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**In The Matter Of:**  
*Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program*  
*Draft Environmental Impact Statement*

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*February 4, 2019*  
*Public Meeting*

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**Public Meeting**

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

**Taken February 4, 2019  
Commencing at 1:00 P.M.**

**Pages 1 - 68, inclusive**

**Taken at  
Carlson Center  
2010 Second Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Reported by:  
Crystal D. Thompson-Bartlett**

## Public Meeting

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

2 For United States Department of the 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 the Interior, Bureau of  
11 Land 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 Keeny  
21 Archeologist

22 For United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

23 Craig Perham  
24 Wildlife Biologist

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

Steve Arthur  
Biologist

Steve Berendzen  
Arctic Refuge Manager

Public Meeting

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

2   For EMPSi:

3           Chad Ricklefs  
4           Project Manager

5           Amy Lewis  
6           Assistant Project Manager

7           Kendall Elifrits  
8           Environmental Planner

9   For ABR:

10          Alex Prichard  
11          Senior Scientist

12   For SRB&A:

13          Paul Lawrence  
14          Senior Research Associate

15   Taken by:

16          Crystal D. Thompson-Bartlett  
17          Court Reporter

18   BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken  
19   at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before  
20   Crystal D. Thompson-Bartlett, Court Reporter and Notary  
21   Public within and for the State of Alaska.  
22  
23  
24  
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## Public Meeting

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

2

3 MS. SARAH JAMES: I'm here today in Fairbanks  
4 to testify against the gas and oil development within the  
5 Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
6 because my life depend on it. It make me who I am, and  
7 proud to be who I am as a Gwich'in, Neets'ain Gwich'in.

8 And I'm representing Neets'ain Gwich'in, and  
9 they are Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government. And  
10 they -- we have 1.8 million acres of land. And the  
11 caribou, the Porcupine caribou, comes to our tribal land  
12 every year. There's 1.8 million acres. And that's how we  
13 depend on the Porcupine caribou.

14 Us -- everything since the time began, us,  
15 Neets'ain Gwich'in -- we have clothing, which we even do  
16 today, making crafts, and still wear our traditional  
17 clothes. Food on our table, tools. We still use a tool  
18 that's dated maybe 30,000 years. One of the process we  
19 have to finish when we do the tanning. And that's the  
20 tools we still use.

21 And it's our medicine, because we're used to  
22 eating that healthy wild meat. And for many reason, like  
23 the guts and the head and the lichen and every part of it  
24 can be used. And every part of the caribou is like a  
25 medicine to us. It works like a medicine. It's our

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1 medicine. We can't live without all that.

2           With so much going on here in the world now  
3 with climate change and the political world, that doesn't  
4 look very bright for Americans. If we save that part of  
5 the world, at least we're saving the natural part of the  
6 world, which is the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National  
7 Wildlife Refuge. We're, like, 100 miles from there, the  
8 northeast Interior. Arctic Village, where I live --  
9 there's two village on our reservation, which is Venetie  
10 and Arctic Village.

11           And Arctic Village, like, locate 110 miles  
12 northeast of Arctic Circle. So we're in -- within the  
13 certain Polar Region. And we locate in the Interior part,  
14 and we're Athabascan, Neets'ain Gwich'in. And we're now  
15 part of Inuit. Inuit are other side of the Brooks Range  
16 between the Coastal Plain and the Brooks Range. And they  
17 have their own culture and language and their way of  
18 living -- protected.

19           I know the local people that live in the  
20 village hunt and fish, love to save the calving ground of  
21 the Porcupine caribou in their backyard. And it's still a  
22 refuge -- it's still a refuge land. And it belong to  
23 American. It belong to everybody in the United States.

24           So we need to have a voice from -- and we have  
25 a voice from United States, which is -- now, the pole was

## Public Meeting

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1 taken. There's 75 percent of American don't want to see  
2 gas and oil development there. Because they're last of  
3 the system that still works. It's still natural. It's  
4 still wild. And we want to keep it that way, the last of  
5 it that I know of.

6 And many birds, many predators that raise  
7 their born and raise their young and training same time up  
8 in the foothills. And Porcupine is on the Coastal Plain,  
9 very limited Coastal Plain that they want to raise their  
10 young. You know, bulls, calving, and birthing and nursing  
11 and training. Then they can leave the place. And that's  
12 a very special high nutritional place and protected from  
13 predators because it's an open country. And the  
14 vegetation is there. Because vegetation come out up there  
15 in Arctic Village because all winter it is snow free  
16 because it's windy all the time.

17 So that's -- those are their needs. They want  
18 quiet, clean, private where they can have their calf. I  
19 know; I'm a woman, and when I had my boy, I wanted the  
20 same thing for him. Clean, quiet, and private. And that  
21 goes for all life.

22 So we're not only talking about caribou.  
23 We're talking about birds and ducks that goes up there  
24 year -- every year from all over the country, all over the  
25 world, which is, you know, 150 different species of birds.



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1 So it's healthy that way.

2 Fish that come to the shore from the Arctic  
3 Ocean. The climate change, polar bear is very hard time  
4 right now. One even went as far as inland to Arctic  
5 Village this year looking for food. And that's not the  
6 first polar bear inland that far for food. Polar bears  
7 are starving because ice is not there anymore for them.

8 And we're talking about maybe one-tenth  
9 one-fifth, a very small portion of Arctic coastline, which  
10 is -- and then the rest of it, the coastline, is open to  
11 the development, or will be. So we're talking about a  
12 very small part of the Arctic Ocean coastline.

13 And right now, today, I'm wearing my mom's  
14 scarf to honor her because when the Gwich'in came together  
15 when there was a threat to the caribou in 1988 -- my mom  
16 is resting now -- rest in peace. But I'm wearing her  
17 scarf today because she open up her house, she open up her  
18 yard, she open up her cache, everything, to have a feast  
19 for 1988 when all the Gwich'in gather came to Arctic  
20 Village June 5 to 10, 1988, to -- and they went -- they  
21 threw away their written agenda and they went and took a  
22 position as a people of the land as they did before our  
23 first visitor came to our area.

24 So they said they did it in our language --  
25 they did it just verbally -- and they took a stand, but

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1 the chief said, "This is really good." It's like a reborn  
2 of the nation, because a border has been separating us.  
3 Canadian-U.S. border. Because we got Gwich'in on that  
4 side; we got Gwich'in on this side. But we came together  
5 for this to protect the caribou. And the chief said,  
6 "This is good."

7 The only way the outside world will know about  
8 this rebirth right now today is -- unless it's in black  
9 and white. So they wrote a resolution, convinced the  
10 elders to pass it. And that's a resolution we go by.  
11 They told us to do it in a good way, no compromise. And  
12 teach the world in a good way.

13 Why we say no to oil. Because they know that  
14 we can't do it by ourself. We can't because oil is huge.  
15 And they were afraid that traffic would come in, run over  
16 us. So they said if we teach in a good way, they'll have  
17 a reason to protect it. So it works since 1988 up to  
18 today.

19 We educated many, many people. And we made  
20 many supporter, many friends. And a lot of them staying  
21 with us. And now it show that 75 percent still don't want  
22 to see no gas and oil development. Because it's the right  
23 thing to do.

24 And today I'm wearing my mom's scarf, and I  
25 honor her for -- because she gave up everything to that

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1 1988 for a feast. And then the guys in the village, they  
2 finish community hall within a one-month time to meet that  
3 date for the Gwich'in Gather. We call it capital GG.  
4 That's for Gwich'in Gather 1988. And we call that gather  
5 Gwich'in (speaking Gwich'in). That means "gather." A  
6 mixture of peoples. That's what it means. A mixture like  
7 trail mix. Trail mix is a mixture of healthy food. And  
8 they call that a mixture of peoples to make the decision.  
9 That means Gwich'in and our friends and supporters and  
10 many people that came because it's a public interest land.  
11 And I just really want to share all that because it meant  
12 so much to me.

13           And that today -- I've been working on this  
14 since I can remember, to protect the Porcupine caribou. I  
15 was out on the land three, two, one months at a time when  
16 I got a call out to protect the Porcupine caribou. And  
17 now it's over 40 years that I've been out there educating  
18 people in a good way. And have made a lot of friends. It  
19 educated me, and I educated them. And it works really  
20 good.

21           We really need to do that with our kids. And  
22 we'll have a better place to live if we do that with our  
23 kids. And get along better. There won't be any more  
24 anger, hate. A lot of -- you know, there's been a lot of  
25 shooting, senseless shooting. We don't need that as

1 American or as a peoples. And we need to go forward and  
2 get away from oil until we don't need that oil.

3 They got lots of oil support else. They  
4 finding more oil right now in NPR, National Petroleum  
5 Reserve, and other places. And what I can't understand is  
6 that we own only one-third of world's oil, and we're  
7 burning way -- a lot more as a country.

8 We have to go alternative. Wind energy.  
9 There's wind energy up there year-round. And there's  
10 ocean waves up there. And we're talking about -- people  
11 are talking about water is life. Water is life. That's  
12 the last part of that water resource they going to  
13 disturb.

14 They say they going to do it with an ice road,  
15 but there's not that much fresh water up there. The only  
16 fresh water is coming from the Brooks Range into Arctic  
17 Ocean. That's a very small space of fresh water. The  
18 rest is ocean water, saltwater. You can't fill ice water  
19 with saltwater. So where they going to get all that fresh  
20 water?

