
16 And therefore, you should proceed forward at the minimum
17 necessary to fulfill the extent of the law. This law will
18 be changed if it's delayed long enough.

19 Other things not mentioned but probably will be are
20 the 3-D seismic testing. I know there is an environmental
21 assessment being done on that right now at the same time
22 that the Environmental Impact Statement for the leasing is
23 being done.

24 But I've traveled in the coastal plain for all these
25 years, 43 or 46 years, or something like that. And I've

1 seen the impacts that 2-D testing has done in these areas.

2 Even yet today as we stop to get out to take a rest
3 when we're paddling down these wonderful rivers out on the
4 coastal plain, we stop, walk across the gravel bars, get
5 out on a tundra bank, climb up on a tundra bank, and
6 invariably, without walking hardly any distance, we'll run
7 into places where you're looking down a line from testing
8 that was done in the 1980s. 40 years ago. The impacts
9 from this are still visible.

10 And the thumper trucks that they have now are
11 heavier. They do more compaction of the tundra. The ones
12 that they did in those days impacted the tundra just a
13 little teeny bit, but it was enough for water to sit in
14 those places. And it was enough for vegetation to start
15 growing on the little bits of high ground. You can look
16 straight down these lines for miles and miles and miles.

17 So 3-D testing, instead of being a mile every square
18 mile or whatever, I've heard that 3-D testing could be as
19 close as 200 yards each grid section. That means every
20 200 yards there could be a straight line in a grid form
21 all across the entire 1002 area. These would have huge
22 impacts.

23 So another thing I wanted to mention, you do say that
24 there won't be any leasing or -- I don't know if there
25 will be leasing, but any things within three or four miles

1 of each of these rivers.

2 A few years back I had the opportunity to lead a
3 group, a family group down the Canning River. I hadn't
4 been down the Canning in a few years, quite a few years,
5 actually. I had never been all the way down the Canning
6 to the ocean. The top of the delta is about 20 miles from
7 the ocean. We usually pulled out there because it's a
8 pretty long trip otherwise starting farther back in the
9 mountains.

10 So this trip we went all the way down to the delta.
11 And at the top of the delta 20 miles from the coast, I
12 could see something on the horizon. I was, like, wow,
13 that wasn't here last time I was here. I wonder what this
14 is. And as we proceeded the next day and a half down the
15 delta, I became aware that it was the Cape Thompson
16 development which is outside the Arctic Refuge by about 10
17 or 12 miles.

18 Our last night's camp -- so we camped partway down
19 the delta. The Cape Thompson development was probably 15
20 miles away. No, it would be more than that. It would be
21 about 20 miles away, 25 miles away, maybe. 20 miles away.

22 Anyway, we were able to hear it from that distance
23 and we were able to see it. And in the evening -- it was
24 in August. It was starting to get a little twilight. We
25 could see these lights.

1 The farther down -- we camped on the top of the delta
2 just a mile from the Arctic Ocean. We were there about
3 three nights, and all night long you could hear a thump,
4 thump, thump, boom, thump, thump, thump, boom, thump,
5 thump, boom, thump, thump, boom. It did that all night
6 long constant. And this was ten miles away, and it was
7 above the horizon. I mean, up there, you know, five
8 degrees, even though it was ten miles outside the refuge.

9 And you are telling me -- well, I mean, I'm just
10 saying the impacts are going to be a lot bigger on the
11 rivers, even if you have some kind of setbacks for these
12 kind of developments. So I think this needs to be
13 stressed more in the EIS.

14 This process has been -- is being speeded up much too
15 fast. Just this hearing alone, a lot of people out there
16 in the audience are making comments about the fact they
17 are not allowed to actually testify in public.

18 Everything for the Fairbanks meeting is -- and it
19 sounds like the Anchorage meeting -- BLM doesn't want to
20 have that happen because -- I understand it could get sort
21 of rowdy. People get a little bit upset, and I don't
22 blame them, and they don't have control over it. But the
23 process stinks. It doesn't allow people to actually say
24 these things in front of other people. And I think that's
25 really important.

1 I think the whole process should stop and these
2 hearings, every hearing, including the ones in the big
3 cities, should be -- the public should be allowed to
4 testify in front of the public. If we are not allowed to
5 do that and if BLM isn't going to allow us to do that,
6 then we don't have very much of a democratic process. We
7 don't actually have the rights to express ourselves in
8 public about how we feel about this development.

9 So I think this whole process should be stopped right
10 now, completely revised, and it should -- the public needs
11 to have a better chance to be able to give their opinions
12 in a public setting and those be recorded.

13 So at this time that's all I have to say. Thank you.

14 MR. KENNETH FRANK: (Speaking in
15 Gwich'in.) My name is Kenneth, K-E-N-N-E-T-H F-R-A-N-K.
16 (Speaking in Gwich'in.) Drichuu is spelled D-R-I-C-H-U-U.
17 (Speaking in Gwich'in.) It means -- my Indian name is
18 Little Tritt. It mean the caribou leg, this one here
19 (indicating). That's my Indian name, which I got from my
20 great grandfather. His name is Drichuu. I do more
21 expressing in my language than trying to speak in my
22 foreign language. (Speaking in Gwich'in.)

23 This will be kind of translated into -- I feel more
24 good at expressing in my language than in English. But
25 this is -- our grandfather gave us a message in early days

1 that he said (speaking in Gwich'in.)

2 He said our ancestor, and they said that let's not
3 stray away from their -- their guideline, their survival
4 and their life. And they were with the caribou, and the
5 caribou taught them how to survive in early days.

6 And then the -- the -- one of the men, he became a
7 caribou and the caribou taught them everything about
8 the -- what you use on the caribou and what to -- how to
9 survive. In return, the caribou told the human to defend
10 him into the future for our generation, our grandchildren,
11 our -- and all that. So that's what that message is all
12 about.

13 And you know, this is a caribou message that I'm
14 giving you. You know, it's kind of a long story with our
15 spirituality, but I think I'm going to end it here because
16 it's -- with that (speaking in Gwich'in.)

17 MR. GIDEON JAMES: My name is Gideon
18 James. I'm from Arctic Village. And the previous speaker
19 that I hear, our Gwich'in people, and I have a
20 grandfather, grandmother and their parents came from
21 Gwich'in land. So what these people addressed is true.
22 We need some decision that we have to protect the animals
23 and birds and waterfowl and fish in the water and
24 everything else. Just like somebody was saying that they
25 can't talk for themselves, we can talk for them.

1 Remember, remember in the history that back in 1989,
2 there was a tragedy happened, what they call the Valdez
3 oil spill. Remember that? Anyway, Exxon never paid the
4 five billion dollars that they were sued for. Instead,
5 they reinvest that money and the interest that they gave
6 to different generation of fishermen. So we are invaded
7 by industry.

8 And our kids don't get a proper education level. It
9 goes on. It goes on and on and on. This drilling, this
10 oil drilling isn't going to help my grandchildren or their
11 kids to get a better education. I'll tell you that.
12 That's true because over the last ten years, the state of
13 Alaska keep cutting, cutting the budget. And sometimes
14 they can't even afford to run the general services that
15 they are supposed to provide.

16 So we need to point fingers to the legislator, to
17 senator that they need to wake up and make better and
18 smart decision. We need to point finger at them and say
19 that, you know, we are tired of this. This is getting
20 worse. It's getting worse. It's like, you know, a
21 small -- the smallest dividend that we get, they tap into
22 it because they were -- it's something the government has
23 make us do.

24 Anyway, the damage has already been done. We have --
25 we have -- we hear there is a tornado. We hear there is

1 flooding. We hear there is forest fire all across the
2 nation. And you know what? Is that our stupid president
3 said that he don't believe it.

