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

Taken February 9, 2019
Commencing at 10:20 a.m.

Pages 1 - 69, inclusive

Taken at
Shitsuu Sarah Frank Community Hall
Venetie, 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 For United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land
9 Management:

10 Ted Murphy
11 Associate State Director

12 Nicole Hayes
13 Project Manager

14 Mike Gieryic
15 Attorney

16 Erin Julianus
17 Biologist

18 Lesli Ellis-Wouters
19 Chief of Communications

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

22 Steve Arthur
23 Biologist

24 Steve Berendzen
25 Arctic Refuge Manager

26 For EMPSI:

27 Chad Ricklefs
28 Project Manager

29 Amy Lewis
30 Assistant Project Manager

31

32

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

2 For ABR:

3 Alex Prichard
4 Senior Scientist

5 For SRB&A:

6 Paul Lawrence
7 Senior Research Associate

8 Taken by:

9 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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

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

2 (Invocation offered by Myra Thumma.)

3 (Drumming song performed.)

4 MS. MYRA THUMMA: My name is Myra Thumma.

5 I'm second chief of Native Village of Venetie. And on
6 behalf of our Gwich'in, on behalf of our people, I want to
7 welcome you into our community. This is our homeland.

8 And this is -- it's very important for us that this is our
9 way of life. Our subsistence is very important to us.

10 I'm not only talking, I mean, for myself, but only who are
11 our grandparents, our grandmas who are all sleeping down
12 here. And they work really hard for us to be here, you
13 know, their hardship of traveling on our land hunting, and
14 they pray for us and, you know, we are glad that we are
15 all here alike and we exist.

16 And this is who we are, and nothing cannot change
17 that. This is who we are, and this is how we are living,
18 and this is what we are fighting for.

19 And I just want to thank everybody that's here: Our
20 village council, our tribal, parents, our elders. And
21 this is our traditional chief Abraham Henry. I think
22 Abraham is the oldest one here in our community. And
23 another elder that we have here is Eunice Williams.

24 And I just want to thank everybody. And so for now
25 I'll introduce Nicole. And Nicole, you can introduce

1 everybody and what their titles are so everybody could
2 know. Nicole is going to do a presentation, kind of
3 update us on the EIS and all that.

4 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Okay. So I will do a
5 quick round of introductions. And then before I do the
6 presentation, our Assistant Secretary for Lands and
7 Minerals Management for the Department of Interior, Joe
8 Balash, will make a few comments.

9 Again, thank you for having us here. We are real
10 excited to be here. We're looking forward to hearing your
11 comments.

12 I'm Nicole Hayes. I'm the project manager for the
13 coastal plain oil and gas leasing program. Over here to
14 my right is Steve Wackowski, the Senior Advisor for Alaska
15 Affairs for Department of Interior; Joe Balash, the
16 Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management for
17 Department of Interior; Ted Murphy, our Acting State
18 Director for Bureau of Land Management; Mike Gieryic, our
19 attorney advisor for Department of Interior.

20 Standing up in the back right there is Steve Arthur,
21 a wildlife biologist with Fish & Wildlife Service. Erin
22 Julianus, she is a biologist with the Bureau of Land
23 Management. Steve Berendzen, he's our Fish & Wildlife
24 Service Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager. Paul
25 Lawrence, he is with Steven R. Braun & Associates. He

1 does a lot of subsistence work on the North Slope and
2 across Alaska, actually.

3 Chad Ricklefs, he's one of our primary contractors
4 that is helping with development of the EIS. Alex
5 Prichard, he's with ABR. He's a terrestrial biologist.
6 He's been very helpful with development of the EIS and can
7 answer questions about caribou and the analysis in the
8 EIS.

9 Lesli Ellis-Wouters, she's our communications chief
10 for the Bureau of Land Management. Amy Lewis is back at
11 the table. She's also one of our primary contractors with
12 development of the EIS. Did I miss anybody?

13 Oh, Mary, the most important person. Mary, she is
14 our court reporter, and she is taking down everything that
15 we discuss today to make sure we get your public comments
16 on the record. So she will ask that you please state your
17 name before you speak, and she may ask a few follow-up
18 questions so she can make sure the record is accurate.

19 We also have our pilots sitting over on the side,
20 Tomo and John. They got us here safely. They are going
21 to be sitting here for the meeting to stay warm.

22 So I'll turn it over to Joe before I give my
23 presentation.

24 MR. JOE BALASH: Well, good morning, Myra,
25 Chief Abraham, Ms. Eunice. Thank you for hosting us here

1 this morning, allowing us to come and hold this meeting
2 here in Venetie. I want to first acknowledge that this is
3 a public meeting of the BLM as part of our NEPA process.
4 This is not a government-to-government meeting. It's
5 something that we look forward to scheduling and holding
6 soon.

7 And just a couple of things that I want to mention
8 here. First and foremost is that I hope, you know, that
9 when we were here previously to conduct scoping and the
10 previous government-to-government meetings, we heard very
11 loud and clear the concern for the caribou that is so
12 important to your entire way of life in this region.

13 And as such, we have spent a lot of time looking at
14 all the best information we could. And with our western
15 scientists and knowledge combined with what we heard from
16 the communities last year, we were able to put together
17 some information that helped us take a look at the
18 conditions, the stipulations that are embedded into the
19 document.

20 And one thing in particular that has made a big
21 impact on me is the data that we have on where it is the
22 Porcupine caribou herd calves every year. And so for -- I
23 think we have 37 years of data. It's not nearly as long a
24 history as your traditional knowledge has, but it is
25 helpful to understand the period of time each year that

1 the herd calves. There is some areas that it -- that the
2 herd is generally in.

3 They, of course, move from year to year and
4 over time, but I think that information helped us craft
5 and fashion the things that Nicole is going to present
6 here today. And every one of our alternatives, B through
7 D2, contains some level of protection for the calving
8 grounds.

9 So that's something that we are paying very close
10 attention to and look forward to hearing more from the
11 communities in the public comments here, as well as in the
12 further written comments that we will get later on.

13 The last thing I want to say is that this document is
14 a draft, meaning we are taking public comments because we
15 want to improve it. We want to make it better. I know
16 that for the people here in Venetie and Arctic Village and
17 in the larger region here that no drilling is the outcome
18 that you want and believe is very much in your interest,
19 and I completely understand that.

20 But we are trying to listen, trying to pay attention.
21 We have a job that we have to do. And so anything that
22 you are able to help us with to make it better we would
23 greatly appreciate. So I have and continue to have every
24 expectation that the Gwich'in will stand strong and resist
25 and fight this every step of the way. And I hold no

1 grudge or ill will towards anybody here. I understand
2 completely why you are doing what you are doing and still
3 appreciate very much the opportunity to be here and hear
4 your specific comments.

5 So I'll turn it back over to Nicole.

6 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you, Joe. So
7 instead of doing the full-on presentation, we are going to
8 do an abbreviated version at the request of the council so
9 that you all may have more time to provide public comment.
10 But if you have questions, please ask them. And then also
11 we are going to be around for a while on break or
12 afterwards. Any one of us with a name tag, please feel
13 free to come ask us any questions that you may have about
14 our alternatives or what something means or just more
15 clarification about something. We are all happy to answer
16 your questions.

17 So I'm going to start off with how we got to the
18 point where we are right now. And it is driven by what is
19 called the NEPA process. The National Environmental
20 Policy Act requires that any federal agency with an
21 undertaking that could have environmental impacts disclose
22 what those impacts would be.

23 So in December of 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of
24 2017 was passed. And it required the Secretary, acting
25 through the BLM, to implement an oil and gas leasing

1 program. To do that, the BLM had to initiate what is
2 called the Environmental Impact Statement, and that's the
3 draft document we are talking about today.

4 On April 20, 2018, we issued a Notice of Intent that
5 we were going to develop a draft -- or an Environmental
6 Impact Statement, and that really kicked off the NEPA
7 process.

8 There was a 60-day scoping period, and during that
9 period we conducted scoping meetings. We were in Arctic
10 Village and Venetie and received a lot of comments during
11 that period. We received over 700,000 comments. And that
12 went into helping us form or identify the issues that we
13 really needed to analyze in the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement.

15 Part of the NEPA process, you have cooperating
16 agencies that have specialized expertise or jurisdiction
17 by law, and some of our cooperating agencies include the
18 Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government, Arctic
19 Village Council and Venetie Village Council, and also the
20 North Slope Borough, State of Alaska, Native Village of
21 Kaktovik and the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S.
22 Fish & Wildlife Service.

23 They were all at the table when we had discussions
24 regarding developing draft alternatives. They provided a
25 tremendous amount of input along the way. We have been

1 conducting meetings to include government-to-government
2 consultations, which as Joe had mentioned, really
3 contributed to what we needed to look at when we were
4 developing the alternatives.

5 So from that April kick-off period until December
6 when the draft EIS was published, we have been drafting
7 the EIS. We had a preliminary draft which we coordinated
8 with all our cooperators and received over 400 pages of
9 comments that we took into consideration and addressed to
10 further revise the document that we published in December.