21 So all that is question to me, about one-third  
22 we own as a world. And still talk about get the last  
23 drop. That just doesn't add up for me. So with that, we  
24 can go alternative energy like solar energy, hydroenergy,  
25 you know, hot-water energy, small hydro. Even go down as

1 far as bicycle, and we'll be much healthy people. And  
2 practice that. Recycle, reuse, reduce, and even refuse.  
3 That's what I try to do at home. I still got my mother's  
4 scarf. I don't have to buy another scarf. And it means  
5 so much to me. And we can do that. We can exercise by  
6 recycle, reuse, reduce, and refuse and make it our way of  
7 life in your living room, into your community, into the  
8 world.

9 That's what I do at home. It's not a chore.  
10 It's a way of life for our future generation, for our  
11 earth, for our air, for our water, for our land, and for  
12 our life to be good for all life, for all animal, human,  
13 plants. Everything is a life. So that's where I'm coming  
14 from.

15 Thank you for giving me a time. And I'm here  
16 in Fairbanks. I got to let people come and have their  
17 time. And I'll do the same thing in Arctic Village just  
18 to remind other stuff I might say some more.

19 Thank you again. And I hope people listen,  
20 the people in charge listen. And we want you to listen,  
21 for this one anyway. Thank you.

22 MS. ANNE HANLEY: My argument is mostly an  
23 economic one. I feel that we have a glut of oil now.  
24 There's much oil being produced in the Lower 48 at the  
25 moment by fracking. Prices of oil are down. I feel like

1 by the time these the new fields come online or if  
2 facilities were built, then when those facilities would  
3 come online that there will be an even lower demand for  
4 oil than there is now.

5 I see car makers not working on their  
6 combustion engines so much anymore because they're all  
7 thinking about electric cars. I see natural gas and solar  
8 coming along for home-heating purposes. So I believe the  
9 best use of the oil is to keep it in the ground now when  
10 prices are low and wait for higher prices later. Use it  
11 as an insurance for future use to replace -- for high-end  
12 uses, like making plastics and synthetics. I believe we  
13 need that insurance policy.

14 I think burning it is the cheapest, least  
15 efficient way to use it. I also feel that the Arctic  
16 Refuge, as is, is a great cultural and natural resource,  
17 and it has value probably over and above the oil that's  
18 underneath it to be preserved for those purposes, which  
19 also contribute to the economy, especially of the rural  
20 areas that surround it. Amen.

21 ANONYMOUS SPEAKER: Okay. I would just like  
22 to say that I support Alternative D2 among the set of all  
23 undesirable alternatives. D2 best protects the purposes  
24 of the Arctic Refuge. And I believe the purposes of the  
25 original Arctic Range still stand, and BLM should

1 recognize that, that they continue to be the purpose,  
2 except to the extent that they are inconsistent with other  
3 laws, including the Tax Act. That one can still accept  
4 the Tax Act and have, for example, the wilderness purpose  
5 of the original Arctic Range to remain intact.

6 So anyway, in general, I, of course, oppose  
7 oil development. I oppose the whole lease system. But  
8 among the alternatives, D2 is the least onerous of them  
9 all.

10 So -- and I would like to say finally that in  
11 terms of process, I think it's absolutely corrupt that we  
12 didn't have a hearing. And then contrary to what we heard  
13 at the introduction of this presentation here, I think  
14 it's apparent the reason we're not having a hearing is  
15 because the last hearing that was held here over this and  
16 the scoping process, the vast majority of Fairbanksans  
17 came out in opposition to what was going on. And it's not  
18 what BLM wanted to hear. And so they took away the  
19 opportunity for us to have a hearing and speak directly to  
20 the issue. So I think the process is really unfair, and I  
21 think the decision -- the Tax Act is bad, but even further  
22 than that, this process needs a lot of work.

23 MS. RITCHIE MUSICK: I am concerned that this  
24 EIS statement is being rushed. This whole opening of the  
25 Coastal Plain should never have been crammed through on a

1 tax bill, but given the thorough study of its pros and  
2 cons and read it on its own merit. However, the Arctic  
3 National Wildlife Refuge is at present under the  
4 "ownership" -- with heavy quotations around that word --  
5 of the federal government, not the State of Alaska.

6 This management came after purchase from  
7 Russia, who claimed it from the Alaska natives who  
8 occupied and used it for thousands of years, and who,  
9 today, are still culturally tied to the wildlife on the  
10 land.

11 At present, this is the last untouched tundra  
12 ecosystem in the United States. It is unique in its  
13 large-animal migrations, millions of nesting birds from  
14 all over the world, and it's abundant polar bear dens.  
15 This will be a great loss to all present and future  
16 Americans. Rushing to sell oil that we don't need, to  
17 other countries, at a time when we should be transitioning  
18 to renewables is a crime. The value of this land lies  
19 more in its wilderness than its extracted potential.

20 This EIS is being rushed. More troubling is  
21 that the seismic study supposedly to go on this winter  
22 should be a part of this EIS and subject to the same  
23 restrictive review. The grid laid down in seismic  
24 exploration will mark the land for many, many years in the  
25 future, whether or not lease sales ever occur.



1           Opening the 1002 lands to oil development is a  
2 political move with devastating consequences at a time  
3 when energy technology is changing, and we can never undo  
4 the results. In the words of Lyndon Johnson, "We must  
5 leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the  
6 beginning, not just after we get through with it."

7           If we have to choose one of the options  
8 presented today and cannot choose Option A, then D2 would  
9 certainly leave the least detrimental impact.

10           MS. LISA BARAFF: My name is Lisa Baraff, and  
11 I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. And I am here today to  
12 provide oral testimony on the BLM's DEIS for oil and gas  
13 leasing on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National  
14 Wildlife Refuge.

15           I'll touch on only a few points today, as time  
16 to prepare was painfully short. I will submit lengthier  
17 comments in writing.

18           First I want to speak to the process. For  
19 nearly 40 years, opening the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain  
20 to oil and gas leasing has been a contentious topic. We  
21 are only where we are today because of the rider attached  
22 to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that snuck in under  
23 the pretense of garnering \$1 billion for natural resources  
24 to offset the \$1.2 trillion in anticipated debt and in a  
25 manner that precluded hearings and public discourse and

1 only required a simple majority. It would not have passed  
2 otherwise.

3 Now, under secretarial order, the EIS process  
4 is being rushed. A thorough analysis of proposals of this  
5 magnitude cannot be done within one year, and the  
6 two-volume content of the DEIS and manner in which  
7 meetings are being held attest to this.

8 It is irresponsible and inappropriate to  
9 provide merely five days' notice of meetings. Notice was  
10 only three days for those who look to the local media for  
11 this information. And I only received mail notification  
12 today. And to do this after a prolonged government  
13 shutdown that precluded people from accessing BLM  
14 personnel to ask questions or to obtain hard copies of the  
15 DEIS.

16 To my knowledge, few copies are as yet  
17 available in the state and in impacted communities where  
18 Internet access is highly variable and for many people,  
19 not available. Also copies are as yet not available in  
20 the requested languages of Inupiat and Gwich'in. These  
21 acts further disenfranchise those whose voices matter and  
22 whose lives will be most profoundly impacted.

23 And to fail to hold a real public hearing  
24 where voices are heard by both the audience and agency  
25 personnel is wrong. The only reason I can think of to use

1 this open house format and have us speak to a stenographer  
2 or type into a computer is that BLM and DOI are purposely  
3 trying to disenfranchise the people.

4           And I'll speak to specifics in the DEIS.  
5 First to the executive summary. I used to author NEPA  
6 documents, and this is the single worst executive summary  
7 I've ever read. It does not provide a summary; it does  
8 not include findings and comparisons of alternative; there  
9 are no summary impact tables. It is more of an annotated  
10 table of contents than a summary.

11           How is one supposed to see and assess impacts  
12 across resources and alternatives if that information is  
13 not available or easy to find? Not everyone can read the  
14 entirety of the two volumes.

15           And now on alternatives. Alternative A is the  
16 only viable alternative -- the only alternative that  
17 upholds the four original purposes of the refuge, aligns  
18 with the last management plan, the CCP in 2015, the human  
19 rights and food security of the Gwich'in in Alaska and  
20 Canada, and the ecological integrity of the refuge.

21           The rationale given in Section 2.3,  
22 "Alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed  
23 analysis," makes no sense, mathematically or otherwise.  
24 The argument for excluding an alternative that looks at  
25 800,000 acres that medium and low HCP -- high-carbon

1 potential -- areas needed to be included does not add up.  
2 Combined high- and medium-HCP acreage exceeds 800,000.

3           Surface disturbance limitation and the  
4 2,000-acre problem. The DEIS interprets that the 2,000  
5 acres as ice roads and pads, elevated pipelines, and  
6 gravel mines are excluded from the surface disturbance and  
7 are not considered in the 2,000-acre surface area outlined  
8 in the Public Law 115-97.

9           BLM states that "Inclusion of such facilities,  
10 the ice roads, pads, elevated pipelines, and gravel mines  
11 would make Congress's clear purpose, establishment of an  
12 oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain, impracticable."  
13 And it's suggesting that they conducted their analysis in  
14 order to draw the desired conclusion. That quote is from  
15 Volume 2, Appendix B-9.

16           Further, they rationalize excluding gravel  
17 mines as being infrastructure and that "They supply raw  
18 materials for construction of oil and gas facilities, but  
19 are not themselves oil and gas facilities any more than  
20 are mills that supply steel for construction of pipelines  
21 and other facilities."

22           This is incredibly faulty logic, if you can  
23 call it that. It would only make sense if the gravel were  
24 imported into the region as is the steel that is created  
25 elsewhere. Gravel mining in the Coastal Plain and

1 adjacent to the pads as proposed clearly impacts the  
2 region. And that is faulty rationale.