4 It's coming -- it's coming to a point where our
5 children and their children won't stay healthy like we
6 did, that we did. Remember that as you walk out the door,
7 that you need to know that you are protecting your
8 children and their -- and their children far into the
9 future.

10 This climate change is really -- is really doing huge
11 damage in this country. And it's coming to Alaska. We
12 are getting -- we are getting rain in December and
13 January. It doesn't happen in my lifetime. I'm 79 years
14 old. I know. It never happened in my lifetime.

15 So what is going on, you know? The industry needs to
16 listen. They need to listen. And also your kids need to
17 be aware of things that are happening that we need. We
18 need more of a teaching of the recyclable system. And
19 also to use a different type of energy than burning fuel.

20 This lease -- let me tell you, I was -- I was a very
21 young man in 1970, 1969, and I remember there was big
22 excitement about lease sale happen in the north, 900
23 million. And that lease is still there. It's still there
24 because they just tapped a few of them. Then it goes on,
25 and they want -- they want to look for oil on Pad 4. That

1 happened. Then for the life of me that we Alaskans should
2 be able to get -- to have a good university, first-class
3 university where that's (indiscernible) off limit and the
4 nation can come and get our scholarship, but we don't have
5 it.

6 You know, our legislators and the congressmen should
7 be ashamed because we are a rich state. We are rich. And
8 they just let the big corporation just keep continue,
9 continue to rip it off.

10 People come here, and they also have sign that says
11 animals. That's a big issue that we need to protect the
12 animals. We need to protect the fish. We need to protect
13 the ducks. They travel thousands, thousands of miles to
14 begin new life in the north. And the caribou travel the
15 whole area in winter, and they know where their winter
16 spot is, and they go there. And then in the springtime
17 when their time to calve, they go to the coastal plain to
18 calve.

19 And we need to keep that area clean. We need to
20 have -- continue to have clean water and all that, you
21 know. I could go hunt and run into ducks with their eggs
22 and they try to attack us, you know. So there is nobody
23 else to guard for them but them. And we need to act more
24 like that. Okay?

25 Gwich'in people have depended on this area for many,

1 many, many generations. And my grandfather is actually
2 from Moose Creek across from Fort Yukon. So my family for
3 generations spread out. And a lot of our Native people
4 are like that. And they had a healthy family at one time.
5 At one time I see a lot of healthy families that goes out
6 and use the land.

7 But today, you know, we are just -- we are -- with
8 this development happening that they tell us that you need
9 new school. You need new this and that. It never happen.
10 This is what they call greed. A lot of greed is
11 happening. I know because the last 40 years that I know
12 that these things are getting worse. So remember, when
13 you come to defend this sacred land, you are defending the
14 animals. Mahsi Cho.

15 MR. SAM DEMIENTIEFF: My name is Sam
16 Demientieff. It kind of made me -- kind of made me cry to
17 come up here and listen to Balash and the rest of the guys
18 here trying to do this comment period and have it in the
19 back room with just one person saying something. I want
20 to hear other people say something. I hear Steve and I
21 hear Gideon. I hear it. And I'm with the Gwich'in
22 people.

23 The one thing that we have to be concerned about is,
24 what Gideon said, was climate change. Climate change
25 affects the whole world. Now, we are talking about the

1 Gwich'in people and the Alaskan people here, all of us
2 Alaskans.

3 When you develop the oil, wherever it is, if it comes
4 out of this ground, which it will because they are just
5 going to go ahead with this, like she said, that lady.
6 That land thing, this leasing is going to go on and
7 nothing is going to change here. It's going to happen.

8 But the people of the world, not only United States,
9 but all of the world is going to suffer because of the
10 pollution from this oil. It will happen. It's happening
11 now. Look at the North Pole. Look at Fairbanks. We
12 can't even believe -- if the people of the world think
13 it's not affecting them -- the sea level is rising around
14 the world. We know that. It's affecting everybody. In
15 New York and Hawaii, all places, the water is coming up
16 because of climate change. It comes from burning oil and
17 coal. We know that. That's wrong.

18 So if you think the other people around go, it
19 doesn't bother me, it's just in Alaska, the Native people
20 are there. Yeah. When they leave -- when the oil
21 companies leave -- and they will leave along with all the
22 mineral companies -- who is going to be left here? The
23 Native people, primarily.

24 This is where we come from. This is where we were
25 born. It is where we are going to be. We are asking that

1 you consider protecting -- at least protect yourself. For
2 crying out loud, everybody can know this. Everybody has
3 to breathe. Stop polluting the air, which is the earth,
4 produces everything else that we have in our lives: The
5 water, the air, animals, fish, birds, everything.

6 Well, I just want to stop there because I know other
7 people have to -- I understand that people -- I want to
8 have my two cents because I want everybody to know how I
9 feel about this. And it really does make me cry. Dang
10 it. Just -- why do they do that? Why do we have to go
11 through this? Damn it.

12 MS. CAROLINE TRITT-FRANK: My name is
13 Caroline Tritt-Frank. I'm from Arctic Village. And I'm
14 an educator. And to me this issue I thought was really
15 hard to understand until recently.

16 And the most important thing for me is to make sure
17 that the migration route is not interfered because our
18 people for hundreds of years been living on caribou. And
19 that doesn't mean that caribou is only food. It means
20 more than that. It means everything. That's how Gwich'in
21 people stay strong.

22 And in an educational system, the caribou is mostly
23 used a lot with language. And the western education is
24 interfering with our cultural values, and it's destroying
25 the way that our young people stays on the language. And

1 so it's very important that we as people think about it
2 rather than just do what you think is right. Really think
3 about the process of the caribou and focus on that and
4 make sure that everything is understood about, especially
5 elders.

6 Back in 1988 when they had a gathering in Arctic
7 Village, a lot of elders spoke. And I don't know if they
8 are recorded because it's very important what they said.
9 And it's -- it's very important that we keep the caribou.
10 And I think if we interfere with their migration route --
11 I mean, scientists are saying that it's not going to
12 interfere with the route, but I believe that someday it
13 will. And if it -- and if it goes the other way from
14 where we live, we are -- we don't have anything to live
15 on.

16 The people, the elders don't usually live on store
17 meat. They are so used to caribou, because the store meat
18 is very expensive, based on our economy. And it's -- it's
19 very important that we think about the process of the
20 caribou because there is more meaning to it than just a
21 caribou.

22 As an educator, I understand it. I'm very astute
23 that one thing is more than the other. And the Gwich'in
24 people are speaking their very best to preserve that
25 place. But as an educator, you need to understand more.

1 And I think it's very important.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. DOREEN SIMMONDS: (Speaking in
4 Gwich'in.) My name is Doreen Simmonds. I will go ahead
5 and spell it here. I am in support of the Gwich'in Nation
6 to not have their -- their land, their caribou, the
7 caribou that they subsist on is in threat of being taken
8 away if there is oil development on this country or the
9 caribou and the polar bear where they live and have their
10 young. Imagine your own self in the city if all of a
11 sudden the food that you go buy in the store are
12 threatened and the shelves are empty. That is what you
13 are planning on doing to the Gwich'in people.

14 I am from Utqiagvik, Barrow. That is why I side with
15 the Gwich'in people. I have always loved Fairbanks
16 because I love the people, the Athabaskan people. My
17 heart is with them. And so that's why I get up and I
18 fight. I retired four years ago and went back to school.
19 Came here to Fairbanks to go back and help my people. But
20 my people are right here, too, because they are in my
21 heart.