11 Now we are conducting our public meetings for the
12 draft document. We are answering questions. And most
13 importantly, we are looking for input on what was put
14 together, what can be improved in the document, what needs
15 to be clarified and, then, of course, the alternatives,
16 which is the most important part, what -- what
17 alternatives make sense or don't make sense, what
18 stipulations need to be improved. BLM has not identified
19 a preferred alternative yet, so we are looking for input
20 on which alternative BLM should go with.

21 And we are looking to have the final EIS completed in
22 third quarter of 2019. So that's late summer, fall time
23 frame.

24 MR. PATRICK HANSON: We got some people
25 that are leaving on this morning flight, and we want to

1 give them a chance to speak. Can we do that before you
2 continue?

3 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Sure. They want to
4 speak now?

5 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Yeah. I'm Patrick
6 Hanson. I'm the tribal administrator for the village of
7 Venetie and I sit on the Native Village of Venetie Tribal
8 Government Council. And we got a plane coming in here
9 pretty quick because these meetings were scheduled too
10 close to each other, and people have got to go. We have
11 got our Chief Timothy Roberts here, council members,
12 [indiscernible] Tritt, Bobby Tritt. And we have a few
13 people that need to speak before the plane will be here
14 in, like, 15 minutes. So who is going to speak first
15 before the meeting?

16 MS. TONYA GARNETT: Tonya Garnett,
17 T-O-N-Y-A G-A-R-N-E-T-T. All right. I didn't really
18 prepare anything, but -- so I'm from Arctic Village and
19 Venetie. This is where our people have come from. And so
20 I don't know how many times we have to tell you guys or
21 feed you guys caribou, but in that whole draft of the EIS,
22 it doesn't really show how we hunt and live off the land
23 and how we are going to be impacted socially,
24 economically, health-wise. And it's going to be a direct
25 impact.

1 If there was development in the refuge, there is
2 going to be a direct impact to our people, to our
3 well-being here in Arctic Village and Venetie, and the
4 draft totally leaves that out.

5 I know it's mentioned -- I mean, I know Arctic
6 Village and Venetie are mentioned in the draft, but there
7 is nothing of substance that includes in detail how our
8 people will be impacted because of the loss of caribou,
9 because we all know that any type of disturbance disturbs
10 the caribou, and they move. I've heard from people up
11 north that they say too many planes pushes the caribou
12 away and that they have to go further now so that -- so
13 it's a fact that they will be disturbed.

14 And we are -- you guys ate caribou yesterday. You
15 guys will eat caribou today. You guys have ate caribou
16 all year long every time you have come up to our
17 communities. So we need those to be put into that draft
18 EIS instead of only focusing on the people up north
19 because we are going to be impacted, as well.

20 And people here, don't be afraid to come up here and
21 speak. Come up here and talk and tell them all about
22 how -- how you guys are impacted or just come up here and
23 tell them how you guys live, how you guys grew up, how you
24 guys hunt, how you guys eat all of our Native foods.

25 And a lot of things that we have talked about, a lot

1 of people say not only the caribou will be impacted; the
2 birds. This is one of the biggest places where the birds,
3 the ducks come. And it's really big here in Venetie.
4 People come here to hunt ducks. So that's going to be
5 impacted, as well. So that's just as important.

6 Everybody's voices in here counts. Everybody
7 matters. And I want you to feel free to come up here, and
8 don't be scared. Don't be intimidated. Just come up here
9 and talk and tell them your story. And sign up -- don't
10 forget also with P.J., sign up. He has a list of people
11 who are speaking. And I don't know if Myra -- okay. So
12 that's it.

13 So I'll give it to Myra.

14 MS. MYRA THUMMA: My name's Myra Thumma.
15 I'm born and raised in Venetie. I also grew up in Arctic.
16 Part of growing up -- I'm here -- since this NEPA process
17 started, I have been really deeply involved in the
18 meetings and stuff, and we have been continually telling
19 you guys how important the caribou is to our -- to our
20 diet.

21 And I speak here on behalf of our elders and also my
22 granddaughter and the kids that's in the future. We are
23 doing this for them because tomorrow a lot of us, we don't
24 know if we are going to be around or not. But this is my
25 granddaughter, Holland. She really love eat caribou and

1 moose meat, and this is what we are fighting for. And
2 this is our way of life that nothing cannot change that.

3 And our elders worked so hard. They went through
4 hardship. And that's what we are trying to tell the world
5 of who we are. And in the EIS there is no harvest data
6 about Venetie or Arctic Village. There is only a lot of
7 information around Kaktovik because it's closer. The 1002
8 is closer to Kaktovik.

9 And our people live off the land. Our people trap.
10 And this is how we survive all these years. I mean, this
11 is who we are. And that's why we are trying to tell you
12 guys that we exist. This is the life that we know.

13 And it's just so sad that, you know, we are being
14 told what to do on our -- on our land. And we have been
15 here thousands of years, and people are coming in telling
16 us that, you know, this is what's going to happen on your
17 land.

18 This drilling is going to have an impact on our
19 lifestyle, on our -- for our children, our grandchildren.
20 But as the Gwich'in people, we stand as one. We have one
21 voice, and we will not back down. And this is who we are.

22 And I just want to thank everybody for listening, and
23 I thank you guys that you come here. And we know that you
24 guys got to do your job. So you need to start telling the
25 whole world of who we are, and we will not back down.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Anybody else that's
3 leaving on the morning flight that wanted to say
4 something? Anybody else? If you are leaving on the
5 morning flight, you got a chance right now to say
6 something. All right.

7 Nicole, you can continue.

8 MS. NICOLE HAYES: I don't have a ton
9 left, so don't worry. I'll be quick.

10 So this board -- you have it in your slides, but they
11 are kind of small. It describes the four alternatives
12 that we have, Alternative A, Alternative B, Alternative C
13 and Alternative D. Alternative A is analyzed in the EIS.
14 It's the no action alternative, and it's what all other
15 alternatives are measured against. So it's the baseline
16 for the analysis of the other alternatives.

17 Alternative A is really important because we have to
18 analyze it, and we analyze it against all the other
19 alternatives. However, because Congress has mandated that
20 we implement an oil and gas leasing program, it's not an
21 alternative we can select. Alternative B, C and D are the
22 action alternatives, and I'll go into more detail on the
23 next slide where we have a visual.

24 As I mentioned before, we have -- we do not have a
25 preferred alternative, and we are really looking forward

1 to input on the alternatives that we have drafted. I'm
2 going to go over the summary of the stipulations and how
3 they differentiate, but a lot of the concerns that Tonya
4 mentioned and Myra mentioned we really took into
5 consideration when drafting these alternatives. So we are
6 interested in feedback if those protections make sense,
7 why they do or why they don't.

8 Alternative B is this top one shown here. The areas
9 along the coast and areas along the streams are covered by
10 what's called a no surface occupancy. No surface
11 occupancy means you can't do anything on the surface.
12 There is -- so if you wanted to access the subsurface
13 resources, it would be through something like directional
14 drilling. The entire coastal plain would be available for
15 lease. The green areas would not be available for surface
16 disturbance.

17 There are two exceptions. If there is a need for
18 crossing of a stream that could potentially be an
19 exception, it would have to be applied for and authorized.
20 So there would be a process to go through to apply for one
21 of those exceptions. So the green areas, the no surface
22 occupancy primarily for things like the migratory birds,
23 subsistence access, the different species that use the
24 coastal areas; for a wide variety of reasons there is no
25 surface occupancy.

1 The yellow area is the primary calving habitat area
2 that was identified, and there is a timing limitation on
3 that. So during the primary calving period there would be
4 no construction activities. And there is a lot of
5 limitations associated with that that I can go over. The
6 rest of the coastal plain is covered by 46 required
7 operating procedures that protects a wide variety of
8 things and have limitations for, like, aircraft use,
9 protection of grizzly and polar bear habitat areas,
10 hydrological regimes, a wide variety of things.

11 All of the alternatives are covered by those 46
12 required operating procedures. And the D alternatives,
13 they may be a little more restrictive, but they all have
14 those same protective measures that cover them.

15 Alternative C varies from Alternative B in that it
16 has a wider area of no surface occupancy on streams and on
17 the coast that goes from one mile to two miles. And this
18 area, the primary calving habitat area, is also covered by
19 no surface occupancy. So that means there would be no
20 development on the surface to protect this primary calving
21 habitat area. There could potentially be directional
22 drilling. With current technology, it might access about
23 halfway under, but nothing could be done on the surface in
24 this alternative.

25 The yellow area represents kind of the post calving

1 habitat area, and there would be timing limitations for
2 certain construction and access activities.

3 Under alternatives D, again, the no surface occupancy
4 for the streams in the coastal areas are wider. In some
5 cases they are as wide as four miles, like on the Hulahula
6 River.

7 This purple area down on the bottom, the primary
8 calving habitat area, would not be available for lease in
9 this area. That comes to about 520,000 acres. And then
10 the green, all of this green area again is no surface
11 occupy, so nothing could be done on the surface.