3 BLM is also only counting 2,000 acres "at any  
4 given time." And that's in Volume 1, page 3-221. And  
5 this means that any land that is reclaimed can be deducted  
6 from the 2,000-acre cap and credited towards more  
7 development. This rolling-cap interpretation would allow  
8 for the entirety of the Coastal Plain to see the impacts  
9 of development over time.

10 This is also faulty logic and appears based on  
11 an assumption that in 10 to 50, or even 85 or more, years  
12 that the areas -- when development ceases in areas, that  
13 those areas can be reclaimed.

14 And I would like to know, what are the  
15 criteria for reclamation, what agents and what agencies  
16 will be responsible for determining what is adequately  
17 reclaimed?

18 There's also a statement that some of the  
19 gravel pits would just become, as they call them,  
20 reclaimed as lakes, wildlife lakes. And that's not  
21 reclamation; that's changing the landscape.

22 On page E-6 in Volume 2, the section on  
23 caribou states: "Direct habitat loss associated with  
24 future on-the-ground activities would occur on 2,000 acres  
25 in the program area." And then it goes on to discuss

1 impacts of habitat.

2 In addition it's the State's -- and this is  
3 also quoted -- "Development in the PCH calving grounds may  
4 have behavioral effects on maternal caribou, which could  
5 affect pipeline size described below."

6 "Nevertheless, it is not likely that  
7 development on 2,000 acres in the calving grounds, insect  
8 relief habitat, or general summer habitat would reduce  
9 forage enough to affect caribou health or body fat  
10 reserves on a large scale."

11 My understanding reading this is that the  
12 2,000 acres of surface development is the footprint used  
13 in analyzing impacts to the Porcupine caribou herd. Is  
14 that possible? Can this even be considered adequate  
15 analysis if all of the above-mentioned infrastructure  
16 excluded from the 2,000 acres is not considered when  
17 considering impacts to caribou?

18 Human rights, food security, and ANILCA 810  
19 determinations. Despite acknowledging that oil and gas  
20 can have impacts on caribou, BLM concludes that there will  
21 not be an impact on the subsistence resources for the  
22 Gwich'in and that the subsistence needs of the Gwich'in do  
23 not qualify for an 810 hearing under ANILCA, the Alaska  
24 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which is  
25 required for development that will substantially affect

1 subsistence.

2           Despite the fact that a significant percent of  
3 Gwich'in subsistence comes from the Porcupine caribou  
4 herd, particularly in Arctic Village and Venetie, and the  
5 BLM's own analysis finds leasing will affect these herds,  
6 they then find that the Gwich'in subsistence use will not  
7 be affected.

8           Although the DEIS clearly states that Arctic  
9 Village and Venetie rely on the Porcupine caribou herd and  
10 the herd will be impacted, it concludes that only Kaktovik  
11 requires an 810 hearing. It is true that that is the only  
12 community that uses the resources within the program area  
13 boundary, yet the potentially impacted resource is not  
14 static; it is migratory and a critical resource during  
15 that migration. What happens to the Porcupine caribou  
16 herd on the Coastal Plain does affect subsistence areas  
17 outside of the area along the migratory route of this  
18 species.

19           And finally under the Program Area and Table  
20 1-1, there is a discussion regarding the 92,000 acres that  
21 are owned under subsurface rights by ASRC and surface  
22 rights by KIC accounted for in tables, and is this  
23 accounted for in cumulative effects analysis?

24           And that is it for my comments for today. So  
25 thank you.

1                   MR. DOUGLAS MCINTOSH: I am 80 years old. I  
2 have lived in Alaska since 1976, so I am a valid Alaskan  
3 resident.

4                   I am horrified by the proposition to invade  
5 the Coastal Plain with oil drilling. I am very  
6 sympathetic to the Gwich'in people to protect their sacred  
7 place where life begins. Protecting the Porcupine caribou  
8 herd is a matter of human rights and food security for  
9 them and for other Alaskans too.

10                  I also want to mention the fact that the  
11 market for oil is soft and may be disappearing in the  
12 future. Elon Musk has declared war upon the gasoline of  
13 the car. He could sell every electric car he makes.

14                  That's all I have to say. Thank you very  
15 much.

16                  MR. RYAN MARSH: At a hearing to create what  
17 was then known as the Arctic National Wildlife Range,  
18 Mardy Murie, Fairbanksan and "grandmother of  
19 conservation," said, "If we are big enough to save this  
20 bit of loveliness on our earth, the future citizens of  
21 Alaska and of all the world will be deeply grateful. This  
22 is a time for a long look ahead. This is a time for a  
23 long look ahead."

24                  That was in 1959. For decades now Alaskans  
25 have been fighting to protect the bounty, the majesty of



1 the Arctic Refuge, the world-renowned Porcupine caribou  
2 migration, the Coastal Plain where they birth, and the  
3 cultures that have lived inextricably from them for  
4 millennium.

5 Right now the State of Alaska and the National  
6 Administration are looking for quick wins for political  
7 gains for a windfall pulled out of the earth at the  
8 expense of the Gwich'in and of all of us when we unravel  
9 the integrity of the refuge.

10 When addressing Congress on the Alaska Lands  
11 Act in 1977, Murie again reminded us, "Beauty is a  
12 resource in and of itself. Alaska must be allowed to be  
13 Alaska. That is her greatest economy. I hope that the  
14 United States of America is not so rich that she can  
15 afford to let these wildernesses pass by, or so poor she  
16 cannot afford to keep them. This is a time for a long  
17 look ahead."

18 Murie was speaking at congressional hearings,  
19 hearings held in good faith by government agencies seeking  
20 to weigh differing public interests and come up with land  
21 management plans that leave a legacy for future  
22 generations. By contrast, the process the BLM is  
23 currently undertaking would be farcical if it weren't so  
24 dangerous and damning.

25 What are you afraid of? NEPA assures the

## Public Meeting

24

1 public of sufficient opportunity to weigh in on plans that  
2 affect our common resources, our public lands, our air,  
3 our water. Projects benefit from robust public input.

4 Why was this draft released on the eve of a  
5 government shutdown, ahead of the notice in the Federal  
6 Register?

7 Why have hearings been scheduled with two  
8 business days' notice here in Fairbanks?

9 Why have requests for additional hearings been  
10 denied?

11 Why are we here today at an open house instead  
12 of a hearing where oral testimony is given aloud to the  
13 public?

14 We still consider Murie's words today because  
15 they were spoken aloud and they resonated. They weren't  
16 buried in a report that may only be accessible by a FOIA  
17 request in the future. If this project is in the public's  
18 interest, then I ask again, what are you afraid of?

19 I respectfully request additional hearings  
20 across the United States so that all Americans can weigh  
21 in on decisions affecting our public lands.

22 I respectfully request another extension of  
23 the public comment deadline so that Alaskans and all  
24 Americans can call BLM on the phone and ask questions of  
25 their officials.

1 I respectfully request additional hard copies  
2 of the draft be made available so that Alaskans without  
3 Internet can weigh in on a public process that affects  
4 them. Four copies for all of Fairbanks is insufficient.

5 I respectfully request copies be made  
6 available in Inupiat and Gwich'in so that those Alaskans  
7 most affected by this process can fully understand this  
8 draft and weigh in.

9 I respectfully request additional hearings in  
10 Fairbanks so that people don't receive a notice in the  
11 mail today, like our office did, informing them of their  
12 last opportunity to speak up for the refuge. Give  
13 Fairbanksans ample opportunity to weigh in.

14 Why is this process being rushed through?

15 I ask again, what are you afraid of?

16 This is a time for a long look ahead. If this  
17 leasing proceeds, it may serve the short-term interests of  
18 the Alaskan state in terms of economic gains. But of  
19 that, I am not convinced as there is no adequate economic  
20 analysis conducted in this draft. I'm certain that this  
21 lease is shortsighted and does not serve our long-term  
22 interests.

23 Leasing the Coastal Plain will have  
24 far-reaching effects on the entire refuge and its stated  
25 purposes of protecting wildlife, water, and subsistence.

1 This draft does not address in any meaningful way these  
2 effects. It denies the human rights and subsistence  
3 impacts to the Gwich'in who have been fighting for decades  
4 for those rights.

5 How can this document possibly conclude that  
6 the Gwich'in do not qualify for an 810 hearing? -- the  
7 hearings that are obligated to assure that a project  
8 "protects Alaskan subsistence resources from unnecessary  
9 destruction."

10 Now is the time to be figuring out, as a state  
11 and a nation, how to transition away from fossil fuels,  
12 not trying to ram a project through that will have  
13 irreversible consequences. If we are to have a planet  
14 that's livable, we need to leave some of our fossil wealth  
15 in the ground.

16 Last year the IPCC stated in its special  
17 update on climate change that "Limiting global warming to  
18 1.5 degrees C would require rapid, far reaching, and  
19 unprecedented changes in all aspects of society."

20 We are seeing these changes already in Alaska  
21 as we warm at twice the rate of the rest of the U.S.  
22 Record low sea ice, unprecedented coastal erosion, runaway  
23 permafrost melt.

24 The draft fails to adequately analyze how this  
25 project will affect global climate change and exacerbate

1 local climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. This is  
2 a time for a long look ahead.

3 I will close with another quote from a  
4 long-time Fairbanksan many of us knew and loved, who spent  
5 her life standing up for Alaskan lands. At a hearing in  
6 1959 about the Arctic Wildlife Range, she reminded us that  
7 "The ethical, spiritual, recreation, and educational  
8 values of such an area are those one cannot put a price  
9 tag on any more than one can a sunset, a piece of poetry,  
10 a symphony, or a friendship."

11 There are many more values than just the  
12 economic ones that the refuge holds for all of us. Values  
13 that will be lost if ice roads and pipelines run through,  
14 drill rigs and gravel mines cross it. Values that we see  
15 if we take a long look ahead.