22 This oil development, you know that in your heart
23 that it hurts the land. And that's what it's going to do
24 once again. Once again it will hurt the land and it will
25 hurt the people. This needs to stop.

1 I thank you.

2 MS. SHAWNA LARSEN: Shawna Larsen. I'm
3 Sugpiaq on my mom's side from the village of Port Graham
4 where they had the Exxon Valdez oil spill. My mom worked
5 every day cleaning the oil. And she was sick. A lot of
6 our relatives were really sick from doing that job. I'm
7 Ahtna on my dad's side from Chickaloon.

8 And we support the Gwich'in people. Those are our
9 relatives. We support the Porcupine caribou herd. We
10 heard a lot of the elders talking about how there is no
11 way to express certain things in their own traditional
12 language. There is no way to say it, really, in English.
13 And I heard that. Growing up my whole life, I heard that.

14 My grandma used to talk to her sister in our Ahtna
15 language, and I couldn't understand them. And I would ask
16 her. They would be laughing, and I would say, what are
17 you saying. And she would look sad and she would say,
18 there is no way to translate that. And I thought to
19 myself, there are so many words in English, how could you
20 possibly not translate it? But what I've come to
21 understand is we are talking about two totally different
22 world views.

23 I was asked by my traditional tribal council elders
24 to find a new word for the term subsistence because if you
25 look it up in the Webster dictionary, it means to merely

1 survive. And that is not how we would ever describe our
2 traditional way of life. We are not merely surviving. We
3 are thriving and we are living. We have a relationship
4 with the land.

5 They asked me to find a new way to say that. And it
6 took me a long time but I finally came across an elder,
7 and I asked in his traditional language, I said, is there
8 a way to say subsistence. And my elders and this elder
9 kept saying the same thing. They would say when the fish
10 are ready, when the berries are ready, when it's time to
11 hunt.

12 I said no. That's not what I mean. I said, if this
13 is the land and the animals, and this is the people in our
14 language, how do you say this (demonstrating)? And he
15 said, oh, oh, oh, oh. You can't. There is no one word
16 for that. He said, that's why we have stories. Stories
17 make you feel. And what you are describing is a
18 relationship. And that's the only way you can really know
19 what and how you are interacting with the land and with
20 the animals and with each other.

21 We had these also stories about our relationship with
22 the animals, and it just makes me realize a westernized
23 colonial view, world view, cannot be translated into an
24 indigenous world view. It just can't.

25 And when we are told that there are experts here on

1 subsistence and animals, I feel really sorry for them
2 because I know they are not an expert. I know that they
3 were educated somewhere, but it wasn't by our elders.

4 And I feel really -- I don't -- these BLM guys, they
5 must be paying you really good because I wouldn't want to
6 do your job.

7 MS. DOROTHY SHOCKLEY: Hi. My name is
8 Dorothy Shockley. I'm Koyukon Athabaskan of the Caribou
9 Tribe of Interior Alaska. I just wanted to bring a couple
10 of things, point out a couple of things. I was in D.C. a
11 couple of weeks ago. And according to a BP senior
12 advisor, he said that they predict that the oil will peak
13 on the Slope in 2050. That's 31 years from now. And
14 according to the scientists, the CO2 levels are the
15 highest in 500,000 years in the world.

16 And what they want to do, what this project is
17 proposing, you know, is -- is temporary, compared to the
18 lifelong impact it's going to have on the animals and the
19 people of this state and around the world.

20 The other thing that I -- that was pointed out was
21 that there is no Coast Guard or plan for cleanup if there
22 was an oil spill. There is no Coast Guard on the western
23 or the northern side of the state. They are all on the
24 south, southwest and southeast areas.

25 And I think about the word balance. We have to have

1 balance. And I'm thinking we are all responsible for
2 that. You know, all of the time and the energy and the
3 money that they are putting into this project, they also
4 need to put that same time and amount of money to protect
5 our wildlife, our resources, on -- that we depend on.

6 So I just wanted to point those couple things out.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. PETE PETER: Good evening, everybody.
9 My name is Pete Peter. I'm from the Native Village of
10 Venetie Tribal Government, a tribal member. And today,
11 you know, I'm a veteran, retired after doing 26 years,
12 honorably served this country. And a lot of us are
13 veterans back home also in Venetie, Arctic Village because
14 during the Cold War all the way from 1945 to 1989 --
15 remember when the Berlin Wall fell, right, 1989. That's
16 when the Cold War ended.

17 But all those years from 1945, world War II ended,
18 all the way to 1989, you know, the military been really
19 active in Venetie and Arctic Village because we had
20 detachments there. You know, Russia was pretty aggressive
21 against our democratic way of living.

22 And that caribou we are talking about, the sacred
23 Porcupine caribou herd, we used that, too, with the
24 military. We teach them how to survive off the land. We
25 had to because during World War II, our forces, 50,000

1 soldiers arrived on one of the Aleutian Islands and, you
2 know, without even shooting a shot we had 30 percent
3 casualty.

4 And getting back to our freedom, it's -- Alaska has a
5 big history that still needs to be taught. You know, our
6 Native people stood up for our United States government to
7 protect our constitution during World War II because
8 people don't look at that side of the Native people
9 because we stood up for your freedom, all your freedom
10 right now. We stood up for that.

11 The caribou, we used that because we taught our
12 soldiers how to survive, how to butcher a caribou, how to
13 handle the meat correctly so it could last longer. And
14 the main thing was we were afraid the Russians would take
15 Alaska and then our people would be, you know -- as danger
16 times we went through during the Cold War. People don't
17 realize that.

18 But the Gwich'in people, they provided their land to
19 the United States government so our soldiers could train.
20 I used to be the training sergeant on the ground at
21 Venetie. I was stationed there, actually stationed. It's
22 a federally-recognized village by the U.S. government, and
23 the tribe -- the Gwich'in people was generous enough to
24 use the land. We used the land they give to us. Of
25 course, we keep it clean. If we bring in any hazardous

1 material like batteries, magnesium -- that's one of the
2 dangerous things for the environment. But the Army was
3 pretty well taking care of making sure we took those
4 things out.

5 Another thing we need to understand, too, is Native
6 Americans are recognized in our U.S. Constitution. Why
7 are we not talking about that? Because Native people,
8 Native American exist for thousands of years. And even in
9 the constitution, it's written that the government
10 recognized us.

11 So you know, with that I urge the government -- the
12 BLM, the United States government I'm talking to -- I urge
13 them to make this place into wilderness. Instead of
14 having all these comments, and then they are still going
15 to drill. That's what they are trying to do, you guys.
16 We got to put our feet down. We are known in the
17 constitution, and we are protected by the federal
18 government. That's the way the constitution is written.

19 And to talk about our freedom, our Native people gave
20 a lot to the state. And to even become -- to become
21 America, part of the state of Alaska became America in
22 1847. That's the first contact we had with the French
23 Canadians. But back in those days it's a territorial
24 status. But Native people really stood up to make -- to
25 make this into a state that we are part of the United

1 States union.

2 So to get back to our freedom, we help a lot, too,
3 the Native people, for our rights, our constitution
4 rights.

5 And caribou, that's another thing that -- it's our
6 main food source. Same thing. A lot of people mentioned
7 that tonight. If we take all the beef and the chicken,
8 pigs, everything off the shelf, you know, we are going to
9 be hurting all of us. And us talking about our food back
10 home, it's the same thing we are talking about. And I
11 just want to put this urgency, when you go home tonight,
12 think about that.

13 And we really appreciate all the people that's here,
14 the non-Natives that's helping protecting the Arctic
15 Wildlife Refuge because this is your kids, too. We are
16 talking about your kids, my kids. I got four children.
17 And three of them raised, one more to go. And you know,
18 we got to think that way, all of us. Mahsi Cho.