12 This blue area in the middle is a controlled surface
13 use stipulation. No central processing facility can be
14 constructed in this area in addition to these other
15 protections, and then under D2, the primary difference is
16 there is a summer timing limitation for access,
17 transportation on roads and stuff during the summer months
18 because it's recognized that the entire coastal plain is
19 Central Arctic and Porcupine caribou herd habitat.

20 Those -- did I miss anything, Chad? Does anyone have
21 any questions about the alternatives.

22 Yes.

23 MR. PATRICK HANSON: What was the yellow
24 area?

25 MS. NICOLE HAYES: The yellow areas

1 represent timing limitations, so --

2 MR. MACARTHUR TRITT: You said something
3 about diagonal drilling. Some of those on the calving
4 ground, they say no drilling, right?

5 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So in this area, it
6 would be -- you couldn't access the subsurface resources.
7 These would not be available for lease. But under
8 Alternative C, this area would be available for lease.
9 They just could not access anything on the surface. So
10 they would have to access subsurface if they wanted to
11 access the oil and gas resources. So it would have to be
12 directional drilling from outside of that region.

13 MR. MACARTHUR TRITT: That's what you are
14 saying.

15 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Correct.

16 MR. MACARTHUR TRITT: I think a lot of
17 this, our people -- I work up there in Prudhoe Bay, you
18 know, pipeline all my life, but the point I want to get to
19 is a lot of our tribe, some of them been up there, but a
20 lot of our tribe don't have no knowledge about what --
21 what you are saying about this diagonal drilling. Say
22 that you are right here and the oil is across the river,
23 right? And you drill down and you shoot over to that one,
24 right? That's the reason I'm trying to bring that word
25 up.

1 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Any other questions I
2 could answer?

3 Yes.

4 MR. JOHN ERICK: Are there polar bear dens
5 in that area?

6 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Yes, there is polar
7 bear denning, and a lot of these no surface occupancy
8 areas are in part to protect polar bear -- they are
9 protected for a variety of reasons, but that is one of the
10 protections that it would offer, any -- any activity post
11 leasing.

12 So what this Environmental Impact Statement is for is
13 to lease the area. Anything to do on the ground, so any
14 surface disturbing activity would require a permit and
15 subsequent analysis similar to what we are doing now. And
16 at that time any operator or anyone looking to develop
17 would have to comply with the Marine Mammal Protection Act
18 and ensure that their impact to polar bear are avoided or
19 mitigated or whatever is required by the U.S. Fish &
20 Wildlife Service.

21 MR. TIM THUMMA: My name is Tim Thumma.
22 And I've got a lot of familiarity with what takes place in
23 regards to onshore and offshore drilling up there. And I
24 see you got a lot of plans up there. In case one may not
25 be a good opportunity to do things safely, you could

1 always do backups. But in the process, I think finding a
2 backup, you are still at a high risk of endangering some
3 form of species.

4 If you want to do directional drilling and you can't
5 get on site because, as John Erick said, you could have
6 dens or something over there. It may take a while. You
7 are not going to move the animals in order to do this.
8 Maybe you're going to do directional drilling.

9 How are you going to be able to control any one of
10 these plans at any given time safely before you disrupt
11 what is naturally growing or living, you know? You've got
12 all kinds of plant life. You've got all kinds of species
13 of birds and land animals. How can any of these plans be
14 justified in use at the current time it really takes
15 place? You just back pedal and say, oh, geez, we made a
16 mistake. We already created a problem. How can we fix
17 that without doing another one? I mean, how are you going
18 to go through these here and decide which one you're going
19 to use?

20 MS. NICOLE HAYES: That's what we are
21 really looking for feedback on. Because the lease
22 stipulations and the required operating procedures that go
23 along with one of these alternatives -- and they could
24 still be revised. We are looking for input on that. That
25 will go with the lease itself. When there is a subsequent

1 activity that's proposed, that would have to be analyzed,
2 and site-specific conditions and monitoring and
3 requirements would be applied to that site-specific
4 project.

5 MR. TIM THUMMA: Yes. I understand site
6 specifics and deep concern because you can't change -- you
7 can't undo what's going to take place. And I understand
8 what you are here to do but, you know, there are so many
9 things that we are all subjected to. We are not going to
10 profit from any of the dollars that are taking place up
11 there and all these investments.

12 We still have Eskimo people that live up there, and
13 then you have Gwich'in down here. You may even have a
14 road because you do have one up there in Deadhorse. And
15 then you do have hunters. You have got some plans here.
16 But what's to stop the media, the pressure, politicians or
17 oil companies to go and hunt? How are you going to be
18 able to assess this after production starts taking place
19 in any form, if it does? Chances are it might. Chances
20 are any of our words will never be heard. So you write
21 them down. I'm fine with that right now.

22 But I understand politics in general, and it's a
23 vicious cycle. You can't dispute that because we have
24 seen it in history. So my question is, how can you really
25 safeguard anything? You can have six more plans after

1 this, but what's really going to hold back, you know, that
2 upset that's going to take? It's going to take place. We
3 know this. Man is so full of errors.

4 We have got trillions of dollars to spend in any
5 direction that we want in any lifetime. But the damage
6 will be done. How can you stop that no matter what plan
7 you got? Even though our input is regarded and -- and
8 eventually we as people have to suffer because of what
9 somebody else wants to do irregardless. You know what I'm
10 saying?

11 I don't think you got any real plans there that's
12 going to really work for any of us here on the land. We
13 can't compromise the dangers that are going to take place.
14 Cancer risks are high nationwide.

15 And as far as indigenous people go, when we live off
16 the land and we see a disruption in a life cycle within a
17 species, we will have that to attend because we have
18 migration of birds. And we hunt those birds. It's not
19 just the caribou. You know what I mean? Or maybe we have
20 a hybrid bear coming down and may be disrupted in the
21 brain department because of associated chemicals used or
22 in the air. I don't think any of these plans are a viable
23 means to say it's okay to drill. You know what I'm
24 saying? It's not [indiscernible], just the questions I
25 have.

1 MS. TONYA GARNETT: Is this part of the
2 public testimony?

3 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Yeah, it's being
4 recorded. So we could go right into public testimony, or
5 we could take a brief break if people want to ask
6 questions of individuals.

7 MR. PATRICK HANSON: We could take a brief
8 break.

9 MS. NICOLE HAYES: P.J. says we're going
10 to take a brief break. Five-minute break, and then we'll
11 start public testimony. So if people want to ask any of
12 us individuals questions, please feel free to come talk to
13 us.

14 (A break was taken.)

15 MR. PATRICK HANSON: All right, everybody.
16 We are going to get started with public comment testimony.
17 Don't be shy. Come up, introduce yourself, what your name
18 is, and say your comments.

19 MR. MACARTHUR TRITT: MacArthur Tritt,
20 council member, one of the council member, and I live here
21 in Venetie. And I'm originally from Arctic Village where
22 I traditionally grew up with my grandfather, Elijah Henry
23 and Mary Henry, my dad's parents. Tell you the truth, I
24 been brought up traditional way of life among my
25 grandfather and my grandmother.

1 And early I was talking to a couple of people about
2 the way I have been brought up. And back in time when I
3 grew up, there was no such thing as snowmachine, no power
4 tools, no chain saw. And mostly hand saws, swing saw and
5 dog team. And the way -- we hunt in the winter time with
6 dog team and hunt caribou. But in the summertime, the
7 dogs we used for dog pack, for harvesting our caribou and
8 bring them to the camp. We didn't live in Arctic Village
9 in the fall time. We live out there where the caribou
10 migrate.

11 And I was telling these people earlier that my
12 grandpa, Elijah Henry, he got a whole bunch of sticks the
13 size of a half-inch but tall, about three feet. And we
14 used to live up at Deadman Creek above Arctic Village.
15 And there is a long open meadow on the left side, way big
16 open meadow. And we would camp right there on the bank of
17 Chandalar River. And a grandson, in Indian they tell us
18 (speaking in Gwich'in). We talk Native language at the
19 time. We didn't speak English.

20 And he told me we are going to go -- I didn't know
21 what we were going to do. And he told me he got those
22 sticks about this tall [indicating] and from the tent up
23 on open big meadow. (Speaking in Gwich'in) in our
24 language. And he told me the tundra tussocks. He told me
25 kick it, and they would fall off. They are about that big

1 [indicating]. You probably know I'm talking about.

2 And he told me that you get these little tundra
3 tussocks, you put on the post. And from here to probably
4 longer this whole airport, way out there, way out there,
5 it goes a long way to the -- and I told him, how come we
6 are doing this? He say caribou, they will see it and they
7 will keep their distance from it, and they will just keep
8 going right to where we are living in the tent.

9 And that caribou, the bull caribou, we call them
10 hasaii. This is pretty small. When I grew up, these are
11 small. And my grandfather said, caribou will start coming
12 in. And the caribou are right here from the corner of the
13 house, right there, coming in, because the caribou, they
14 see that long string of posts with the tundra tussock on
15 there, and they keep their distance. And they keep their
16 distance right to the tent.

17 That's when my grandfather got 30, 40. 30, 40.
18 Shoot the caribou right there at the mouth of the tent.
19 We don't have to pack. Right there we just butcher it up.
20 And that's the way I grew up. My way of -- traditional
21 way of life.