16 I stand with the Gwich'in, with Mardy and  
17 Ginny, and all the others who have fought bravely for  
18 decades to show the world that there is more inherent  
19 worth in the refuge than the oil under the Coastal Plain.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. RICKY FRANK: Hello. My name is Ricky  
22 Frank. I'm from Venetie, Alaska. I grew up traditional.  
23 My grandfather, Johnny Frank raised me up. And I started  
24 speaking English, like, when I was, like, 11 -- between 9  
25 to 11 years that I can remember.

1           Yeah, when I used to stay with my grandpa, we  
2 lived off the caribou. I remember we're the last people  
3 from that way. Came back down from gold camp to Venetie  
4 with a skin bolt. I believe that was back in 1966. Back  
5 then the majority of our food is caribou. That's what we  
6 rely on. And also moose.

7           With this oil development, I think we're  
8 looking at a great disaster for our future generation.  
9 Because I see it happen during my years. I'm 58 years old  
10 now. I see big changes. When the oil development --  
11 there's a lot of stuff being produced by oil. And  
12 wherever that is, it was never disposed properly. It  
13 either create global warming, environmental hazard, or  
14 land and water.

15           And during my period of 58 years living in  
16 Alaska, during my younger years, I barely seen any  
17 sickness. But from the start -- from beginning of the  
18 pipeline, more sickness came into our community. And it's  
19 unstoppable because everything came to our village that's  
20 made out of oil. Also the animal. I see animal that  
21 are -- they are not healthy anymore. And the animal  
22 numbers are going down.

23           And continually I'm stuck in the middle of  
24 everything, in between both culture. And with the oil --  
25 with the big oil company, all the disease came with it.

1 Like alcohol, drugs. All those -- of that came from Lower  
2 48 when the oil companies started the big oil boom back in  
3 the '70s. In the '70s, everything came with it.

4 And now they're going to tap into 1002 land.  
5 The history I've been through with the Prudhoe Bay and now  
6 into the 1002 land, the history is going to repeat itself.  
7 To my knowledge, I don't think anybody is going to protect  
8 that. It's just -- like I said, it's just going to repeat  
9 itself and they going to destroy -- disrupt everything.  
10 And the atmosphere is going to get worse.

11 And also as far as I remember, the oil company  
12 make a big promise for the Alaska native people -- for the  
13 Alaska native people to be involved in the development for  
14 a better life, such as be employed. But the percentage I  
15 see in the workforce is pretty low.

16 But I would like to say to all the people who  
17 can see this message around the world, we need protection  
18 for my people, for the younger generation that still  
19 coming. And at the end I would like to say the same thing  
20 back to you guys who stays on the other side of the world,  
21 protect yourself; protect your land.

22 (Speaking native language.) Thank you to all  
23 my people, my relatives and whoever listen. Thank you.

24 MS. SARAH JAMES: Again here in Fairbanks.  
25 This is Sarah James. I'm from Arctic Village, Alaska. I

## Public Meeting

30

1 just happen to be here in Fairbanks, and it's an honor to  
2 testify on behalf of my people, Neets'ait Gwich'in. And  
3 we're the people on the south side of Brooks Range,  
4 Interior Alaska. Arctic Village is locate 110 miles  
5 northeast of Arctic Circle. So we are within the Arctic  
6 Region.

7           And we are represented as a Gwich'in nation.  
8 We have representation at Arctic Council level. There is  
9 a Von Reboff (ph), Peter and Eddie Alexander, Sam  
10 Alexander from U.S. side. And they have about four from  
11 the U.S. and the four from Canada representing Gwich'in at  
12 Arctic Council level within the circumpolar region. And  
13 we also have -- I don't know who sits there now, but we  
14 have Athabascan seat there too. We work really hard back  
15 in 1990s, early 1990s to get those seats because we  
16 weren't included into the circumpolar region; only the  
17 Inuit. So now are included in there. So our voice is in  
18 there.

19           And then I'm also sitting here -- I was Sarah  
20 James as a traditional-ecological-knowledge position for  
21 three country. That's Canada, U.S., and Mexico. And I  
22 know under that protection, under that position that I  
23 have was traditional, ecological knowledge. Only person  
24 there that sits there that I know of without degree; just  
25 only high school.



1           But I left my life traditionally, grew up  
2 traditionally. English is my second language. And that's  
3 how -- that's how I learned. I learned from them. I  
4 learned from my travel. I learn from other indigenous  
5 people. So that's how I represent traditional knowledge.

6           And I know under that -- under that position,  
7 I know that -- monarchs -- monarchs butterfly is  
8 protected. They come as far as Arctic Village that I know  
9 of. They come as far as to the Coastal Plain that's  
10 threatened right now. And there is agreement and  
11 protection for monarchs butterfly. I just want to bring  
12 that up to be sure that it's included.

13           And this morning I talk from my heart. I'm  
14 still talking from my heart because, like I said, I don't  
15 have any kind of degree, but I do -- I am a  
16 traditional-ecological-knowledge person. So -- because I  
17 travel all over the place.

18           Subsistence area for Gwich'in from Arctic  
19 Village mainly or Venetie, caribou come through our  
20 traditional land, our reserve. Native Village of Venetie  
21 Tribal Reservation at 1.8 million acres. Just the last  
22 few days we ran out of our summer supply of caribou. And  
23 people were getting -- needing some food, needing some  
24 medicine, needing some meat.

25           They form a crew to go out, a hunting crew.

1 There was four guys went out. They go -- they went 48  
2 miles northeast -- southeast of the reservation. And a  
3 grassland area -- that we call a grassland -- that's about  
4 48 miles. They had to stay two nights in order to get  
5 some caribou for the village.

6 They got nine caribou, and they brought it  
7 home to Arctic Village. And they took it to community  
8 hall. The whole community help cut it up and distribute,  
9 not only for Arctic Village, but probably for Venetie, for  
10 Yukon, all the surrounding village. Even Fairbanks,  
11 Venetie, Anchorage. That's what we do all the time,  
12 sharing and barter. Because some of our village are  
13 located along the Yukon. They get salmon.

14 My father is a salmon nation. He's from Birch  
15 Creek. And Birch Creek used to have a different caribou  
16 herd. It's called "48 miles" because at one point, at one  
17 time when they was healthy, they could see it for 48  
18 miles. And that's how big it was. It was 800,000  
19 caribou, but it got slaughtered by building the Alaska  
20 Highway for food, and then also for a steamboat, the wood  
21 choppers.

22 So they got slaughtered just for the  
23 hindquarters. So it's just like what happened to buffalo.  
24 And there's only -- there's 48 miles herd is only 40,000  
25 in that herd right now. And they cover a huge area. So

1 they're not being hunted because there's not enough of  
2 them.

3           So that's what my father had to deal with.  
4 When my first -- my mom got married to my dad, she said  
5 they sound like a thunder when they're stampede. There's  
6 so many of them. And the earth is shaking, and she was  
7 scared because she wasn't used to that big, huge herd from  
8 our area. Porcupine caribou was 350,000 then. We went  
9 down as far as 140-, and now we're back up to 2-, almost  
10 300,000 now. So it's growing back, Porcupine caribou.

11           And then I neglect to look through the whole  
12 information earlier before I spoke that first time, but I  
13 went through the information, talk, asked question. They  
14 all said it out -- out there, which is nice to inform us  
15 where they're and at what they're talking about, trying to  
16 explain to us.

17           But for me, like I said, English is my second  
18 language. It's kind of complicated to follow high-tech  
19 information, but I got some idea. And I saw that the map  
20 was wrong for our subsistence use area. It's just  
21 surrounded little ways from the village, which is true  
22 because we were colonizing to village life back when they  
23 first got here, because our kids have to go to school.

24           And now people have to work, our kids have to  
25 go to school. So you came to one area. And we can only

1 go so far. We can only be gone so much from the village  
2 or Western life in order to make it in two world. Our  
3 people are living in two world. We tell our youngers --  
4 we tell our children, "Respect your elder. Go back to the  
5 land. Learn your language." All that kind of stuff, we  
6 continue to say that. At the same time we tell them "Go  
7 out and get your higher education; make something in  
8 this -- make something out of yourself in this world so  
9 you can live in two world."

10           And that's how we live, and that's how I grew  
11 up. It's very complicated. It's not very welcome. A lot  
12 of times you don't feel welcome. So it's very difficult  
13 and hard. When we're out in the land and eating our food  
14 and our kids going to school and going to church and  
15 eating good and living good is good for us, but at the  
16 same time, it's threatened big time right now by Trump  
17 Administration, by the tax bill got a rush and push into.

18           And that's the same technique they're using on  
19 this issue right now. They're rushing; they're pushing  
20 for a very small area. Maybe not even oil there. And --  
21 because nobody know. Because they know their data.  
22 Government don't know their data. We don't know their  
23 data. So maybe it's just a way to get into protected  
24 area, and once they do it, no place is safe in your  
25 backyard. I got to tell you that as American. So be

1 aware.

2           And another thing I forget to mention is that  
3 procedural change last minute with this one here. But I  
4 was told that the procedure of calling hearing going to  
5 still stay the same in Arctic Village so it won't confuse  
6 people last minute. But so far I'm going through the  
7 whole process where I came in early, and I'm going to stay  
8 here until it's closed, make sure that people get --  
9 follow the process. So it's kind of new and changes, so  
10 we need to know way ahead of time. Our people need to  
11 know what exactly is set up for them.