19 MS. PRINCESS DAZHARII JOHNSON: (Speaking
20 in Gwich'in.) My name is Princess Dazharii Johnson. And
21 you know, I just want to start by saying that Alaska is
22 not a warehouse, and we are not open for business. The
23 only inheritance that we should concern ourselves with is
24 the inheritance of our children. What are we leaving for
25 them?

1 You know, there is people around the world right now
2 that are starving, that don't have clean water. They
3 can't access clean water for drinking. You think about
4 Flint, Michigan. How many of those are around the world
5 right now? So all of our elders that spoke earlier about
6 protecting our ecosystems, that's what we should be
7 concerning ourselves with.

8 It's really disconcerting to me, you know, this
9 process, how many years have we seen this process. And it
10 just feels like a check mark is made, consultation. Time
11 and time again, consultation about the Arctic National
12 Wildlife Refuge, going around to the communities. And
13 time and time again not only our Native communities, but
14 Americans across the nation have said, protect the Arctic
15 National Wildlife Refuge. We don't want oil drilling in
16 the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

17 And then what happens? This tax bill goes through,
18 and it's snuck into this legislation dismissing this sort
19 of process that needs to happen; a thoughtful and educated
20 and intelligent process, which we really shouldn't even be
21 having the conversation anyway because our elders have
22 been telling us for so long we need to protect this place.

23 So much of the North Slope is already open to
24 development. We are not a warehouse.

25 So the thing that gives me hope is everyone that's

1 here right now, you know, thinking about not only our
2 children, but everyone's children: The bankers, the
3 financiers, exploration and BP. And they are made up of
4 human beings that run those places. And those human
5 beings, I believe, are good -- at heart they have got to
6 be good people. They must care about their children.
7 There must be some love and compassion in there somewhere.
8 I hope they are listening to us right now.

9 I don't want to see our children suffer. Mahsi Cho.
10 Mahsi Cho for being here, for standing up.

11 MS. KATHY TRITT: Hello. (Speaking in
12 Gwich'in.) My name is Kathy Tritt. (Speaking in
13 Gwich'in.) No drilling in the Arctic Refuge. That's our
14 caribou calving ground. (Speaking in Gwich'in.) All the
15 people they keep saying, oh, we are going to give you so
16 much. We are going to do real good. All the caribou are
17 going to be safe. How in the world our caribou going to
18 be safe?

19 These little calves that's being born in spring and
20 summertime, and if there is -- there is a lot of
21 mosquitoes out there, and if one mosquito -- one little
22 calf is going to die from mosquitoes if they are not up
23 there. That's where they are at, in. 1002 there is cool
24 air that's coming in every -- during the spring and
25 winter -- summertime, and that keeps away the mosquitoes.

1 And please don't tell me -- some educated people say
2 that, oh, it's all right. It's not all right. It's not
3 going to be good, the impact that we are going to have.

4 You know, women and children, elders depend on this
5 caribou meat right now. We can't depend on store-bought
6 meat. It's too expensive. Government are giving us
7 little money, 200-something a month. How are we going to
8 live with that? We need our caribou meat.

9 And the other thing, you know, it's just like 95
10 percent of the coastal plain you guys have got already.
11 What more do you want? There is 5 percent, little 5
12 percent that's on this side, the animals really depend on
13 that. Leave it alone. It's a very important thing right
14 there. And all the Gwich'in people, U.S. citizens, we
15 depend on that. We really do depend on it.

16 And that's the last frontier in this world. Could
17 you believe that? The last frontier, the last wilderness
18 up there. You got to stay away from it or like getting
19 in -- if you guys come around, we are going to be up
20 there. We are going to be like the little ducks that's
21 fighting for his little eggs. That's what we are going to
22 do.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. DONETTA TRITT: My name is Donetta
25 Tritt. I'm from Arctic Village. And I just want to share

1 a story with all of you here, and I want it on record of I
2 believe insight to what will happen and who will suffer
3 first if we don't have caribou. Say this when you guys
4 drill. Say the caribou do change their migration route
5 and the Gwich'in don't have caribou.

6 My sister is a community health aide in the rural
7 villages, and she was a health aide in Arctic Village for
8 many years. One year a few years back, the caribou didn't
9 come through Arctic Village. We don't know why. They
10 went straight to Canada after they had their calves. What
11 we saw medically was very alarming to us.

12 Our elders had no food, no traditional food, so they
13 had to rely on hot dogs, Spam, macaroni and cheese,
14 expensive food that is completely useless to us. And that
15 winter my sister had to treat the majority of those elders
16 for many gestational [sic] issues. They were vomiting.
17 They had the runs because they didn't have their
18 traditional food. They were sick.

19 And that's what we are -- we will be facing in Arctic
20 Village, in Venetie, and in Fort Yukon and Birch Creek.
21 This is very real. We don't want to be here. We want to
22 be home, minding our own Ps and Qs, living off the land
23 and trying to be a contributing adult in this society,
24 meaning proud to be American. But our way of life is
25 threatened. And the first who are going to suffer are our

1 elders. And we saw that.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. TRAVIS COLE: My name is Travis Cole.
4 I am Dene. I'm a Koyukon Athabaskan, and I'm from the
5 Bez'tltahuutanna, the Caribou Clan. My ancestors once
6 hunted the caribou up north of Allakaket in the South Fork
7 area. We are in the middle of Alaska, and on one side is
8 the Gwich'in, and on the other side is the Inupiaq. And
9 those two people have huge caribou herds.

10 And at one time before we had the pipeline, which
11 cuts right through the middle of Alaska where we are, we
12 used to have a lot of those caribou herds, also. But when
13 they divided it like that, now you have the strong caribou
14 herd over in the Gwich'in and over at the Inupiaq. My
15 people, now we get caribou sometimes and not very big
16 herds.

17 You know, that connection that we have for the land
18 like that has gone to where we have got, like, moose and
19 fish and things like that, but these people's strong
20 connection to that food is very sacred. And when we think
21 of sacred, to me growing up subsistently living in a fish
22 camp, fish, hunting, things like that, is when we prepare
23 the meat to get all that blood all over your hands and on
24 your body, you know, it's very sacred to us. It's a
25 ceremonial thing.

1 I know for a fact after when I'd be sleeping at
2 night, I'd have strange dreams sometimes. It was just
3 like I could feel that animal inside me. And when we ate,
4 I'd be very strong, very healthy. And as you said, you
5 know, this food is very sacred to us.

6 And if you compare it to what we eat nowadays, you
7 think of, like, McDonald's, Taco Bell. The meat that's in
8 there, you think of how those cattle were raised and the
9 strange farms and murdered. The pigs, the chickens, all
10 that and is murdered. That kind of meat that we buy like
11 at Fred Meyer, Safeway, places like that, that meat was
12 systematically grown and murdered.

13 And so we as people eat that meat. So those things
14 that we have absorbed from that meat is not sacred at all
15 compared to when you hunt moose or caribou or you fish or
16 you pick berries where you are strictly connected to the
17 land.

18 It's hard for people who grew up in the city all your
19 life and you might have had opportunities to go camping,
20 you know, to travel the world and see interesting things.
21 But when you are there in the environment, you realize how
22 your whole life really depends on how strong that land is,
23 you know.

24 And I remember hearing stories about how our caribou
25 herds were great, big caribou herds. It's not the same

1 since that pipeline came in. For them to say that it's
2 not going to change much because it's a little spot up
3 there, it's a lie. You know, the way we -- we treat our
4 land, it treats us. If we don't treat it right, it's not
5 going to happen, you know.