22 You know, I was just talking to them. Nowadays our
23 way of life is changing lots, but we still -- I go 30
24 miles, 40 miles just to harvest caribou now, at Bob Lake,
25 halfway to Arctic. I'm still in good shape. I can do

1 that.

2 But the point I want to bring up at this meeting here
3 is that we strongly against development of the calving
4 ground. And I was talking earlier, and they explained to
5 me what a really sensitive area it is. We don't want no
6 disturbance during the calving grounds. And I just want
7 to put my point of view of how I grew up traditional way,
8 you know. So I just want to say that.

9 Thank you very much for listening. Thank you.

10 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Somebody want to come
11 up next? John?

12 MR. JOHN ERICK: Hello. Welcome to our
13 village, people from Outside. I'm John Erick. I'm from
14 Venetie. I grew up here, Fort Yukon. I think I have been
15 around this land most of my life. Venetie, Arctic, all
16 the way through on the border line.

17 I'm one of the council members. They asked me to
18 speak up on behalf of our people, on behalf of our caribou
19 and ANWR. Coastline drilling, we are not for it. We are
20 in a tight spot now that government shutdown. I don't
21 know. February 15th, after that, I don't know how long
22 the president will be shutting it down.

23 Our grandfather, our great grandfather told us that
24 hard time is coming. At that point I didn't know -- I
25 didn't understand what he was talking about. We are -- we

1 are in the hard time, hard life back then. Barely getting
2 by. We had to go out and get our own wildlife to feed our
3 family, feed us. By hard time he meant was final --

4 The high cost of groceries, high cost of gasoline,
5 high cost of snowmachine that -- that going up and up. I
6 asked how much a snowmachine cost in Fairbanks. 13,000.
7 Where are we going to get 13,000 to buy snowmachine?
8 There is no job. People are just hanging on around here.
9 Hard life. That's what it meant, high cost of life. We
10 can't afford it sometimes. We have to -- we have to do
11 little bit at a time, get a little meat. We have to pass
12 it around to elders, single parents.

13 A lot of people coming around saying we want to
14 drill. And it don't sound too good for us. We are not
15 going to benefit out of it. I know that for sure. Back
16 in the pipeline days, they say we are going to benefit.
17 You guys going to be number one on the job. None of us
18 working right now, nobody. Texas people have come up and
19 got the job. Us poor Indians, we are just barely hanging
20 on here. And people keep coming around, coming around
21 saying, we want to do this, we want to do that.

22 We are going to be here last. And we are going to
23 provide food for our grandchildren and our folks.

24 My grandfather, Isaac Erick his name is. He's the
25 one that really taught me how to speak Native way. He

1 told me about ANWR. He been there. And he didn't fly up
2 there. He walk up there. He walk around among the
3 Eskimos and trade with them. And that's when he told me
4 about the place where caribou have the young ones.

5 As I was growing up, I pick up words pretty fast, but
6 I didn't know where this English come around in my town.
7 Don't know how in the heck it got there, but it's there.
8 That's how I'm speaking. I grew up the Native way. My
9 first language was Athabascan Indian language.

10 And white man came up to -- excuse me, but they came
11 up to me and asked me questions. I was just standing
12 there like a stump, don't know what he say. To this day I
13 never knew -- I never knew what he said.

14 We live on this country and we are going to be living
15 here the rest of the life, our life. We are going to
16 start -- we are going to be feeding our people caribou,
17 moose and birds, geese that lay eggs up there. Come from
18 where the ducks have rest to go up north.

19 Back when I was about five, six, seven years old, you
20 can even hear people talking, so much noise with geese
21 there. Now I go there, I got tears in my eyes. Barely
22 see geese. We are losing. We are losing ducks, caribou,
23 and less and less. Moose is getting less. Fish is pretty
24 scary.

25 And will you please take this word back to wherever

1 you guys are come from, explain to them that we are -- we
2 don't want no drilling. We want it left the way we are
3 yet for next 100 years.

4 As a reservation people we got -- like I said a few
5 minutes ago, we are not going to benefit out of it.
6 Listen to the people that want to drill even though they
7 are still going to do it.

8 Back when my grandfather told me, my grandmother,
9 don't let the people walk over you. So that's why I'm
10 here. I'm standing on my two foot speaking on behalf of
11 my people. I went down to Washington, D.C. and I talked
12 to the people down there, too, and I speak in my language
13 then. But I had it translated over to English. So
14 (speaking in Gwich'in).

15 I say we are having a hard time. We are going to see
16 more hard time. The people that come around that ask
17 questions, they give us piece of paper, and I see black
18 line that I don't understand. But if it comes to my land
19 and my caribou, my moose and geese, I'll speak behalf of
20 it.

21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Anyone want to go
23 next?

24 MR. BENJAMIN PETER: My name is Benjamin
25 Peter. I have been around for 64 years now. And I live

1 off the land. I just want to say one thing about this.
2 Our people have been living here for many years, depend on
3 the caribou. And even they are starving they won't go
4 there because they know they are having young ones there.
5 And now you guys want to go drill there and disturb it.
6 And a lot of people depending oil and caribou and all
7 that.

8 That's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

9 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Somebody want to go
10 next? Tim?

11 MR. TIM THUMMA: Okay. My name is Tim
12 Thumma, and you know, most of us been raised by our elders
13 one way or the other and just encouraged with great ideas,
14 self-sufficiency and/or providing for not only our family,
15 but other families. I think one of the biggest lessons
16 that each one of us have learned is that when an elder
17 spoke to you, you had to listen. The elder also taught
18 you the means to walk, how to walk, how to listen and how
19 to just have respect.

20 So we are taught that the land provides, and in that,
21 wherever you go, they can take care of the land. This is
22 what we -- this is before you even go out to hunt, before
23 you go out, just to be respectful of the land. And it
24 didn't involve any money.

25 So I don't see where the money is going to even help

1 us. And we in fact, are not even encouraged by the
2 thought of receiving any kind of money. That's not our
3 goal here. I think our goal is just to help you guys
4 identify who we are as a people.

5 Here is another thought that I was kicking around
6 over here. If these elders that you see on any of these
7 portraits were here and the numbers that -- I was raised
8 by great men. They are not here. And I'm sorry to say
9 that because there are just so great. They would be
10 appalled at what's taking place. And you would hear great
11 anger. You would hear kindness, and if you went to their
12 home, you would be welcome. But on the subject of
13 traditional issues, it would be intolerable, you know.
14 This meeting wouldn't even have taken place.

15 Now we have a new generation of people here that have
16 been subjected to means of money and the ideas of
17 something greater down the road but we know it's
18 short-lived, you know. Money is not the means to our
19 happiness. It's a lifestyle here that you would have to
20 try to learn to adjust and maybe walk the trails that we
21 do or breathe the air that we do or, in fact, regret the
22 fact that you see a big damn plane flying in the air with
23 contrails. That's not just one. That's many of them.

24 And now we have -- we have this need to develop. And
25 many times we try to wonder why are we going to develop

1 that oil because the price that we pay for it, nine bucks
2 a gallon for gasoline, we have to be successful to go get
3 meat. And we are not assured of that, you know. But we
4 don't have money to pay that. We don't see the benefits.

5 Dog teams -- there is no fish really in the river for
6 us to sponsor a dog team. It just doesn't work. It's
7 just too much effort. We have got people here that still
8 fight with a dog team to make it work in the winter. And
9 the amount of fish required -- and we don't know what's
10 happening. We have heard excuses that it's just ravaging
11 nets, these big trawlers and they are scooping up
12 everything. And then on the flip side we see problems
13 with our moose. We do see some problem with caribou and
14 which one associated what happening.

15 And like Mac said and John Erick said, the hard times
16 were coming. These were predicted by our elders. All of
17 these guys that you see in these pictures carry the weight
18 that we feel today. It's not a justifiable happening
19 that's going to take place. I'm sorry.

20 I didn't mean to target you at all in plan A, B, C or
21 D, but I'm just trying to find out a balance to where how
22 the Gwich'in live with development of oil when there is
23 really no profit or gains for a lifestyle that really
24 lives it, you know. We have special interests here and
25 you are all welcome here to share and understand who we

1 are.

2 We are trying to encourage or discourage the fact
3 that oil is not going to serve a purpose, you know, for
4 animals and the inhabitants of the land that are closely
5 related to this drilling. And it's a shame that we have
6 politicians far and wide. We probably have, as a nation,
7 outside interests other than the United States that want
8 to see this developed. Maybe it's England. I really
9 don't know. But no one lives like we do.

10 You can't challenge us that we have been here for
11 1,000 years. You don't dare do that. That's not in
12 question. What's in question is that we have been here
13 long enough, and then how long are we going to be here.
14 That is the truth. How long are we going to be here? We
15 can't afford what you guys in the city have. You make big
16 salaries. You've got retirement pensions. You are
17 safeguarded.

18 We are only safeguarded by what we can feed our
19 families from. But if it's ruined in any way, if there is
20 a disease, if there is something inside the marrow, if the
21 hair is slipping off or the animal is not fat, you know,
22 we kind of question can we even eat the head, you know.