12           And 1988, when the people came together in  
13 Arctic Village -- like I was saying earlier, the scarf I'm  
14 wearing right now today is my mom's scarf. Rest in peace.  
15 My dear mom, she opened her house, she opened her yard,  
16 she opened her cache, everything that she got so we can  
17 have a feast when people come in from all 15 villages. 15  
18 chief, 15 elders, 15 young leaders got to Arctic Village.  
19 It's just like people came in on their own, charter their  
20 own.

21           And it's like a rebirth of a nation. We got  
22 caught in between the two border, Canadian, U.S., for 150  
23 years. They came, they cry, they laugh, they want to see  
24 the graveyard because they haven't seen their people that  
25 died on this side. Their relatives were all -- people are

1 finding out by their relatives. It's really like a dream,  
2 reunited, like birth of a nation -- reunited birth of a  
3 nation like we always happen before the border.

4 And so we -- my mom opened her door to make it  
5 happen. Our guys build a cabin, a little cabin, a big  
6 cabin together with -- in one-month time, and it's still  
7 standing. And that's how our people is. They know, in  
8 their own way, technology. Our church have a steeple,  
9 which have the whole universe to be protected by arrow  
10 going out for direction. In the middle is the whole  
11 ecosystem, solar system.

12 And that's how much knowledge they have, and  
13 that's what we believe in, and that's how we live every  
14 day today. And caribou is our main -- who we are. And  
15 stay strong and live to our -- with our children.

16 So that's why it meant so much to my people.  
17 Today, another thing they don't have information on, as I  
18 go through this process here, is information on birds and  
19 ducks. There's a lot of people throughout the world that  
20 depend on those birds and ducks. And they come in from  
21 there to nest up there -- 150 different species of birds.  
22 There's a bird that lives up there year-round. He lives  
23 in that hot spring that's in that Coastal Plain.

24 And there's also ptarmigan. Ptarmigan is the  
25 state of Alaska bird. Hear this, people that want to see

1 the gas and oil development in the Arctic National  
2 Wildlife Refuge, the Coastal Plain, that's the home of  
3 ptarmigan. It's a country of ptarmigan.

4 In our area is the country of ptarmigan when I  
5 was growing up. Every spring I hear ptarmigan annoyingly,  
6 because it makes a lot of noise. And even more so back in  
7 the bow-and-arrow day. And now we can't even hear one in  
8 the springtime. It's a very few batch that hang around on  
9 some mountains. I guess there's some in -- up North. But  
10 they're dying, because there used to be lots of them in  
11 our area.

12 So that's for the state of Alaska bird,  
13 because I know there's -- they said the whole Alaska  
14 supported development, which is not true. We have a  
15 resolution from Tanana Chief; we got a resolution from  
16 Southeastern; we got a resolution from Yup'ik area; we got  
17 some Inupiat village; we got the whole United State,  
18 American Indian Resolution. So we're not alone.

19 We're huge. And there's huge people up there  
20 we educated since 1988. Because the elders told us to  
21 educate them in a good way and which we have. And we did  
22 good. Because at that time, 1988, they think we live in  
23 igloo and we're Eskimo. Now they know there's Gwich'in;  
24 they know there's the caribou, Porcupine caribou; they  
25 know where Arctic Village is at, and where the Gwich'in

1 people are at. So we did well.

2 Now today, who I represent is my tribe,  
3 Neets'aii Gwich'in. They're on south side of Brooks  
4 Range. That's where our original people was called,  
5 Neets'aii Gwich'in, until they got settle and colonized  
6 into a village.

7 And there's Vantee Gwich'in, there's Gwichyaa  
8 Gwich'in; there's other kind. You know, it depends on  
9 which area they're at -- A hill area or a flat area or a  
10 lake area or a river area. There was -- they got that  
11 title after that. But we always been Neets'aii Gwich'in.  
12 That means "People south side of Brooks Range."

13 And we got our own traditional ground, which  
14 cover up to the Coastal Plain, up to the Brooks Range. We  
15 never go hunting in the calving area or the birthplace of  
16 many, many other animals. Like I said, birds and ducks,  
17 polar bear, which has changed big time by climate change  
18 and many other changes. And predators are raising their  
19 young around the foothills. I talk about that earlier.

20 So we really need to take a look twice at this  
21 special area. It's a birthplace; it's a sacred place.  
22 It's what we call (speaking native language). That means  
23 "Sacred place where the light begin."

24 So subsistence area is huge. So they got --  
25 they don't -- they got a wrong map. And then on that



1 Central Arctic herd, it's over to the west side of our  
2 village, outside of -- around the Dalton Highway, all the  
3 way down to Prudhoe Bay. It's the Central Arctic herd.

4 The Inupiat from Anaktuvuk Pass -- I just got  
5 done with some of the meeting where they were sitting at  
6 the same meeting with me. They were complain about  
7 they're changing their caribou since the pipeline got put  
8 in. They don't get as much as Central Arctic herd,  
9 Western Arctic herd, and that other -- Tuk Tuk Bay  
10 caribou. All three caribou they used to get. But now  
11 they having hard time getting caribou since the pipeline  
12 got put in.

13 But the pipeline, they said, is good for  
14 Central Arctic herd. In fact, the map they got, BLM,  
15 right now shows that Central Arctic herd is only 40,000  
16 caribou. Ours is like almost 300,000 right now. And it  
17 shows on the map that Central Arctic herd is extending all  
18 the way to the calving ground area, all the way through  
19 the Arctic Village area and on to the Arctic coast and on  
20 to the Yup'ik area. I see that.

21 If those guys from home, if there's Central  
22 Arctic herd in our area, they would know it right away.  
23 Because Central Arctic herd is mixed in with reindeer.  
24 Just like us. We went through a hard time after the  
25 contact. And they even get up in the north of us,

1 Inupiat. They used to come down and stay with us for  
2 winter, because they have a better time -- an easier time.  
3 And then they go back up there for summer.

4           Once they introduce reindeer to them from  
5 Norway, life got much easier up there for foodwise. And  
6 they don't have to come back. But that's how Anaktuvuk  
7 Pass are so much inland. You know, some of them stayed.

8           So now the Central Arctic, which I see on the  
9 map was extended pretty far for 40,000. And I know they  
10 stay within the healthy, which is 40,000 herd. But they  
11 not saying how much is being killed -- how much is being  
12 killed along the pipeline station or by the semi-trucks  
13 that goes back and forth, how many predators get run  
14 over -- the fox, the wolf, the grizzly.

15           And they're not reporting about how much of  
16 them are dying, because a lot of workers along our friends  
17 that works up -- they have a right to have a job up there  
18 just like anybody else under Equal Opportunity Employment,  
19 which is a good law. And they come and report that they  
20 throw them into incinerators so it wouldn't show the  
21 evidence.

22           And there's animal that's come and die from  
23 the gas leak and trash and nuisance. And then they also  
24 said the caribou loves the pipeline. Well, the pipeline  
25 is above the ground most of the time. And it's a clear

1 cut, so they love clear cut, mosquito free, and grass is  
2 planted there, food. And the pole is holding up -- the  
3 pipeline is good back-rubber for springtime. All the  
4 caribou in the country shed their old hair around that  
5 time. Birthing and pregnant and moving and all that. So  
6 they love to rub their -- rub against those poles. So  
7 it's a haven for them. So that's why they're attracted to  
8 the pipeline.

9           And then also those pipeline station, the  
10 roads, everything is owned by the oil company. Not only  
11 one oil company, but more than one oil company. And they  
12 own that place. It's not a hunting and fishing and  
13 traditional ground. It's a business-owned protected area,  
14 so locals can't hunt there.

15           And that's another thing that -- to protect.  
16 That's one protection maybe for the Central Arctic herd,  
17 but other than that, it's not protected either by killing  
18 predators, you know, dying from development.

19           So I just want to tell the truth about what  
20 sounds so good is not as good, is what I'm trying to say.  
21 So when they made that map wrong, we have a proof of a  
22 caribou fence documents where we used to live and hunt,  
23 and we're not reclaimed to village life where we got  
24 colonized. So we still have respect for our traditional  
25 land, and we want to protect it. And that's just the last

1 of the one little corner of the whole world that's still  
2 protected. So we have to make the right decision.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. JAMES WARREN: Okay. I'd like to say  
5 first that I've submitted three separate statements to the  
6 BLM about the Draft EIS on this Coastal Plain leasing.  
7 And today what I wanted to do is to kind of give a summary  
8 of where I've come out of my reading of the Draft EIS and  
9 what I think about it.

10 And the first thing I want to say -- I do say  
11 this in my third statement that I submitted already, but I  
12 want to say that I'm very, very grateful to the Bureau of  
13 Land Management and the writers who put together this  
14 document, because I find the natural history, the account  
15 of the psychographics of the Coastal Plain, the  
16 inventorying of terrestrial mammals, sea mammals,  
17 migratory birds, the cultural and subsistence impacts for  
18 the Inupiat and Gwich'in people, especially, but it goes  
19 even beyond that -- I've been very impressed by the  
20 information that is contained in the Draft EIS, and I'm  
21 very grateful for it.

22 Second, I want to say that there are two --  
23 for me there are two gaps in reasoning in the Draft EIS  
24 that I think are fundamental and need to be addressed.  
25 And that I think it will take time to address these

1 problems in the document itself.

2           The first gap -- building on my first comment  
3 about this wonderful scientific reporting that's in the  
4 document, the first gap is the gap between science and  
5 policy. This is a gap we see all the time. Working  
6 scientists are always saying, "I do my work, and then it  
7 just seems not to go anywhere; it doesn't seem to affect  
8 the policy makers in Washington."