6 I would ask, you know, like for BLM and people like
7 that, that they don't see it's going to affect. Go up to
8 Prudhoe Bay and to these areas, set up a tent right where
9 those drilling sites are, where all the ground has just
10 kind got oil in it, the air is polluted. Try to camp out
11 there for about a month or two or three. Spend an entire
12 year out there. And that's how these people are out in
13 our land is we absorb all that into our bodies.

14 So if you are into this really polluted land, you are
15 absorbing that. And if you are eating that type of food,
16 you are absorbing that. And that's the type of people we
17 have become.

18 When you look at society today, there is so much
19 murder and sexual assault and poverty and anger; that's
20 what we are absorbing into our bodies through this
21 systematically grown meats, you know. And all these
22 systems that were pushed and running the treadmill every
23 day to make money to feed the corporations.

24 And BLM, these are really good people. We are
25 fighting for you because Dene means people, human. When

1 you ask my ancestors what are you, we just say Dene. I'm
2 a human being, just like you are. We don't just fight for
3 our children. My children, they are on the floor over
4 there sleeping right now.

5 Your children, they are at home, too, you know. They
6 are thinking about their futures and everything. But you
7 start taking away that air -- we have less and less clean
8 air.

9 When I used to fly from Allakaket to Fairbanks, I
10 remember how clear it was when you get way up in the sky.
11 Now no matter where you fly in the world, you just see a
12 haze, you know. You all travel, so you know what it's
13 like. You get up there, 30,000 feet, you still see that
14 haze. And it's just getting thicker and thicker and
15 thicker.

16 There is less and less streams we can drink from.
17 When I was a little kid my daughter's age, I used to run
18 to the Koyukuk River and just drink right from the river.
19 Now we can't do that because of all those gold mines going
20 on up north of us pouring stuff in. So when you don't see
21 it on the surface, you think, oh, it's okay, we can go
22 home now. But the people who live there, it seeps in,
23 goes right into their water. And when those little kids
24 go there to drink water, they get poisoned, you know.

25 So please, try to take care of our land because it

1 takes care of our animals, our caribou, our people, our
2 future. We are all connected in this way.

3 I'm asking this in a way of this is not just a
4 protest, but this is an intervention because you are
5 addicted to the money that comes from oil. These people
6 come in and they -- I don't know how many different types
7 of meetings you have had with oil companies and research
8 and everything like that, but they will say it's all going
9 to be okay. It's going to be okay, you know.

10 And I don't know how money from that goes to the
11 government. I'm pretty sure they give you a lot more
12 money than we do. But we are the future. We are always
13 going to be your neighbor. We are always going to be your
14 friend. When the oil company uses you up and leaves you
15 having nightmares at night thinking about what you did
16 here today, the next few steps that this takes, they don't
17 care. That's something you have to live with, something
18 we have to live with. Mahsi.

19 MR. ODIN MILLER: Good evening, everyone.
20 My name is Odin Miller. I live in Fairbanks here. First
21 of all, I'd like to say that I don't feel as prepared as
22 I'd like to because we only knew about this meeting five
23 days ago. I'm extremely busy right now at this point in
24 my life. I'm writing my master's thesis.

25 And, you know, I'm following this development as best

1 as I can, except I feel like when there is these
2 last-minute meetings, it's very difficult, you know, for
3 people to make time to read these lengthy documents and
4 even attend the meetings.

5 I know that there is a lot of people who want to be
6 here tonight who are not able to get here because of prior
7 commitments. And I find this entire process an affront to
8 democracy. I think that, you know, this entire time from
9 the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act up till now, it
10 feels to me like the BLM has sought to minimize public
11 involvement and is pushing through this process as quickly
12 as it's able to.

13 I believe, from what I understand, there are some
14 major issues with the EIS and with the drilling proposals.
15 And I plan on submitting additional written comments
16 before the end of the comment period.

17 But just to name a couple of things, I don't believe
18 there is enough water available in the Arctic Refuge for
19 drilling activities to take place without severely
20 impacting the water resources that people and animals at
21 the refuge use. I don't believe, you know, it's going to
22 be easier for them to drill without depleting or otherwise
23 polluting some of the springs in the refuge.

24 And it's also the case that the Hulahula River is
25 protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Tax Cuts

1 and Jobs Act directly conflicts with the Wild and Scenic
2 Rivers Act. However, the Trump Administration has argued
3 that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act takes precedence. I don't
4 believe that's ever been tested in court, however. I
5 think that's just something they are saying so that they
6 can get the drilling through as quickly as possible.

7 I guess I'll leave it at that for now. I plan on
8 submitting additional written comments later, like I said
9 before. Thank you.

10 MS. PAMELA MILLER: We have some other
11 elders in the room over 70 who might want to speak who
12 have been involved for years from whatever expertise they
13 come in. I urge them to come up and not be shy. We have
14 scientists. We have other people. Don't be embarrassed
15 if you are over 70. And then anybody less than -- in
16 their 20s.

17 MR. ROBERT HOLBROOK: I have 10,000 hours
18 of helicopter time flying all over this state and many
19 thousands flying over the coast of Louisiana. I've worked
20 for every major oil company there was developing the Gulf.
21 There are no more islands. All the barrier islands in
22 Louisiana off the coast are gone. The marsh is full of
23 saltwater now. It was freshwater. They cut canals all
24 through it. They weren't going to impact it, right?

25 If you could see what I've seen from the air over my

1 lifetime, there wouldn't be any question. They need to
2 stay out of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

3 The United States only has one wild spot left. The
4 furthest distance in the United States from a road or
5 village is right up on the Coleen River near the divide.
6 That's the most remote there is. In the western United
7 States, 18 miles is the further it is from a road or a
8 village. There is no wilderness down there. It's just
9 developed land with little, bitty places. And they are
10 trying to get that.

11 They just want their foot in the door up there in the
12 Arctic. They already got, what, 25- or 28 million acres
13 to the west of the Haul Road. Why don't they go over
14 there? But believe me, I've seen it. I've seen it. I
15 flew all over it. I've flown every agency. I've flown
16 BLM, Department of Interior, State of Alaska. I've flown
17 everybody. All the -ologists, they always study this one
18 little, bitty thing. This is all they know anything about
19 is something about this big (indicating).

20 And that's the big hole, as the Native people know.
21 It's the big circle of life. These people are just
22 greedy. They don't care anything about it. They are
23 going to try to ramrod this through, and we got to stop
24 them.

25 MR. STEVE SANDQUIST: Hi. My name is

1 Steve Sandquist, and I represent the Carlson Center here.
2 And I know it's important that all of you get your
3 comments in and all of you talk. This is a really
4 polarizing subject. It's near and dear to me. So Nicole
5 here is going to let you know how you guys can get those
6 in.

7 Today we have passed their contracted time and we
8 need to get some people home and get the building locked
9 up. I apologize, but at 7:45 we have to close the mic for
10 all of the public testimony. But she will explain how you
11 guys can get that in. Your voices will be heard. And
12 please, please, if it means a great deal to you -- and
13 obviously it does because you are here -- listen to what
14 she has to say. There are many different ways you can do
15 it.

16 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So as he mentioned, we
17 are going to have to leave here by 8:00, we will have to
18 be out of the building. So we will take public comments
19 until 7:45. And then other ways you can still provide
20 comment, there is still a court reporter sitting in the
21 other room if you want to go over there now and speak to
22 that person. We are accepting comments online and in
23 writing, and we have other public meetings coming up.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: We need more
25 time.

1 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: We need a
2 proper public hearing. We need translation into Inupiaq
3 and Gwich'in.