23 So I think -- I think, you know, if I don't speak
24 now -- and I know this may just shoot off like a wild
25 branch, a wild branch, nothing good, at least I had an

1 opportunity to say something, and I hope it carries some
2 kind of weight.

3 I'll tell you what: The times that we hear caribou
4 coming from Big Rock up the east fork, there is a few of
5 us have the means to go up there and sustain ourselves and
6 hope that maybe we can shoot some caribou meat. So we go
7 on up there and we sit on that bench on the left. Mac
8 knows what I'm talking about. Most of us, we know that.

9 We will sit there and wait for days for caribou to
10 come through. And if we do see it, we'll be able to pick
11 what we want. We don't waste that meat. But we know in
12 our heart we're happy at that time. We do shoot meat.
13 There is some there that do a dance. That's the joy that
14 we have in our heart.

15 So we come back and maybe we took five; maybe we took
16 seven; but whatever amount of caribou, we feed other
17 people, and it's -- no one is getting sick. There is
18 nothing at this current time that's proven otherwise.
19 That's not to say it's not going to happen. We can't
20 afford anything at the store, and most people here are
21 meat eaters. It's not like we are so used to diverse
22 vegetables and fruits and stuff like that.

23 When you hear my wife speak or the people from Arctic
24 Village speak, caribou is a way of life. There is not
25 that much moose. You know there is a lot of grizzly bear.

1 Try eating a grizzly bear. It's not that great. So what
2 do we have? We have caribou.

3 And that is the big focus of this drilling program is
4 how it's going to disturb it and the babies thereafter,
5 you know. You've got an ecosystem that is so finely
6 balanced and in tune with itself, and you throw it into a
7 spin. How can it recover? It can't recover. You can
8 spend hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up your
9 mess, but you don't know just in that concentrated area
10 what's the downfall thereafter. Man makes mistakes. Man
11 makes a lot of mistakes, and it's horrible.

12 And who is going to pay for it? Our kids? Our
13 grandkids? They are going to be subjected to a treatment
14 there that was indirect and so far away. But it happens
15 today, and it's going to happen if this gets allowed, you
16 know.

17 I'm not trying strike a hard core. I'm not trying to
18 ease your mind. I'm just trying to tell you a story of
19 who we are. And the kids. My wife brought up our
20 grandkid. Love her to death. Can you envision her having
21 cancer because of something up there on the north end that
22 some politician said with this money that we have enough
23 studies right now to prove that we can safeguard the
24 ecosystem and your way of life. I don't think so. They
25 can't. It can't be a reality.

1 You know, you guys have got your kids stationed in
2 Anchorage and Fairbanks and out of state, and you have
3 patrol officers and you've got military. We really don't
4 have an immediate means for safeguarding ourselves except
5 for our voice and our own concern. So if there is
6 something that means anything to anybody, it is what we
7 are, who we are because of what we eat. We are strong.
8 We are happy.

9 We are able to take that fall time caribou skin and
10 make a sleeping mat, far better than what you can find at
11 some outfitter store because it's warm. It's hollow hair.
12 Or we can sew it and caribou leg skin boots. There's so
13 much to a caribou that it's just awesome. But why take a
14 chance of ruining that? Why? How can you say you have
15 got these protocols that can work? Drilling machines and
16 the contractors are going to do everything that's set in
17 stone. You will have road construction crews. You will
18 have flare tips burning off gases.

19 You know, it's not just spills. It's the whole
20 by-product of drilling. It's a big process. The animals
21 are directly related to it, and so are we.

22 So I don't know, without repeating myself, so many
23 times -- hopefully I haven't done it yet. My head is kind
24 of swimming trying to project what I want to say, but I
25 know what I see and I know what I feel. When these elders

1 say there is going to be hard times down the road, we were
2 trying to muster up an idea of [indiscernible] what they
3 were talking about.

4 I think we see it. I think we see it today. You
5 know, we get by. Take a look around Venetie. Just walk
6 around. You would be welcome to stop at anybody's house.
7 We don't have the best of anything, but we have a good
8 heart. And we have got a healthy lifestyle. That in
9 itself moves us forward. We can help each other out. But
10 you can't do that if an animal, just one animal, one
11 animal species that is directly affected.

12 Don't you guys understand? I mean, really, don't you
13 understand that the money is not the means to good end?
14 It's not. You can't safeguard something that's toxic.
15 Got to be something else with it.

16 You know, it's a hand-in-hand affair with oil. You
17 can't eat it. You know, you can't add it to any soup, you
18 know. Then it flares off and fallout comes down on the
19 ecosystem and the caribou eat that. Well, we eat the
20 caribou. It's amazing. It's amazing what, as the general
21 public and a nation what we are able to lie to about. We
22 can't live this way. None of us can live this way.

23 Try living with us for six months, see what we are
24 talking about. If you think you can endure six months
25 with us, I'm certain you're going to see how we feel, how

1 we live, and the real integrity of the Gwich'in Nation.

2 So with this, I will shut down. I will close this.
3 But I kind of implore you guys to just strongly consider
4 of not drilling. It's not needed.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Tim.
7 Somebody want to go next? Bobby.

8 MR. BOBBY TRITT: My name is Bobby Tritt.
9 I'm a council member, Venetie Village Council. I hear a
10 lot of good words coming from our people there in Arctic
11 Village. And it's true. The calving ground is the only
12 place where those young ones survive. They've got this
13 little plant growing up there. For about two weeks they
14 eat on that plant to keep up with their mom. The mom is
15 always on survival. Wolf is chasing it. Bears are
16 chasing it. And we come along and we grab our share, you
17 know. And it's really important that they don't drill up
18 there.

19 I read a book there one time about calves, and it's
20 the only place where those plants grow and they eat that
21 for two weeks to keep up with their mom. And if they
22 don't, they fall to wolves, bears.

23 Maybe out of the whole Venetie area, maybe about five
24 people, that's all I know that work up north. My brother
25 is retired from union, but he earned it. He worked all

1 his life. But many times I turned down North Slope job
2 myself, four or five times. To me, oil is not really
3 important, but we all do need oil. But animals need to
4 survive, too. Caribou, they need to survive.

5 And for the 20 years or so I have been reading about
6 1002, Arctic National Wildlife coastal plain, about 20
7 years, and from the time I start reading about it to now,
8 it sounds like there is only, like, six months' worth of
9 oil. That's it. After that, this whole country will burn
10 it up in six months. And we are also going to go after
11 that.

12 So I'm just happy you guys are all here and we are
13 talking about it. All of my people's future, especially
14 the young ones, in our hands right now with the caribou.
15 So it's really important that we protect this caribou, you
16 know. So anyway, I got a lot more to say, but maybe some
17 day before the final EIS come out.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Anybody? Does
20 somebody want to go next? Now is the time to speak.
21 Dennis.

22 MR. DENNIS ERICK: Welcome, visitors. My
23 name is Dennis Erick. I'm a former chief. And my dad is
24 John Erick, Sr. And my mom is Maggie Roberts. Maiden
25 name is Roberts. That's my grandfather, Old Man Roberts.

1 His real name is Jimmy Roberts, but they call him Old Man
2 Roberts.

3 And that's all my grandpa there, Jimmy Roberts. They
4 are all sharing. They are all sharing caribou, caribou
5 meat that they got. And they are so happy. They are
6 sharing with other people. They even share with people
7 that they don't know because of caribou meat.

8 And I'm originally from here, but I grew up in the
9 surrounding villages, Fort Yukon, Arctic, and other
10 sounding villages.

11 I really oppose caribou because we need the money.
12 People do need money. People do need jobs, but still, a
13 job is not being created for us. A lot of our people are
14 not knowledgeable. We live the Gwich'in way of life.
15 Also me, I'm living the Gwich'in way of life. I survive
16 off the caribou. If I had no food in my freezer, what am
17 I going to do? There is no grocery store. There is no
18 big grocery store that we can buy food from. We have to
19 get food from Fairbanks.

20 And our economy is going up. Our food is being
21 destroyed. To me it's going to be destroyed. It will be
22 destroyed. But still we are survivors. We all are. We
23 are Alaskan people. We survive many, many years. Nobody
24 told us what to do. We already know how to do it. But
25 the technology that nowadays they got, we can't keep up

1 with it. It's hard for our minds to live in two worlds.

2 And my world is Gwich'in and caribou and moose,
3 ducks, geese. And I asked my grandmother at one time, I
4 asked them -- my grandma, where did all the caribou come
5 from. And she told me, grandson, the caribou came from
6 where we want it to come from. And that's where you guys
7 are trying to go.

8 And nowadays the technology that you guys got, you
9 know, you guys are just destroying -- destroying the land.
10 We got North Slope. North Slope, they said they were
11 going to give us jobs, like what like Mac said; only very
12 few of us get it.

13 And I'm really happy for the speech that the elders
14 made and the people and the leaders to oppose this as far
15 as we can go. That's our only barometer. That's the only
16 thing we got in our minds is to protect what we got. You
17 guys are not here to protect what we got. Maybe
18 environmental, you know, they probably protect a little
19 bit, but they can be override. They are not trying as
20 hard as they could.