9           And I find the Draft EIS -- and I try to  
10 detail this in about 6,000 words of commentary, maybe  
11 7,000. I find the gap between science and policy huge and  
12 glaring. And it seems to me that the science, reported by  
13 the BLM and in the Draft EIS, is very clear in showing us  
14 that there are risks, big risks, significant adverse  
15 effects and impacts that will be felt and will be visited  
16 upon.

17           I find especially the migratory birds with the  
18 very high percentages of at-risk species that are part of  
19 the Coastal Plain ecosystem -- this seems to me to  
20 warrant -- that alone to warrant a stop on any of the  
21 alternatives except Alternative A.

22           So this gap between science and policy, I  
23 address it in several places in my written commentary, but  
24 I think this is vital. And I just want to say I'm sorry  
25 for the Bureau of Land Management, because it seems to me

1 that the Interior Department, under Ryan Zinke and  
2 Bernhardt, have been directing -- very clearly directing  
3 the BLM, "You must do this." And I feel very sorry that  
4 that's the case. That's to put policy ahead of science,  
5 ahead of knowledge. And it's to go very cocksure into the  
6 darkness.

7 So that's my second comment. My third is  
8 about alternatives, and I -- here I address this in my --  
9 the first of my three written statements that I've  
10 submitted. And I come back to it a couple more times in  
11 my written comments, but it's this: There is a  
12 contradiction between -- of ANILCA of 1980, especially  
13 Section 1002 -- a contradiction between that language and  
14 the idea that -- what is it? -- PL 11597, the tax bill,  
15 can mandate that we must lease oil and gas; we must sell  
16 800,000 acres, at least, of oil and gas leases.

17 That is contradictory, and that mandate --  
18 so-called mandate contradicts ANILCA of 1980, because  
19 Section 1002 of ANILCA states very, very clearly that the  
20 primary goal of Section 1002 and of Area 1002 is  
21 protection of that Coastal Plain.

22 And then second, yes, exploratory efforts for  
23 oil and gas leasing and extraction, but -- but then third  
24 of all, only -- only if it can be done without significant  
25 adverse effects upon -- and you name everything, biota --

1 A biota, the entire Coastal Plain, "No significant adverse  
2 impacts," says 1002 and says ANILCA. And the tax bill is  
3 saying, "No. Ignore that. We're going to lease 800,000  
4 acres at least, no matter what."

5           They don't say it has to be within the rules  
6 laid down by the law of ANILCA. So that is a  
7 contradiction. And here's how that contradiction plays  
8 out: Alternative A, the no-action alternative, which the  
9 Draft EIS presents and then rejects out of hand and says  
10 it's not a real alternative. And then ironically  
11 continues to repeat under Alternative A, "No adverse  
12 impacts would take place."

13           "No adverse impacts would take place."

14           This is repeated like a mantra throughout the  
15 Draft EIS. But the writers of the Draft EIS have already  
16 said, "But it's not really an alternative under the tax  
17 bill's mandate." But we have a clear contradiction here.  
18 ANILCA versus the tax bill. Why does the tax bill win  
19 that discrepancy? Why does it weigh more heavily than  
20 ANILCA, the law of the land since 1980?

21           That I do not understand, and I don't believe  
22 it's fair or right. I'm not sure it's legal, but I'm not  
23 a lawyer.

24           So I'm just trying to say that Alternative A  
25 is actually an alternative that should not be rejected out

1 of hand. It could well be that the tax bill's mandate is  
2 false and wrong. In which case, nothing should be done,  
3 because doing something might contravene Section 1002 of  
4 ANILCA. Boom.

5 Fourth comment. I say this also, and it's  
6 simply a little point about the -- I appreciate the  
7 A, B, C, D1 and -2 alternatives. And it seems to me that  
8 every document, even a Draft EIS, is a rhetorical  
9 document. I'm a retired English professor. And the  
10 rhetoric that Draft EIS is giving us is that D1 and D2 are  
11 the real what we're hoping for; all of us should hope for  
12 that. It's the least harm, the least significant impacts  
13 that we could possibly do.

14 But note well that the logic that is used in  
15 the Draft EIS -- and I have to just say that I can't say  
16 this in words right here, but I'll -- you have to believe  
17 me, I write it out in my written comments.

18 There should be an Alternative E. And the  
19 Alternative E would be minimum acreage, as the tax bill  
20 says, 800,000 acres and two 400,000-acre sales. The logic  
21 by which -- in one paragraph -- the writers of the Draft  
22 EIS work it out, that it's impossible to do that, is  
23 incoherent and makes no sense. And I have noted that in  
24 my written comments. It's flatly contradictory.

25 And then I want to end with a last comment.



1 And it is about the idea of "significance." The Section  
2 1002 of ANILCA says that "Only if there are no significant  
3 adverse impacts can there be oil and gas leasing in Area  
4 1002."

5 And the key word there is "significant." And  
6 my question would be, "How do we measure significance?"  
7 And I don't see anything in the Draft EIS in which the  
8 writers are addressing that very key question. What is  
9 significant? And how do we measure it?

10 For me, I can tell you that seeing that 28  
11 percent of migratory waterfowl and 25 percent of shore  
12 birds are in categories that we would have to call at  
13 risk, that's significant, and significant enough to stop  
14 this already.

15 The document of the Draft EIS says very  
16 clearly that the effects of the long-term oil and gas  
17 exploration in Area 1002 will have significant effects on  
18 the subsistence and cultural lives of the Gwich'in and  
19 Inupiat people. In its own language it says that's  
20 significant.

21 And again, that seems to me it would be enough  
22 to stop, to stop right now, and to say Alternative A is  
23 really the best alternative, and is really the one we  
24 should be looking at. But I know I'm not an idealist  
25 enough to say we'll do that.

1           But what I do know is there is no reason to  
2 rush this decision. There is no reason for us to move  
3 quickly into the seismic because we don't know what kind  
4 of adverse effects it will have. And there is no reason  
5 for us to be on a time line in which the EIS will be  
6 issued and the -- later in the third quarter of 2019 and  
7 then the decision will be made. This is much too quick.  
8 After 39 years -- 38, 39 years -- of protection of this  
9 area, it seems to me that to try to force through an  
10 opening of this area, this crucial and significant area  
11 in -- what? -- 39 weeks, seems terrible to me. Terrible.

12           MR. CHRIS GARBER-SLAGHT: I oppose drilling in  
13 ANWR. This land was set aside as a refuge back with ANCSA  
14 in '71. It was expected to be untouched. It was expected  
15 not to be able to be touched. It's wrong to renege on our  
16 treaties we've made just because we think there's oil  
17 there.

18           There's a lot of oil elsewhere. Leave this  
19 oil in the ground. U.S. government has been taking land  
20 from Native Americans for 200 years. We have a chance to  
21 do the right thing in this spot in this time. Let's not  
22 make the same mistake again. The people who live in this  
23 place should decide what happens to this place. There's  
24 nowhere else they can go. There's no food they can buy  
25 from a big grocery store. This is it. There's caribou;

1 there's geese; there's culture. If they don't want oil,  
2 we should stay out.

3 Okay. That's it. Thank you.

4 MR. JIM CAMPBELL: My name is Jim Campbell,  
5 and I'm a co-owner with my wife with our business Arctic  
6 Trucks.

7 We've been doing trips in the Arctic National  
8 Wildlife Refuge since before it was called a refuge, when  
9 it was actually still called the Arctic National Wildlife  
10 Range, so we've been up there for quite a while. In fact,  
11 this summer it's going to be our 40th year that we've been  
12 in business taking people to the refuge to experience true  
13 wilderness.

14 If this place, the 1002 area, is actually  
15 drilled and developed, it will completely destroy the  
16 whole intact wilderness of the -- of the Brooks Range,  
17 actually, of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge  
18 especially. Even though it's on the Coastal Plain, it  
19 will affect the entire area.

20 In the early '80s it was, I went back to D.C.  
21 and testified in front of the Senate Natural Resource  
22 Committee, and have been trying to keep development out of  
23 this place since then. And it just breaks my heart to  
24 know that it has been finally, you know, mandated to allow  
25 exploration to come in and test this.

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1           In the early -- I think it was -- maybe mid  
2 '80s when the Coastal Plain, the 1002 area, from the  
3 Hulahula River east over to the Aichilik River was -- they  
4 had the thumpers then, the seismic testing. That summer  
5 was the first summer after they had done that during the  
6 winter. I flew into Kaktovik on Barter Island and could  
7 see all the hash marks where the track vehicles had been  
8 doing all their seismic work and stuff.

9           Then it was a really big, wide section of hash  
10 marks on the tundra. Today it's going to be ten times  
11 more hash marks and lines across that. Just if just the  
12 seismic stuff is done, it will totally destroy the whole,  
13 you know, ecosystem visually, at minimum, and more than  
14 likely for decades to come. It will destroy a lot of  
15 natural habitat for the wildlife that's up there.

16           Again, I adamantly am against any development  
17 in the Coastal Plain. I have seen people from all over  
18 this country, and the world actually, Europe, Australia,  
19 Africa come up to experience true wilderness and see the  
20 animals that actually live there.

21           If there was any development on the Coastal  
22 Plain, there would be no more animals in the numbers that  
23 they have always been. And I just think that it would be  
24 a travesty to destroy that for generations to come.

25           So again, if it is developed, my business is

1 no longer. I'm going to have to retire or stop my actual  
2 income. So that's it. I don't want to see it happen.  
3 And I don't know what else to say. Thank you.

4 MS. BERNADETTE DEMIENTIEFF: Well, you know,  
5 historically the Gwich'in have had a cultural and  
6 spiritual connection to the Porcupine caribou herd. And  
7 all our songs, stories, and all our dances are directed to  
8 the herd. And their health and viability depends on our  
9 health. And I'm here to speak up on behalf of them and  
10 all the other animals that are going to be hurt during  
11 this transition.