4 MR. RONALD YARNELL: My name is Ron
5 Yarnell. I reside here in Fairbanks. One of the
6 questions I have is: Where is Lisa Murkowski? Why is she
7 not here listening to this? Maybe she will show up in
8 Anchorage with all the oil companies. Anyway, she did
9 write this bill, pretty much.

10 So I have been leading trips in the Arctic Refuge
11 wilderness, trips down wild and scenic rivers since 1976.
12 I have done this as a career all my life. I'm one of 20
13 or 30 or more outfitters, not even counting the hunting
14 guides in the Arctic Refuge.

15 The recreation potential of the Arctic Refuge is
16 really phenomenal. It's the only place on the North Slope
17 of all of Alaska where we have a chance of protecting as
18 wilderness from the mountains to the sea. I've led people
19 down these wild and scenic rivers from all over the world:
20 Alaskans, people from the Lower 48, and people from all
21 over the world. I mean, hundreds of people, probably
22 several thousand people. I have 46 years of doing many,
23 many trips in the Arctic Refuge. So I've had a good
24 opportunity to see a lot of -- take a lot of people to
25 this area.

1 This is the last place we should be developing for
2 oil. There are so many places farther to the west that
3 people have mentioned that are actually being opened as we
4 speak and have some huge finds. We don't need the oil in
5 the Arctic Refuge. In fact, we actually don't need any of
6 the oil in the Arctic. We are cooking the earth well
7 enough as it is. But the Arctic Refuge is certainly the
8 last place we should be exploring for oil.

9 Anyway, I am testifying basically as a wilderness
10 guide and as somebody who has earned my living bringing
11 people up on to the North Slope to experience one of the
12 most unique places in North America.

13 So I have a bunch of other comments about various
14 different things. The impact statement under the
15 recreational part does mention how many people visit this
16 area. It was like a 1,000 or 1,200 or something like
17 that, but they don't say how many visitor days there were.
18 I mean, how many actual days people camped on. So
19 basically it gives a number of people who visit there, but
20 it doesn't tell how much time they actually spent there.
21 So I think that needs to be incorporated into the EIS.

22 Not one thing is mentioned about the loss of dollars.
23 If this oil development occurs on this area, I won't be
24 taking trips across there. I won't be leading people to
25 see this wonderful area. Who is going to float through

1 Prudhoe Bay? It's not much fun. I've done it. It's not
2 much fun.

3 So even with the seismic exploration activity that
4 occurred there during the 1980s, when we are floating
5 these rivers and walk across the gravel bars and climb up
6 on the tundra bank, if you walk just a little ways along
7 that bank, and you will see a straight line going off as
8 far into the horizon as you can see. And that was from
9 2-D exploration, which was basically setting these grids
10 up every mile or so.

11 They are going to be doing these grids, from my
12 understanding, 3-D, like several hundred yards apart all
13 across the coastal plain in squares. So everywhere you
14 walk is going to be covered with impacts. When these
15 40,000-ton vehicles drive over the tundra and they set off
16 those explosions, thump, thump, thump, thump -- they are
17 called thumper vehicles, and they compress the tundra. So
18 you leave a little depression, after the next thaw you end
19 up with water in it. And then along the edge you get a
20 different kind of vegetation starts growing and 40 years
21 later it's worse than it was before.

22 So it's really sad. You can still see the stuff
23 there from the seismic exploration activity that was done
24 in the 1980s.

25 Anyway, they mention these impacts, but they don't

1 say anything about trying to prevent them. There is
2 really no way to prevent them. Just fly around Prudhoe
3 Bay. You will understand.

4 Anyway, I have a lot of other things to say, but I
5 want to let other people have a chance to talk, so I'll
6 stop with that. Thanks a lot.

7 MS. SHELBY FISHER-SALMON: (Speaking in
8 Gwich'in.) My name is Shelby. I'm from Beaver and
9 Chalkyitsik, Alaska. I'm Gwich'in.

10 You know, one thing that just bothers me about this
11 whole thing, like year-in, year-out we have been saying
12 this since the beginning. Our elders have been saying
13 this. You know, protect that land. It's indigenous
14 knowledge, you know, and it needs to be respected. And it
15 hasn't been, you know.

16 And we keep having these hearings over and over
17 again. And we told you the first time. You should have
18 listened the first time, you know. Don't drill in this
19 place.

20 So -- yeah. So like, you know, it's a big issue and
21 it's always not being respected over and over again. You
22 know, indigenous knowledge in the schools, you know, its
23 so westernized.

24 I have been some places where they don't even know
25 Native people exist and -- you know, we are here and, you

1 know, I would just -- I am not in support of drilling in
2 ANWR and, you know, it's -- because of the animals,
3 because of the people, because of the land, but -- yeah.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BERNADETTE DEMIENTIEFF: Good evening.
6 I was here earlier, but I had to leave, and I'm glad I
7 made it back in time. I feel like our voices are not
8 being heard. You guys are not listening to a darn thing
9 that we are saying. You are trying to bring in 53
10 90,000-pound vehicles into land that we won't even step
11 foot on. We are forbidden to go there. And you are
12 trying to go there for greed.

13 I'm tired. I feel like nothing that we say is
14 getting through to you guys' head.

15 Now, you know, it really makes me feel so honored to
16 be here standing among so many indigenous people. And all
17 we want to do is continue to live off of animals that have
18 been a part of our lives for thousands of years. I have
19 learned so much since I have been working at Gwich'in
20 Steering Committee. I am so honored and proud to be
21 Gwich'in.

22 And you are going to take that from us. You are
23 going to desecrate on our culture. You are going to
24 destroy our food security and our way of life. There is
25 no other way to put this. And we are not going to

1 tolerate it. Our voice is the most powerful tool that we
2 have, and we're going to use it, and you're not going to
3 minimize our voice, not anymore.

4 This process that you were trying to use today was
5 insulting because the Arctic Refuge, the coastal plain
6 (speaking in Gwich'in), deserves way more than that. And
7 so do our people. So do our children. We matter. My
8 children matter. Your children matter. This is not just
9 about us.

10 You know, I just went to Houston, Texas and it was
11 really terrible what they are living in. There is -- they
12 live right beside, like, toxic buildings. By the time I
13 was done with the toxic tour, I was in a face mask. I was
14 throwing up. And this is what you are bringing into our
15 homelands. And you know, we are just saying no. We are
16 saying we are not going to have it.

17 Just stay out of the Arctic Refuge. Thank you.

18 MR. HAYDEN NEVILL: My name is Hayden
19 Nevill. And like many of you, I was surprised by the
20 short notice of this meeting, so I was not prepared to
21 speak tonight. I especially was not prepared to speak
22 because I am not an indigenous person, so my ancestors
23 took this land, and I appreciate being allowed to speak
24 here tonight.

25 The reason I'm speaking is because I'm transgender.

1 And that doesn't have much to do with environmentalism and
2 caring about the Arctic Refuge, but it does mean that I
3 understand deeply what it's like to have other people make
4 decisions about my health.

5 And I was born a little girl. I'm a man now, and
6 that's how I live my life. And the worst thing that
7 happens to me is when someone else decides they are going
8 to pass a law or change a policy or change the things in
9 my world that keep me healthy.

10 And so this whole process that we are going through
11 with the Arctic Refuge just hurts my heart because we
12 won't have the right answer until we ask every indigenous
13 person what the right answer is. And we don't even have
14 to ask every indigenous person because so many voices have
15 already told us the right answer is to stay out, to not
16 drill there, to not put someone else's livelihood at risk.

17 Why is it that we feel justified to go in and drill
18 and hurt someone else's life? We wouldn't do that to
19 ourselves if it was hurting our own lives, so why are we
20 going to take someone else's life away?