21 We have to stick together to do this. We can't -- we
22 can't fall apart. If we fall apart, then we don't care.
23 Money is -- it comes and goes. Right now I got no money.
24 I can't go around to the store and buy soda because I
25 ain't got no money. What can I do? What can other people

1 do? How are we going to do this?

2 The president signed a bill already, but what are we
3 going to get out of it? A table with no food? Are we
4 going to dissolve it? Are we going to forget about it?
5 No, we can't.

6 We have to keep fighting. We appreciate all you
7 people coming here and telling us this and that, and I
8 know it's for you guys all good, the way the money is put
9 into your pockets, you know; but the money is not coming
10 into my pocket. Why deal with those kind of stuff, you
11 know? But my belly is full because I just ate some
12 caribou meat. I'm happy. I'm healthy.

13 The calving grounds is -- that's for little ones to
14 grow up. Just like these little children running around,
15 that's their food. That's going to be their food.

16 It's pretty hard to speak, especially when you are --
17 when you are here from the Bush, especially you are out
18 there in the woods. You got your own mind out there in
19 the woods. You got your clear mind how to survive. And
20 there is nobody disturbing you. When I'm out hunting, if
21 somebody disturbs me, I won't be able to hunt that good.
22 And I wouldn't be able to provide for my family and other
23 families and other villages which we support.

24 Our relatives that are staying in Fairbanks, our
25 relatives staying wherever they are at, they pray for me

1 because we are meat eaters. We are not -- no working
2 [indiscernible] technology, but we are still living in the
3 third world. And nowadays technology that's coming up, we
4 don't even know nothing about it. Like people got their
5 Facebook, they got their iPad, they got email, they got
6 Facebook, all that. Even on the other side of the world
7 they know what's going on around here. You know, they
8 never did before, so we never got disturbed. And now we
9 are being disturbed because of our food.

10 And I'd like to see my people speak up more in this
11 paper they sent us or showing to us. A lot of -- a lot of
12 stuff are written in little words where we don't even see
13 the words. We don't even know what the words mean because
14 they are so small.

15 But I'm still fighting. We will still be fighting.
16 Maybe one of these days I'll be a chief again and I'll
17 still be fighting. I'll still be representing my people.
18 I'm not afraid to speak out. A little nervous at first
19 but, you know, once I start getting into it, it's just
20 like playing a game here for me. Are we playing games or
21 are we talking lies or --

22 But if it ever happens, which I feel in my mind it's
23 going to happen one way or another -- but what are we
24 going to get out of it? What are we going to get out of
25 it? Anybody got the answer for that? What does the

1 Gwich'in people going to get out of it? Because they are
2 taking food off our table and our kids' table and their
3 kids and so on and so on.

4 You guys would be coming like -- like the stars. You
5 know, the stars in the sky, that's how much people is in
6 this world. But the stars are still more. And you people
7 from the Department of Interior and the BLM and the State
8 Secretary, you know, what are they going to do for me?
9 That's the way I look at it. Thank you.

10 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Dennis.
11 Does somebody want to go next? I know you youth got
12 something to say, too. Now is your chance.

13 MR. KYLE ALEXANDER: Hello. I'm Kyle
14 Alexander. And I'm going to talk about the -- speak on
15 behalf of the kids here in Venetie and Arctic Village.
16 And we eat the caribou. We use the caribou. We use that
17 as a drum and the antlers, make bead work. And the skin,
18 we can make bed out of that.

19 And that's all I've got to say.

20 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Kyle.
21 Anybody want to go next? Eddie.

22 MR. EDWARD FRANK: Hello. My name is
23 Edward Frank. I don't know how to start, but what I want
24 to say is that I'm really, really, really disappointed in
25 what's going on, but I know things are going to move

1 forward even, so it's -- to me, to hurt the caribou is --
2 is not a good thing. And I know that's going to happen.
3 I know it. The caribou -- the caribou, I like to say, it
4 belong to us, but at least we share it with everybody.

5 And the thing that I really wanted to say was that we
6 have future generations coming. Future generations
7 coming, what are we going to leave them? I mean, we go to
8 ANWR, we take all the oil out of it, and then what? I
9 mean, are we going to leave nothing for our future
10 generations? That's -- I think that's a bad thing.
11 That's just my thoughts, I guess.

12 But like I said, my people, we -- we depend on it.
13 And you look at all the waterfowl and the animals that
14 live up in the coastal plain, the impact on them is going
15 to be bad, I think.

16 But I just wanted to say, you know, I -- I worry
17 about our future generations, and that's -- not only our
18 generation, but your generation. It's going to -- it's
19 something going to happen, not going to be good.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Eddie.
22 Would somebody else like to come up, share your thoughts
23 and concerns? Gary? You know, you got something to say
24 and you don't want to come up here, on break you can come
25 over and just talk to them one on one, and they'll record

1 it. But I do encourage you to come up and say something.

2 MS. KIMBERLY HUNT: Is it for citizens and
3 tribal members only?

4 MR. PATRICK HANSON: It's for anybody that
5 has a thought on drilling.

6 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Our traditional
7 chief, Abraham Henry.

8 CHIEF ABRAHAM HENRY: My name is Abraham
9 Henry. I'm 83 years old. What I worry about, you know,
10 the kids going forward. Venetie, good village to live
11 here in Venetie. You see on the wall the pictures of my
12 grandfather, my uncle right here. They work together. I
13 remember they worked together. They worked together.
14 They got sheep. They got caribou. They got good sheep.
15 The council, thank you very much. You are doing a good
16 job. [indiscernible] good life, no alcohol. Thank you
17 very much. This is the land we have got.

18 You know, our children finish their education.
19 Education is number one today. You got to finish your
20 high school and go to college because me [indiscernible],
21 World War II was going on, no school, just no airplane,
22 nothing. We traveled [indiscernible] all summer we never
23 go to -- [indiscernible] after the war, I remember when I
24 was a kid.

25 Today, education. You kids finish your school,

1 please. High school, finish it and go to college.
2 [indiscernible] no school, no teacher, nothing, nothing.
3 The call from military, a tough time, you know. Lucky I
4 [indiscernible]. Now today you got a good school up
5 there. Over there is a good school. It's got everything.

6 The caribou, they come down a couple days ago. One
7 caribou walk out there. He go through. Don't shoot, I
8 told them. That's a leader. He go by.

9 I'm glad you guys come here. Appreciate to see you.
10 I've lived in Venetie all my life. I lived in Chalkyitsik
11 for five years. Nice country up there. I got a house up
12 there. [indiscernible] I like my people there in Venetie,
13 you know. Thank you very much, village council.
14 Everybody, thank you. [Indiscernible] Thank you very
15 much. That's all I'm going to say.

16 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Abraham.
17 It's after 12:00. Let's take a break, and we will
18 continue testimony after we get something to eat. Is that
19 okay with everybody? We will have a 20-minute break.

20 (Mr. MacArthur Tritt blesses the food.)

21 (A break was taken.)

22 MR. PATRICK HANSON: All right, everybody.

23 MS. MIRANDA TODOROV: Hello, everybody.
24 My name is Miranda Todorov. And that is T-O-D-O-R-O-V. I
25 am enrolled member of the Native Village of Venetie Tribal

1 Government. I was raised in Venetie, but a big chunk of
2 my life was spent in the city. But I was raised with my
3 great grandmother and my grandmother. I have lot of
4 traditional values that are still within me.

5 You know, I have this memory of when I was younger.
6 I was probably about six, maybe seven years old, and we
7 were getting ready for a big gathering. And I didn't know
8 why we were having the gathering, but it was big because I
9 had cousins coming from Gwich'in yaa, which is Fort Yukon,
10 and I had some family come in from Arctic Village and as
11 far as Chalkyitsik.

12 And my grandma was telling me what had happened when
13 the pipeline first went up. And she had told me stories
14 that -- it did scare me. She said that it was very
15 difficult to go hunting that first fall. And she was
16 telling me about my uncles, how they had struggled to
17 provide for the family. And at the end she said, thank
18 God they never drilled in ANWR. Thank God they left that
19 land untouched because that's where they have their
20 babies. That's where they get strong enough to, you know,
21 get bigger and to cross the river and then to somewhere
22 down the line feed us.

23 You know, I -- like I said before, I spent a lot of
24 years, 26 years, out of this village, and I learned a lot.
25 I came back in September of '18. And right now I have --

1 I have four children that live with me. They are not my
2 biological children, but I do care for them. And caribou
3 and moose meat and fish, that's how I feed my babies.

4 And I read that EIS, and it makes me sick. I'll be
5 honest with you. It makes me sick, particularly the part
6 where they talk about Katie John's law. This is how we
7 live. This is our lives. And it terrifies me, you know,
8 to think that in the years to come, this is going to -- it
9 may happen, and there is no reversing. There is no rewind
10 in this world.

11 I know why you guys want to do it, because it's
12 money. Money makes the world go around. Well, you know
13 what? Our people have gone without money for a long time
14 and will continue to go to pull forward.

15 I'd rather live this life for 100 years than to have
16 all the riches in the world because we are -- we are
17 richer in many ways, you know.