12 Right now Alaska is thawing at twice the rate  
13 of the rest of the world. We have ticks. We have 33  
14 coastal communities -- probably more now -- that are  
15 falling into the ocean. And I feel that this is just  
16 another attempt at greed. And as indigenous peoples of  
17 this land, we want it protected for our future  
18 generations. We want it protected because our culture and  
19 tradition is entwined in with it to the land, the water,  
20 and the animals.

21 Our identity is a huge part of the Porcupine  
22 caribou herd. For over 40,000 years we migrated with  
23 them, and we've always -- we've never stepped foot in the  
24 Coastal Plain. We always held that place very sacred.  
25 And for anybody to even go there, especially with

1 90,000-pound vehicles, is disrespectful to our human  
2 rights, to our culture, and our heritage.

3 And this process that they're doing right now  
4 is insulting. It is minimizing our voices. And, you  
5 know, this is railroading us, completely dismissing our  
6 concerns, which are very valid, and we are not going to  
7 have to tolerate it. We're going to continue to use our  
8 voices, whether they agree with us or not.

9 And I think they need to start listening to  
10 the tribes of Alaska and not the corporations of Alaska.  
11 Because the tribes are going to be the ones who have to  
12 live with the aftermath while the corporations benefit  
13 from it.

14 I'm just here on behalf of my children and my  
15 grandchildren, because I want them to have a healthy  
16 ecosystem. And that's it. Thank you.

17 MR. KENNETH FRANK: I'm going to speak my  
18 language.

19 COURT REPORTER: If you speak your language, I  
20 cannot transcribe it because I don't know your language.

21 MR. KENNETH FRANK: They told me to do it in  
22 Gwich'in, my language. So eventually they'll probably  
23 push for that into the translation.

24 COURT REPORTER: Okay. All right.

25 MR. KENNETH FRANK: (Speaking in Gwich'in.)

1 MS. LINDA CASASSA: I am opposed to drilling  
2 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I don't believe  
3 you can clean up your mess. I was in Nuiqsut before it  
4 became an oil patch. It is not pretty. You did an awful  
5 job with the Exxon Valdez. I do not trust that you can  
6 clean up an Arctic Ocean spill.

7 You said there would not be an Exxon Valdez  
8 thing. They said with the percentages, it was bound to  
9 happen. I believe it's bound to happen if you're in the  
10 Arctic.

11 It is not an empty place. I have been there.  
12 It is beautiful. I love the animals that live there and  
13 the people who depend on the caribou. This will impact  
14 the native people of Alaska. The Gwich'in count on the  
15 caribou from Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We're  
16 seeing dreadful pictures of polar bears already. The  
17 climate is changing. Investing in oil is stupid.

18 We have problems with our climate due to  
19 burning fossil fuels. The rest of the world is moving  
20 away from them. Why would we open the treasure of our  
21 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drill for oil that  
22 won't be ready for 20 years? And by that time we should  
23 not be using it at all.

24 I do not trust industry to respect our  
25 wildlife and our environment. Please do not drill in

1 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you.

2 MR. ROBERT HOLBROOK: We've got one wild piece  
3 of land left in the whole United States that hasn't been  
4 looted. Let's don't give it away for a one-year supply of  
5 oil. It's just absurd.

6 I work for the oil companies as a helicopter  
7 pilot. I've flown all over the Gulf of Mexico, over  
8 Alaska. I know them. We don't want that in the last wild  
9 place we got. The entire coast of Louisiana, the sea  
10 marsh, is sinking into the ocean right now. The Barrier  
11 Island is gone; the marsh is gone. Saltwater has  
12 intruded. They've pumped everything out from under it,  
13 besides the ten tons of garbage that just gets  
14 accidentally blown away. It's nobody's fault. You just  
15 can't put that many people into a place.

16 And it looks like to me that the choices we  
17 got are not really choices. They're going up there with  
18 an infrastructure and put it all in and the roads and  
19 everything are going to be there. You're never going to  
20 undo that. Just go fly over the Naval Reserve right now  
21 and look at where they were in World War II. The scars  
22 don't go away.

23 And I think this whole process is being  
24 hurriedly ramrodded through before they have another  
25 election. They've got 28 million acres, I believe it is



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1 -- 25 or 28 million -- on the other side of the Haul Road  
2 they're not doing anything with. Go over there.

3 Okay. That's all. Thanks.

4 MS. RACHEL GARCIA: My name is Rachel Garcia.  
5 And I came to this hearing on drilling and on the North  
6 Slope. And I'd like to say I'm opposed to any new  
7 drilling projects. And because the ecosystem on the North  
8 Slope is too delicate, and because I believe that we need  
9 to make a transition away from fossil fuels to mitigate  
10 climate change that is already happening. That's all.

11 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

12 MS. RACHEL GARCIA: Okay. Thank you.

13 Can I add something?

14 COURT REPORTER: Absolutely.

15 MS. RACHEL GARCIA: Okay. I also believe that  
16 drilling will be destructive to the communities who live  
17 on the North Slope. And that it is important that those  
18 communities be supported and protected. And drilling will  
19 disrupt their lives to an extent that is not acceptable.  
20 That's all. Thank you.

21 MS. KRISTA HOLBROOK: So I want to go on  
22 record as just generally opposed to any development in the  
23 Arctic. I don't think that they've fairly considered all  
24 the ecological impacts and ramifications. And I don't  
25 feel like this meeting really was -- should be considered

1 legal because of the government shutdown, the 30-day  
2 shutdown. I don't feel like this was adequately  
3 advertised and enough notice given for people.

4 I guess that's it. I guess that summarizes  
5 it. I'm just opposed to the whole thing.

6 MS. SARAH MAUPIN: I flew back from my  
7 ancestral lands today. My first night home, my aunt's  
8 entire house shook. I thought it was an earthquake. She  
9 said there was dynamite from the oil fields that goes off  
10 every night at 6 P.M.

11 While I looked out at the land when the sun  
12 set, I saw a fire in the distance brightly burning;  
13 methane flaring engulfs my people and community. When I  
14 boarded the plane to my home, I saw a sea of unfamiliar  
15 light-skin faces, a plane of white men headed to the lands  
16 my great-grandparents once thrived upon, now overrun by  
17 strangers that forbid us from entering.

18 My community is resilient. But the diseases,  
19 drugs, and alcohol that the oil rush have brought plague  
20 my family and in-laws. We buried four people this past  
21 two weeks, young Inuit that were taken by cancer and the  
22 substances brought by oil money and workers. Us -- the  
23 Inupiat and the indigenous people are the sacrifice for  
24 your fancy cars and materialistic, capitalistic dreams.

25 My aunt told me of a time when you would see

1 (t'iinch'uu) caribou migrate through our town in numbers  
2 that feed the whole community and more. Now only a few  
3 can afford to travel far enough to feed their families as  
4 these strangers explore our sick land to exploit us  
5 further for their benefit. I wonder how this could have  
6 happened.

7 With greedy men that see green paper instead  
8 of brown skin, we are told we can't survive without you,  
9 yet we are dying with you. Every one of you believe your  
10 values and Prada purses are worth more than our way of  
11 life since time in memorial. Our health is directly  
12 connected to the health of our land and animals, and you  
13 treat it as second class, creating cultural genocide. And  
14 each one of you are perpetrating this.

15 I know you will not listen. You never have.  
16 I'm here to tell you, we are uniting against your war on  
17 the vulnerable. Our children will not be your sacrifice  
18 without a fight. Go home tonight and know we are not your  
19 legal burdens, but people.

20 I know your lies and empty promises. I live  
21 them. All Inupiat people live them. The Arctic Refuge is  
22 another piece of paper to sign, money in a few peoples'  
23 pockets. But it is the Gwich'in's livelihood, their  
24 well-being. You have destroyed our "Nuna," our land,  
25 profiting off of our pain and deaths. History is

1 repeating itself. What side of that history will you tell  
2 your grandkids you are on?

3 I also was recently on the phone with BLM, and  
4 I can't recall the name of the woman I had talked to, and  
5 I asked for translation in Inupiat and Gwich'in. She said  
6 we would have to provide that for ourselves as the  
7 Gwich'in have started to do. I told her that it should be  
8 illegal to come into the land of the stakeholders and not  
9 speak the language or have translators and have huge  
10 impacts and policy changes without legally having  
11 documentation to give to the residents and stakeholders.

12 I also know that this speedy process with a  
13 five-day notice to come to the comment period is unlawful.  
14 I feel as though indigenous people have been told we're  
15 going to be helped by this oil money, yet most of us live  
16 at or below the poverty line. We have been lied to when  
17 it said -- when originally the pipelines were laid down  
18 and it said it wouldn't affect our caribou; we would still  
19 be able to subsistence hunt and we would be better.

20 There wasn't drinkable water when I went to  
21 Nuiqsut. I had to boil the water. In most places, the  
22 homes are half a million dollars for a small two-bedroom.  
23 It is forcing our people out of their villages and into  
24 the cities.

25 And then these comment periods are held

1 without public comment, without due notice to everyone  
2 that's going to be affected. So I ask that there be an  
3 Inupiat translation for the EIS, a Gwich'in translation,  
4 and nothing go further until those two pieces, the vital  
5 pieces, are respected. And that at the Anchorage  
6 commenting period and the rest of the commenting period  
7 you need to have an Inupiat and Gwich'in translator  
8 available, as not only people that speak English are worth  
9 listening to. Thank you.