21 And so we need to get as much input as we can and
22 stop the process. And the process needs to be different.
23 The process needs to be a process that honors indigenous
24 voices and is structured on the way that indigenous
25 cultures work together and work with the land.

1 The white man structure does not work for this, and
2 we keep forcing it, and it's unjust and it's unhealthy.
3 And it's not just killing the Gwich'in. It's killing all
4 of us who are involved in the process because it's
5 poisoning us, as well; not just poisoning us from climate
6 change, but poisoning us from the depths of our hearts
7 because we know this process is not right and that we are
8 hurting other humans and we're hurting the land that we
9 all depend on.

10 So please, I urge everyone in this room who cares
11 like I do, whether you are indigenous or not, to just
12 please keep fighting. We will find an answer to this.
13 And we just have to force the issue that this process is
14 not correct. None of the alternatives we have right now
15 are correct. We have to care about the health of every
16 human, every person that's around us.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. STEVE HARVEY: Hello. My name is
19 Steve Harvey. And as I was looking at the socioeconomic
20 analysis, and also the geographical scope is at the
21 national level, so you are considering socioeconomic
22 impacts at the national level. I think that is correct.
23 I ask that greenhouse gas emissions be analyzed at the
24 national level, as well. How will the proposed action
25 effect ocean acidification in Washington state?

1 I grew up in Olympia, Washington and very near a very
2 unique inlet. We used to go down to the water, harvest
3 oysters, crabs, clams, mussels. There is all sorts of
4 ocean shell builders there. And I ask, how is this
5 project going to impact the next hundred years' ability to
6 eat from the sea?

7 This is 2019. Okay. You can no longer isolate the
8 impacts of fossil fuel development. You have to look at
9 the entire picture. Where are your climate scientists?
10 How many climate scientists do you have? I ask that you
11 bring on climate scientists or, if you don't want to spend
12 the money, the research has already been done. Scientists
13 across the globe are saying we have passed our planetary
14 boundaries.

15 We're losing biodiversity. We're putting too much
16 carbon into the atmosphere. This is a place that is
17 strong in biodiversity at the global level, at the
18 regional level. You can't put that at risk. That's --
19 that's not how the world functions. Okay. It's the
20 whole.

21 This is a place that is -- that needs to be
22 protected. I ask that you include global and national
23 biodiversity indicators in your analysis and how will this
24 affect those indicators.

25 And in the economic analysis, you have a multilayer

1 effect in there. I would ask that you put the multiplier
2 effect into greenhouse gas analysis, as well.

3 Mahsi Cho.

4 MS. HANNAH KUN: My name is Hannah. And
5 this is directed towards you, Joe. I hope you realize
6 that by doing what you are doing, you are starving people.
7 And if you don't have any guilt in yourself for that, what
8 kind of human being are you? Because if you are starving
9 people and you don't have one thought inside of your head
10 that's making you feel bad, that's beyond evil.

11 And honestly, from all of these testimonies that I've
12 heard, if you don't feel their pain, if you haven't heard
13 their pain, I don't know what kind of human being you are.

14 That's really all I've got to say.

15 MR. ALEX THORNTON: I'll be brief because
16 I spoke before. My name is Alex Thornton, A-L-E-X
17 T-H-O-R-N-T-O-N. I'm a polar ecologist. I am an
18 interdisciplinary scientist. I study the effects of
19 climate change and human impacts on the Antarctic and the
20 Arctic and what we have done. And beyond that, how can we
21 negotiate meaningful, effective environmental agreements.

22 I'm also a disaster responder. I have responded to
23 oil spills. And, frankly, what I'm seeing tonight
24 horrifies me.

25 As a scientist, I believe in environmental impact

1 assessments. I believe in this process. It's set up so
2 we can have people speak and so there is due process we
3 can understand and hear these voices. It's not something
4 that's supposed to be set up to just let them hear you and
5 then dismiss you. There is supposed to be, according to
6 the APA Section 533 -- you would know better than I, which
7 you won't make (indiscernible) because you lied to us
8 about it earlier.

9 So Section 533 is about notice and comments. You are
10 supposed to provide 30 days' notice, according to federal
11 law, about anything regarding any public comment period.
12 The fact that they only announced five days ago these
13 sessions is already violating the law.

14 Beyond that, I, as a scientist, am appalled that in
15 the United States we don't have an official language. And
16 we are going to these communities without anybody, to my
17 knowledge, who can understand the language and the
18 culture, and you are expecting Alaska Native people to
19 respond to a system that, frankly, most scientists don't
20 understand.

21 And as a scientist, I frankly don't know how you can
22 sit here and tell us you are going to -- twice tell us you
23 will identify yourselves as the BLM scientists or
24 affiliates and then say, no. Why won't you tell us who
25 you are? That's why you are here. And you are violating

1 federal law, then lying to us about what those laws
2 actually represent.

3 As a scientist, I have an ethical responsibility to
4 uphold the science and to be honest about that, and part
5 of that is working with indigenous communities. I know
6 that my science time and again proves that traditional
7 knowledge is far more advanced than western science ever
8 wants to admit. All of my research confirms what
9 traditional knowledge is telling me about these animals
10 and about these species and the environment.

11 And I think -- I forget your name -- I apologize --
12 but who spoke earlier saying there is no one word for the
13 environment, people and the animals. We recognize that in
14 science. We know interdisciplinary knowledge is the only
15 way to explain this. And frankly, what is happening here
16 is a flagrant violation of the law and ignoring the
17 science.

18 I don't know how any of the scientists here can call
19 yourselves scientists, and you should all be extremely
20 ashamed of yourself. No paycheck is worth destroying
21 culture or the environment. You should really be ashamed
22 about how you facilitated this event tonight.

23 MS. JODY POTTS: My name is Jody Potts.
24 I'm Hahn Gwich'in. I was raised out on the land with my
25 family in a really traditional way for someone that comes

1 from my generation. And we very much depended on the
2 caribou for not just our food, but my mom made a lot of
3 our traditional warm winter gear out of the caribou.

4 To this day, my kids and I still use the caribou hide
5 with the hair on on our -- under our mukluks when we are
6 out checking our rabbit snares to keep our feet warm. The
7 caribou hair is hollow, and so it's a really good
8 insulator, for those of you that don't know.

9 And when I still go out hunting with my kids, it's
10 more than just for a lot of people a sport, you know. And
11 I think maybe part of the system and people that don't
12 understand is that it's not a sport for us. It's really a
13 spiritual practice.

14 And as indigenous people since contact have been
15 impacted in so many multitude of ways -- and it's still
16 happening today, but one of the first things that
17 westerners did was take away our spirituality. And we
18 have just been getting so much of our culture and our
19 spirituality back.

20 And because of the short time frame, five days, I
21 wasn't able to thoroughly review the EIs, the draft EIS,
22 to properly comment, so I wasn't able to see if that
23 aspect of impact was going to be represented in this.

24 And I think that when I look at how little effect my
25 family in particular -- you know, my son, he got his first

1 caribou a few years ago. And my kids, they lost their
2 father in a really tragic way. And being able to get a
3 caribou was a part of rite of passage for him coming into
4 manhood, and it's really healing, and it's a part of that
5 spirituality.

6 And some of the best time for us as Gwich'in people
7 is when we bring home -- the food home to our family, but
8 especially our elders. And I'll never forget my son
9 carrying the caribou head -- because don't waste anything.
10 He carried the caribou head to one of our elders, grandma
11 to my kids, and brought that to her.