18 When I got back -- or before I left Anchorage, I got
19 a full blood panel. I got my weight checked. I was a
20 type I diabetic on metformin, 500 milligrams of metformin,
21 very high dosage of antidepressants, blood pressure
22 medications. And I was -- yeah, I'm brave to say this. I
23 was a whopping 350 pounds.

24 I just had my blood checked not too long ago and went
25 over it with the PA here at the hospital, and I'm down to

1 312 pounds. That's a lot of weight to lose in the
2 wintertime. I no longer need metformin. I am way far --
3 I'm farthest from the prediabetic line. I don't take
4 antidepressants anymore. I don't take blood pressure
5 medication anymore. My life here in the past five months
6 has changed drastically than the 26 years I had been
7 living in the city.

8 I hope that this summer I get to go hunting so I can
9 feed my kids. I look forward to fishing. And the thought
10 keeps coming into play, when you guys start drilling,
11 what's going to happen to us because you guys don't live
12 here. I mean that with all the respect, but you don't
13 live here. You don't know what it's like for us here. I
14 hope that you guys take that into consideration.

15 I know that our country is in need of money, but it's
16 going to run out at some point, and then what are you
17 going to do then? All our land is going to be destroyed.
18 Our ecosystem is going to be messed up.

19 But I thank you for coming and listening to us.
20 That's all I've got.

21 MR. AVERY PETER: My name is Avery Peter.
22 I speak for my people. I'm proud to be a Gwich'in. God
23 gave me the Native way of life. I eat my -- I eat my
24 first caribou. I love it. Please don't drill on the
25 calving grounds.

1 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you for reading
2 that. Somebody else want to come up? Carson.

3 MR. CARSON CLEVELAND: Hello. My name is
4 Carson, and our grandparents chose Arctic Village and
5 Venetie to make our village our homes because of our
6 caribou, moose and fish that make -- that are plentiful
7 here. Our people depend on caribou to feed ourselves.

8 Nobody else knows what will happen in the future for
9 our children and grandchildren. If the government opens
10 the 1002 area to gas and oil development, that is going to
11 bring the birth grounds to our caribou -- our whole way of
12 life might change. So we need to protect and keep our
13 birthing -- the birth grounds sacred. Our way of life
14 depends on it. Thank you.

15 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Somebody want to come
16 up next? Laticia.

17 MS. LATICIA WHITWELL: My name is Laticia
18 Whitwell. And we depend on the caribou meat like our
19 ancestors. Please do not do any drilling because it is
20 our food and our way of life. If you choose to drill, it
21 will destroy the line. Whatever our future is, what will
22 happen to us? Please don't drill and scare caribou off,
23 or they won't come back for a very long time.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. BLISS SIMPLE: My name is Bliss

1 Simple. I like the animals here. I don't like it when
2 they drill and when they kind of hurt the animals, and I
3 don't like them to drill.

4 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you.

5 MR. GARY SIMPLE, JR.: Hi. My name is
6 Gary Simple, Jr. I'm from Venetie, lived here all my
7 life. And I think my daughter said something pretty good,
8 too, because people keep coming back to protect the
9 caribou, protect the caribou, but there is a lot more
10 animals than just caribou up there, a whole lot more
11 animals.

12 And when I left here and went to school in Healy when
13 I was a teenager, I knew that one day they are probably
14 going to drill. I knew it. So did everyone else except
15 for people that lived around here that [indiscernible],
16 and I understand that. But if they do drill, I just ask
17 to add something else to these regulations that these
18 drilling companies have up there. Add something to it.
19 Add something for the caribou. Add something for the
20 endangered animal wildlife up there. Just add something
21 else, as well.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Anyone want to go
24 next?

25 MS. NINA JOHN: Hi. My name is Nina John,

1 and I'm from Arctic Village. I have four kids that love
2 caribou. We eat it every day when I'm home. And all my
3 kids call it candy when they bring it in. They are like,
4 mmm, candy. And my oldest son, he's 12. Two years ago he
5 was ten, and he shot his first caribou. And it was the
6 biggest day of his life. He was so happy.

7 And if you guys drill, other kids won't have the time
8 to experience that like he did. And it would be really
9 heartbreaking.

10 And we all look forward to camping every fall up
11 there. And when we wake up in the mornings, there is
12 caribou right there, 20, 100 feet away from us. And all
13 the kids, everybody in the camp are so happy when they see
14 it because it's so beautiful to see. And I'm pretty sure
15 you guys never experienced that.

16 We don't want to change none of this. None of us do.
17 We all love our land and our caribou, our animals, our
18 birds. We love -- we love it. It's our life. It's our
19 way of life. We all love our land, our caribou,
20 everything. We as a people speak and stand as one. We
21 want you to understand that.

22 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Nina.
23 Anybody else want to go?

24 MS. CHERISE TACKETT-MOORE: Hi. I'm
25 Cherise Tackett-Moore. I'm from Venetie. And I'd like to

1 talk about our caribou. And I like eating caribou. And
2 if they put the oil up, then we won't have no meat to
3 support our families and stuff.

4 And that's where the caribou has their babies, where
5 we have to something to eat. And if they put the oil up,
6 then there won't be nothing to eat. All the animals will
7 probably go different directions. They might die from
8 eating the oil, all the animals. And I think the oil
9 drilling would be a bad idea.

10 That's all I've got to say.

11 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Cherise.
12 Anyone else that wants to come up and say something?
13 There is a sign-in sheet right back there on the table if
14 you haven't signed in yet. She's waving her hand back
15 there.

16 MR. HAROLD ERICK: My name is Harold
17 Erick. I live here in the village. And drilling for oil
18 on the coast would really hurt our caribou. And it will
19 really hurt our caribou because my grandma told me way
20 back when I was staying with her. She said that if you
21 hurt the caribou where it migrates, it will never go back
22 to that place again if you bother that birthing place.
23 And I listened to her, and I asked her why. And she said,
24 because they are the calving grounds. They shy away from
25 people, and they wouldn't come back to that place.

1 Caribou is most everybody's table -- it goes on
2 everybody's table. And we live with -- we live on that
3 meat, caribou, moose. And all that other animals we
4 trap -- links, wolf, wolverine -- they all go in that same
5 place, especially birds. Our geese fly over and they stay
6 up there in the calving grounds. That's where they breed
7 and have little ones. And I don't want anybody there.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you. Anybody
10 else want to come up?

11 MR. DENNIS ERICK: I can speak more. My
12 name is Dennis Erick. I was going to talk about the
13 caribou and how the little ones are born up there. You
14 know, I'm -- up there in the coastal plains, they -- they
15 are there. They go up there and they have a route from
16 Canada, all the way from Canada and all the way to the
17 coastal plains through our area, the Porcupine caribou
18 herd.

19 And along the way, you guys know and everybody knows
20 that there is predators out there. There is wolves,
21 bears, like my brother said, you know. There is a lot of
22 predators out there that feed on that same thing that we
23 are feeding on.

24 And what would happen if -- if those predators have
25 no -- nothing to eat, there is no caribou? Which way are

1 they going to turn, too, you know, the animals up there,
2 the predators? Would they turn to people? Would they
3 start eating us? If they are hungry, if they are
4 predators, they will attack.

5 And right now as we live around here, we trap, we see
6 wolves, we see predators out there, but they don't bother
7 us because they are feeding on the caribou out there.
8 They got their own meal. They got their own table out
9 there. And I was just wondering what's going to happen,
10 you know, because the way I look at it, the first drilling
11 they did was up in North Slope.

12 And now they have global warming. We never had
13 global warming before in our life. We didn't even know
14 those kind of stuff existed. And even the polar bears are
15 going inland, and we all see it. You know, what are we
16 going to do about predators if -- if this do happen
17 because the predators, they feed on the game that's out
18 there. If it's not plentiful, they'll probably turn the
19 other way. And that's my concern.

20 And you know, the only way we could control predators
21 is if we trap them, snare them. You know, predator
22 control. I mean, we don't have those kind of stuff.

23 We do trap them, though, and we do use the money to
24 feed our families, to buy stuff at the store.

25 You know, there is not very much trappers left. Furs

1 are going down, and gas is going up. Back in the day when
2 the North Slope start, they told us, hey, we are going to
3 have free gas, free oil. Where is it now, you know?

4 Thank you.

5 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Dennis.
6 Anybody else want to say something?

7 MS. KIMBERLY HUNT: My name is Kimberly
8 Hunt, and I'm a high school teacher in Venetie. This is
9 my fourth winter in Alaska and my first in Venetie. So
10 I'm by no means a Native, but I feel compelled to come up
11 and say just a little bit.

12 My first winter I taught in Barrow, and they showed
13 me a cliff looking out over the Beaufort Sea, and they
14 said, we used to be able to park four pickup trucks end to
15 end to end and it would slope gradually into the sea. And
16 four years ago, there was room for two.

17 Before I came up, I was in touch with the Chief Mike
18 Williams down in the Yup'ik area, and there were pictures
19 of him in various newspapers looking at a village that had
20 eroded into the sea and would need to be rebuilt. There
21 is another village called Shishmaref off of the coast of
22 the Bering Strait in the Bering Strait School District.
23 It will need to be rebuilt because of the erosion and the
24 rising temperatures.