10 MS. MARCY NADEL: So I didn't prepare any  
11 remarks on this and may submit a separate written comment.  
12 But my concerns and input are twofold. One, I, as someone  
13 who is familiar with the environmental impact -- because  
14 that's my process -- and has studied this in coursework  
15 and in my professional life, I appreciate the presentation  
16 that you gave.

17 And I find there is a conflict between the  
18 enactment of a law and the Environmental Impact Statement  
19 process in that you can't -- it isn't the correct process  
20 if you are assuming from the get-go that Option A is not  
21 an option.

22 So I -- you know, the -- excuse me.  
23 Alternative A, not Option A.

24 So I urge the BLM to reconsider Alternative A,  
25 which is no action, no development on the Coastal Plain.

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1 The presentation included numerous -- two, three slides  
2 worth -- of examples why we should not have, you know, the  
3 maximum development, including subsistence impacts, the  
4 spiritual and cultural importance of the Porcupine caribou  
5 herd and the impact that development, even a small amount  
6 of development, especially if it's in a migration pathway  
7 could have on those long-term subsistence resources. And  
8 much of the comment tonight has been focused on that.

9           So I have trouble saying that I would urge you  
10 to do Alternative B because I want it to be Alternative A.  
11 But apparently the process is biased against a finding  
12 that -- it's biased from the get-go. So that is one  
13 frustration.

14           The other thing is the lack of advance notice  
15 for these public meetings. And the environmental impact  
16 assessment process seems to be rushed. It doesn't usually  
17 happen this fast that you had a draft statement in  
18 December, just a few months after the initial analysis.  
19 This whole thing is going too quickly to provide adequate  
20 input from, most particularly, those that live in the area  
21 and will be impacted, but also all of the other businesses  
22 that are going to be impacted. You know, recreational,  
23 tourism.

24           So I'm frustrated as a Fairbanks resident that  
25 this whole thing is going quickly and appears biased from

1 the get-go. Thank you.

2 MS. ALICIA SIDEBOTTOM: Okay. I just have a short  
3 comment. I believe that the mission of the National  
4 Wildlife Refuge system is to protect our land for  
5 future generations. And I believe that means at all, you  
6 know, no matter what. I don't think that means, you  
7 know, protected until it becomes more convenient not to.  
8 I don't think it means protected until we can make  
9 more money otherwise. I just don't think that's what it  
10 means.

11 I think this program was enacted, you know, by  
12 Teddy Roosevelt -- what was it? 1903 or something like  
13 that? -- in order to protect these lands for future  
14 generations. And if we start making exceptions to  
15 these kind of things, you know, especially in Alaska,  
16 which is some of the -- you know, some of the largest  
17 swaths of wilderness in the U.S., that it just sets a  
18 really dangerous precedent for the future of protected  
19 lands.

20 That's it. Thanks.

21 MS. NICKY EISEMAN: Hi. My name is Nicky  
22 Eiseman. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I  
23 hesitated to come because I don't have comments in  
24 response to the specific proposals, but I'm here anyway  
25 because in my basic heart of hearts, I feel that

1 development -- the oil exploration and development in the  
2 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the area that you're  
3 considering, is wrong.

4           And I guess I will speak -- I feel like it's  
5 wrong in my heart, but I know that you can't legislate  
6 based on that. But economically there is oil in many,  
7 many places in the world, on the North Slope, but there  
8 are not many, many places, pristine places like the Arctic  
9 National Wildlife Refuge, and that we still have this  
10 caribou herd, and that we still have this undisturbed  
11 calving ground that allows this amazing wild population to  
12 continue.

13           And, you know, I don't want to sound trite or  
14 like I'm a slogan, but there is just something to be said  
15 for letting one last wild spot stay there and one last  
16 wild population thrive. We have, in that caribou herd and  
17 in that wild place, something that we're going to look  
18 back on in 50 or 100 years and ask ourselves, "Why didn't  
19 we just leave it alone?"

20           You know, we have -- there's a buffalo on the  
21 nickel -- we have a buffalo head nickel, and that's all we  
22 have of those wild buffalo herds. Let's not do that to  
23 the caribou. And let's -- if we want to, let's see it as  
24 an economic resource, that piece of wilderness. Let's  
25 maintain it. If you don't simply want to leave it because



1 it's wilderness and a wild population, then leave it for  
2 its economic benefit.

3           You know, we have -- we need to be moving away  
4 from oil anyway. Using oil to heat our homes and all the  
5 things we use oil for, that just -- to be drilling there  
6 seems like the lowest form of use. You know, somebody  
7 said to me, "Well, you know, they're not going to be  
8 drilling there anyway, because by the time they actually  
9 get around to drill there, the price of oil will be so low  
10 it won't be economically viable."

11           Well, that's not a good enough answer for me  
12 because just the exploration is going to change it. Just  
13 the exploration is going to change the land, and you know  
14 that.

15           Anyway, thank you for this. I'm sure that  
16 it's very difficult, what you're trying to do. And so --  
17 yeah, with respect.

18           Thank you very much. This is Nicky Eiseman,  
19 and I'm good.

20           MS. ELISABETH BALSTER DABNEY: I'm here today  
21 as a second-generation Fairbanksan, a lifelong Alaskan  
22 raising two third-generation Alaskans, and one is  
23 undeniably ground zero for climate impacts.

24           What happens in the Arctic doesn't stay in the  
25 Arctic. We're here today because of a proposal to explore

1 and drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil  
2 that we know needs to stay in the ground. With all the  
3 ingenuity of Alaskans, I know there is a better path  
4 forward than extracting more fossil fuels.

5 Alaska is but one in a community of the Global  
6 North. Now is our time to show true leadership and keep  
7 fossil fuels in the ground. The Arctic Refuge is iconic,  
8 the last great wilderness, a sprawling ecosystem that has  
9 been called the most biologically diverse of a planet.  
10 Its Coastal Plain is a sacred place where life begins for  
11 the Porcupine caribou herd. It has been occupied for  
12 millennia, and its natural resource is stewarded by the  
13 people whose survival is interdependent on the health of  
14 the refuge and the life it gives.

15 In honoring that legacy of stewardship, we  
16 should be seeking ways to permanently protect the Arctic  
17 National Wildlife Refuge, not heighten its ruin. For a  
18 place that holds such esteem in the national and  
19 international conscience, the fact that we are here today  
20 in this way is unforgivable.

21 Not one part of the process to open the Arctic  
22 National Wildlife Refuge has been done with good  
23 intention. A backdoor, sneaky process lacking  
24 transparency got refuge exploration and drilling into an  
25 unrelated tax bill. Then to add insult to injury, the

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1 process has been rushed to the extent the public could not  
2 even reach the land managers tasked with making sure there  
3 was public process.

4 Today we're here with two-business days'  
5 notice. Just today most people in Fairbanks -- BLM's  
6 Fairbanks list received notice of this meeting.  
7 Unacceptable. What about those who didn't get notice? Or  
8 about those who don't have Internet or don't read English?  
9 They have been failed.

10 This process has been a failure in meeting the  
11 basic requirements of public input, transparency, and  
12 access. So I ask this: Stop. Stop the mad rush forward  
13 and listen to Alaskans. Stop scheduling public meetings  
14 with so little notice. Stop constraining the time people  
15 have to comment. And stop proposing meetings in only the  
16 places that are convenient. These are America's public  
17 lands in Alaska. Make sure all Alaskans and all Americans  
18 have sufficient opportunity to weigh in.

19 If we as a country/as individuals cannot stop  
20 our conquering mentality, what will be left behind? What  
21 will be left to the generations that come after? What  
22 will be left for my daughters? This planet wasn't created  
23 to be destroyed. We are called to be stewards, not  
24 masters. How big is our ego that we think we can bend  
25 nature to our will? We cannot. The earth is crying out

1 and we're not listening.

2 MS. HANNAH HILL: Northern Alaska native  
3 people have been in the bountiful resources of the Arctic  
4 National Wildlife Refuge for as long as there have been  
5 people on this continent. They are opposed to the oil and  
6 gas extraction on the Coastal Plains, and I stand in  
7 solidarity with them.

8 Gwich'in call this land "The sacred place  
9 where life begins." Protecting these lands not only  
10 protects their human rights in a millennia of tradition;  
11 it protects the very future of humanity.

12 The impacts of drilling in the Arctic refuge  
13 are irreversible. The damage already done is  
14 unconscionable. And to expand this corrosive practice  
15 while knowing that it violates human rights and  
16 subsistence practices, will poison and steal waters,  
17 disrupt the precious habitat of the Porcupine caribou  
18 herd, our dwindling polar bear population, the birds and  
19 fish of the land with inevitable oil spills and a death  
20 march of the climate change is immoral. And for what?  
21 For the wealth of a few?

22 There is a better way. This is not managing  
23 land. It's managing blood profits for oil greed. It's  
24 protecting the destructive capitalism of extractive  
25 industry and its complicity in the ongoing governmental

## Public Meeting

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1 genocide against indigenous peoples.

2 Listen to the people of the land. They have  
3 the answers in just transition and traditional practices.  
4 Do not expand drilling in the refuge. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ALASKA )  
 ) ss.  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT )

I, Crystal D. Thompson-Bartlett, Court Reporter and Notary Public duly commissioned and qualified in and for the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken electronically before me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or at my direction.

That the foregoing transcript is a full, true, and correct transcript of the proceedings, including questions, answers, objections, statements, motions, and exceptions, made and taken at the time of the foregoing proceedings.

That all documents and/or things requested to be included with the transcript of the proceedings have been annexed to and included with said proceedings.

That I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties in these proceedings, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in said proceedings or the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed my Notarial Seal this 14th day of February 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CRYSTAL D. THOMPSON-BARTLETT  
Notary Public for Alaska  
My commission expires: 9/15/2022

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