12 And she opened the door, and there is my little boy,
13 12-year-old boy, standing there with this caribou head for
14 her. And she cried and just kissed on my son. And that's
15 a part of his healing. That's a part of him becoming a
16 man and learning how to respect in both ways and having
17 that relationship that Shawna was talking about. And also
18 that relationship with our elders and importance that has
19 been passed down for millennia to take care of each other,
20 but especially our elders.

21 So those aspects of what the caribou in this life
22 cycle means to us needs to be included in that.

23 And I think it's really loud and clear. There is a
24 lot of supporters here to protect the sacred land of our
25 caribou and our people. And I think it is evident and

1 really clear that as Gwich'in people we are not going to
2 compromise and there is no compromise.

3 There has been suggestion, well, maybe we will let
4 the Gwich'in be a part of comanagement of the Porcupine
5 caribou herd. And we have been doing that for millennia.
6 You are now going to let us? You know, that was going to
7 be a big compromise, and we are not going to compromise.
8 We already do those things.

9 So I just wanted to make those few comments. And,
10 you know, I am very disappointed in how this process is
11 going forward so quickly. It's being ramrodded. You
12 know, we didn't have sufficient time to review this huge
13 document, you know. We all still have busy lives and
14 families and work and, you know, not enough time. And
15 there are laws.

16 And I actually studied this in college and have a
17 little bit of knowledge about the EIS system. And this is
18 not what I was taught by our professors of environmental
19 law. So this needs to change.

20 And I'd also like to see an indigenous perspective in
21 the EIS, the indigenous experts and -- to be included in
22 that information, to be weighed equally with our other
23 experts, but also that it's made in a way that we as
24 indigenous people can engage better.

25 So I just thank you for listening. I thank you,

1 Steve, for taking notes and really listening to our people
2 and all of our comments and for allowing us to proceed as
3 we desired. Mahsi.

4 MS. PHOEBE ROHRBACHER: Hello. My name
5 Phoebe Rohrbacher. And I just want to say thank you to
6 everybody who is here. And I'm here to stand with my
7 indigenous brothers and sisters, the Gwich'in and Inupiaq
8 and Athabaskan peoples of Alaska who are asking that there
9 will be no drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

10 I don't have any children yet. I'm thinking about
11 starting a family. And something that I'm really worried
12 about is the future of our planet, the land that we are
13 going to be leaving for our children, the land that my
14 children -- my future children, I hope, will grow up in.
15 I'm concerned about their health. I'm concerned about the
16 health of the plants and animals. I'm concerned about the
17 health of our communities.

18 And I -- I also didn't have a chance to review the
19 EIS. I started reading it last night. And it's, I think,
20 365 pages long, or something like that. And I got -- you
21 know, I was trying to read it as carefully as I could, and
22 I just didn't have time to do that in the, you know, few
23 days that we learned about this meeting.

24 And I also -- I know the meeting started today at
25 2:00 p.m. And I was at work. I imagine a lot of you were

1 at work, so you didn't have an opportunity to come to the
2 whole thing. I wasn't able to get here till 5:30 because
3 I didn't have enough leave time to take off. And also it
4 was such short notice I didn't have an opportunity to even
5 ask for that kind of time off.

6 So anyway, I just wanted to say, yeah, Mahsi Cho to
7 everyone for being here. Thank you. And I -- I hope that
8 the BLM can really listen to everybody's comments and take
9 this into consideration and think about your own children
10 and their future. Thank you.

11 MS. JESSICA GIRARD: My name is Jessica
12 Girard. I want to acknowledge that we are on the
13 traditional lands of the Lower Tanana Athabascan peoples,
14 and they did not cede this territory to Russians or
15 anybody else.

16 I secondly want to say that I'm a three-time disabled
17 combat veteran, and I served in Iraq twice, and I did that
18 so we could get more oil. I did that so we could colonize
19 another community and tell them how to run their
20 governments, how to manage their lands, and I did that at
21 the cost of my health. I am going through PTSD right now.
22 I just had eight surgeries in the last eight years.

23 And I will stand every moment with the people of the
24 north and stand and continue to defend my country, as I
25 swore to do in 2000, and I swear to keep doing it.

1 And we know, every one of us knows, that this
2 development is another way to colonize communities, to
3 take them from their lands, to separate them from their
4 communities. We are only calling this something different
5 now. Instead of calling it colonization, we are calling
6 it development. And we can say that that is for the good
7 of all of us that we need it, but every person here knows
8 what we actually need. We need clean water. We need
9 clean air. We need food that will sustain us. And this
10 is all from a white person's perspective because all of
11 that sustains me.

12 But what are we doing to sustain the other
13 ecosystems? We are standing here speaking for every
14 species that cannot stand here and speak. So I ask that
15 the BLM -- I know you are doing your jobs and you have to
16 do them. But this is not about jobs, which often the
17 argument is. This is about how we are going to maintain
18 not only our lives as human species, but other species
19 because we are rapidly killing this environment.

20 The most recent IPCC report just said we have ten
21 years of a livable economy. Who here expects to be alive
22 in ten years? Many of us, right? Ten years have a
23 livable, livable planet. And we are asking for a livable
24 economy. And if we continue to take this time, if we
25 continue to take this space and this energy and this money

1 to develop false solutions, we are not taking the time to
2 come up with a real way forward.

3 So I encourage BLM to talk about possibilities of a
4 real way forward. How are we doing this as a community?
5 How are we doing this so people that know their lands and
6 have been on them and part of them for tens of thousands
7 of years are telling us how to manage lands because,
8 frankly, I want to listen to them and not a bunch of
9 people that have been here for three generations.

10 So I just want to offer that up. Let's all start
11 thinking about other ways to build. This is not the end.
12 This is the beginning. We are with you, peoples of the
13 north.

14 MR. STEVE SANDQUIST: I would like to
15 thank you all for coming --

16 MS. ENEI PETER: The Carlson Center wanted
17 us to leave now.

18 MR. STEVE SANDQUIST: If this is really
19 near and dear to you, go online. Comment --

20 MS. ENEI PETER: I know the Carlson Center
21 wants us to leave right now. I would ask the BLM to
22 please do better planning. We are not trying to
23 disrespect the Carlson Center, but you need to have
24 planned better. There are still many, many voices who
25 want to speak, and we are not being given the time for

1 public commenting. We have not had the time to review the
2 EIS, the draft EIS.

3 I ask that we have another draft before you get to a
4 final because there are many things that are inadequate
5 about this EIS, this draft EIS. You need to go back and
6 do it again. There are scientists that are not at the
7 table, climate scientists, indigenous scientists, and you
8 need to a better job at your hearings. We need another
9 public hearing in Fairbanks, and you need to let people
10 speak.

11 MS. SAMUEL JOHNS: I just want to say
12 something real quick. Again, I just want to bring back
13 that leadership, you know. A lot of people like to come
14 into spaces and try to help, and we get that and we
15 understand that. But the best way to help is to change
16 how many people are in those leadership roles.

17 When you step into a space to help indigenous people,
18 look around you and ask: How many Native people are
19 helping create this agenda? How many Native people are
20 standing with us to go into these spaces? What happens is
21 you guys create this white savior mentality. Well, we
22 feel like we can't do it on our own. You come into our
23 space and act like you are our heroes speaking for us, and
24 we don't -- we don't get to be at the table to make these
25 decisions.

1 There was no Alaska Natives that helped create this
2 event right here. There is no table over there that
3 represents Gwich'in people or Inupiaq people. We need to
4 change the ratio. We need to change that. You need to
5 show the younger generation respect. You need to show
6 them that.

7 Next hearing I see, I hope you see -- I hope to see
8 some Native people around here with the name tags.

9 Thank you.

10 (Proceedings adjourned at 7:48 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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