25 Another anecdote I have to share is there was a herd

1 of seals that didn't have any ice and came aground just
2 west of Barrow. I forget the name of the town. And so
3 they had 1,000 seals looking for ice.

4 So the planet is warming. Our climates are changing.
5 The herds are moving. And it all affects us. I think
6 that's one reason that we should leave the ANWR and the
7 surrounding areas untouched and pristine.

8 Also, south of the ANWR and south of where we are,
9 there's an area called the Peel watershed. And it's
10 supposed to be ground zero for climate change because the
11 origins of so many species and life -- members of the
12 chains of life and members of the food chain can be found
13 there. And if that is damaged in any way, it's
14 irreplaceable. It won't come back.

15 So I can vouch for what Miranda is saying and what
16 Tim said before them. There are no second chances. If we
17 damage these -- damage these resources or scare the
18 caribou or affect their food chain, it's going to be a
19 long, long time before they come back. And it's going to
20 affect these people.

21 Off of the scientific and onto the personal, I'm a
22 Native of the Great Lakes area. My great grandfather grew
23 up in the Chicago area. My father was raised in the
24 Detroit area, and I was born west of Cleveland. And I am
25 proud to say that my favorite noise in the entire world is

1 listening to the wind in a raven's wings as it flies over.
2 And I think that all of you should be lucky -- all of you
3 who are visiting should be lucky enough to hear that. And
4 I think what that will require is leaving this area
5 pristine.

6 As far as the people go, I've watched people -- I've
7 watched children return to the village for various reasons
8 from the different schools, and I've watched them start
9 flourishing over the past year as they reconnect with
10 their heritage and their stories and their history and
11 their wildlife. It's priceless to watch these kids
12 flourish.

13 I've heard one guy say, I'm a B student. And I
14 explained to somebody else -- to somebody else something
15 in decimals. He said, that's all there is to it? I mean,
16 they come here because they can connect with people. They
17 can be honored. They can be heard. And they can grow.
18 And I hate to see that taken away.

19 An anecdote just to add some color, some of the
20 tables, if you walked in here two or three months ago, you
21 would have seen a huge, huge animal head and a caribou
22 that's probably as big as a small car being harvested and
23 people coming in and bringing their own containers and
24 their own bags and being fed.

25 And people sawed into the caribou with what must have

1 been a 50-year-old saw and honoring their ways and
2 honoring their traditions and not bragging about it.

3 I walked in and I don't know who shot the caribou
4 because they don't brag. I walked around the school, and
5 I see take only what you need. Honor our way of life.

6 And what you might be experiencing here today is
7 hospitality. People welcomed you. They honored you.
8 They told you about their way very pleasantly and very
9 politely, but that doesn't make it any less imperative or
10 any less valuable. We really need to leave this area
11 untouched and pristine.

12 One of my favorite things to tell my students is that
13 the people in the Lower 48 just might be finally catching
14 up with them. The people here have practiced direct
15 representation and hearing each other and being in touch
16 with the land and part of the life cycle for 500, if not a
17 1,000 years. And I think that people in the Lower 48 are
18 finally catching up with that, with technology and with
19 the new representatives that we have sent to government.
20 They are finally coming full circle, and I hope that these
21 students and this people will become the leaders and that
22 this land will be protected so that we can show people
23 what our nation really could be.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you. Somebody

1 else wants to come up? Eddie.

2 MR. STEVE WACKOWSKI: What's the name of
3 the watershed?

4 MS. KIMBERLY HUNT: Peel, P-E-E-L. It's
5 down near -- it's down in the Whitehorse -- there is like
6 a triangle area near Whitehorse. And now the town escapes
7 me. Thank God I'm not on tape down. Near the Whitehorse
8 area. Check the Peel watershed.

9 MR. EDWARD FRANK: My name is Edward
10 Frank. I just had a thought, and maybe the Fish &
11 Wildlife need to know about this. But there is a herd
12 that are called the Western Arctic herd. At one point
13 that herd used to be about 500,000. And now, from what I
14 hear, it's down to about 200,000.

15 So if you think about it, I wonder what's going to
16 happen to all the Porcupine herd because that Western
17 Arctic herd -- like I said, when I lived in Kotzebue,
18 there was 500,000 of them. Now it's down to about 200.
19 So something is impacting them, and it's probably oil
20 development.

21 But thank you.

22 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you.

23 MR. JOHN ERICK: My name is John Erick.
24 I'm from the village council, again. I just want to -- I
25 just want to bring up a true story about the -- my

1 mother-in-law and my old man. They traveled from here by
2 foot all the way to Arctic Village, past Arctic Village,
3 way up there where there is no trees just to get caribou.
4 They come back all the way back here. You know how long
5 that takes? It took them one whole summer to walk it.

6 That's how much we depend on the caribou. And that's
7 how much they really like caribou meat, dry it, save it
8 for winter. People like that really work hard to provide
9 food for their family. Would you walk that far to get
10 caribou meat and feed your family? I don't think so.

11 The people like that all gone. Their family is here.
12 If they didn't walk the country, they won't be here.
13 There won't be any family here if their parents, their
14 grandfather, didn't walk the country to provide caribou
15 meat for their family.

16 That was a pretty amazing story she told me about, my
17 mother told me, Helen Henry and her husband David Henry.
18 That's Abraham Henry's parents. And Abraham remember it
19 himself.

20 So we are not playing around here. We are just going
21 back and forth, going back and forth, but we are not going
22 to give up. We are going to fight for our country. We
23 are going to fight for our caribou. No matter what it
24 takes, we are going to be the last people that's going to
25 speak up.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you.

3 MS. RAE ANN GARNETT: I'm Rae Ann Garnett.
4 I'm from Arctic Village and Venetie. I'm a Neets'aiti
5 Gwich'in Navajo. I did live most of my life in the city,
6 but Arctic Village and Venetie is my home. I love
7 traveling back how many times a year. I love learning
8 about my culture from my aunts, uncles, grandparents,
9 cousins.

10 I love going out on the land. It's beautiful. I
11 feel peaceful when I'm here or in Arctic Village. Our
12 culture is important. Our land is important. Our caribou
13 is important.

14 We are one as Gwich'in people. The Porcupine caribou
15 herd is sacred. The birthing grounds are sacred. Please
16 no drilling on our land.

17 I just really hope all you understand what we are all
18 so passionate about. Thank you.

19 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you, Rae Ann.
20 Anybody else want to come up? If nobody wants to come up,
21 I guess I'll go.

22 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Patrick Hanson. I'm
23 on Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government Council. I
24 just have one thing to say. Arctic Village and Venetie,
25 we opted out of becoming corporations. We chose our land,

1 our way of life. And if you guys start drilling up there
2 disturbing the calving grounds, you are going to destroy
3 our way of life.

4 That's all I want to say. Thank you.

5 Anybody else want to say something? Last chance.

6 MR. JOE BALASH: If we are at the end
7 here, I just wanted to say on behalf of our team here from
8 BLM and our sister agencies, Fish & Wildlife Service,
9 thank you for the hospitality. Thank you for the
10 wonderful lunch.

11 And this is not the last stop on our process or our
12 journey here. We will be back to talk further with the
13 community through government-to-government meetings, and
14 we will have opportunities to continue to talk about the
15 contents of this study and continue to work with your
16 leaders as we continue to execute the law that was passed
17 by Congress.

18 Again, we very much appreciate your hospitality today
19 and sharing the warmth of the building, and look forward
20 to our next meeting.

21 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Thank you. Thank
22 you. Somebody got one more thing to say before we quit.

23 MS. SARAH GRAHAM: My name is Sarah
24 Graham. I'm ten years old, and I'm from Venetie. I love
25 caribou very much, caribou meat very much. The place you

1 guys are planning on drilling is the place where our
2 caribou have their babies. If you drill, then you will
3 scare the caribou off and they won't come back for a very
4 long time. Caribou meat is the way of life. We love to
5 hunt for it, we love to see it, and we very much love to
6 eat it. Please, please don't drill on our land. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. PATRICK HANSON: Could we -- what time
9 are you guys planning on leaving?

10 MS. NICOLE HAYES: When we are done here.

11 MR. STEVE WACKOWSKI: We can answer
12 questions if you want us to stick around.

13 MR. PATRICK HANSON: So does anybody have
14 any questions for the people that are here? Any questions
15 about what you are seeing up here, what you heard?

16 MR. STEVE WACKOWSKI: We can hang out for
17 a little bit, P.J. We can hang out.

18 MR. KYLE ANDERSON: If you drill on the
19 calving grounds and the wolves eat it and get sick, and if
20 we eat it and we got sick, and we are the people that
21 pass -- if you drill on the calving grounds, most of the
22 people here might get sick.

23 And that's all I've got to say.

24 MR. PATRICK HANSON: All right. So I
25 guess we will socialize and hang out and meet each other.

1 Thank you guys for coming.

2 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you.

3 (Proceedings adjourned at 1:36 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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