

A note about the bookmarks panel

The bookmarks in this PDF operate normally, except for those that can be expanded under the bookmark called **Index with Advanced Search Feature**, which contains an alphabetized index of search terms. Expand these bookmarks and select a term to activate a document search, which will take you to each occurrence of the term in this document.

Alderson®

COURT REPORTING



A Trustpoint Company

Transcript of **Meeting - 1 on 1**

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

*Public scoping meeting for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Coastal Plain Oil*

Alderson Court Reporting
1-800-FOR-DEPO (367-3376)
Info@AldersonReporting.com
www.AldersonReporting.com

Alderson Reference Number: 84097

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COMMENTS OF
SUSETTE GONGOLA

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center

1201 15th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. SUSETTE GONGOLA: My name is Susette Gongola.

3 I am a resident of Bethesda, Maryland; an upper middle-

4 class voter; mother of 2 boys, 10 and 17; and the

5 daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Victor Gongola, 1958

6 West Point graduate and career Army officer. I preface

7 my statement on Arctic drilling with this personal

8 information because I wanted the head of the BLM, the

9 United States senators and congressional

10 representatives, and the President to understand that I

11 am not an outlier or from a fringe group. I vote, and

12 I am an outspoken member in my community. And my views

13 are not alone.

14 In my statement today on Arctic drilling, I wanted

15 to say to each senator, each representative that they

16 are missing it. They are not doing the right things to

17 make significant and uncomfortable changes to the way

18 -- or to the American way of life and how we manage our

19 country in order to try and reverse environmental

20 damage and to try and preserve what is left of our

21 environment by driving fundamental changes to our

22 culture and our way of life that are so long overdue.

1 The policies of newcomers like Alexandria Ocasio-
2 Cortez are not out there or crazy or unwanted. They
3 are policies that folks just like myself have been
4 thinking and talking about for years and the ones that
5 many of us will fight to see enacted.

6 So I ask, when will it be enough? Ask yourselves.
7 Ask each of you when. How much more? How much more
8 fossil fuel needs to be extracted from the Earth before
9 we, all of us, say, "Enough"? How much more CO2 will
10 we pump into the atmosphere before we say, "Enough"?
11 How many more species will we kill off because we have
12 destroyed their habitats until the only species left
13 are the ones thriving on our garbage: the rats and the
14 cockroaches? Is that when we will say, "Enough"? How
15 much longer will the people of the United States
16 continue to be swayed by greedy corporations and their
17 bought-and-paid-for politicians and underemployed
18 workers so desperate for a paycheck, a job that they
19 believe the price of a full-time job is worth the
20 destruction of indigenous communities, the widespread
21 death of our Native species, and the continued
22 poisoning of our land, river, and oceans? So again I

1 ask, when will it be enough? Are we supposed to
2 believe the fossil fuel industries that tell us they
3 can develop oil and gas extraction with little impacts
4 to the land, water, and living beings who live in the
5 region? Is this the same industry that back in the
6 1970s completed their own scientific study, concluding
7 that, yes, the burning of fossil fuels was heating the
8 planet, setting us off on a wild ride to the next mass
9 extinction event, and then hid this study? How much
10 more stuff do we need to buy, to consume? How much
11 more power will be enough to satisfy our enormous
12 appetite? How much more petroleum, plastic crap,
13 disposable this, throwaway that do we need to consume
14 and subsequently toss into landfills and our oceans
15 before we say, "Enough"?

16 This issue, drilling in the Arctic National
17 Wildlife Refuge, isn't about the destruction of the
18 Native people and where they live. It isn't an Alaskan
19 issue. It is a National issue. And, unfortunately, it
20 is just one of a list that Trump and his GOP gang have
21 in their sights.

22 So hear this American's voice. I will no longer

1 take it. I will no longer be quiet while you United
2 States senators, United States representatives, and the
3 chief tweeter in the White House continue to do very
4 little to help and who decided to sell off Alaska and
5 all of its population, human and other living
6 creatures, to pay for slashing wealthy corporate taxes
7 and making wealthy Americans even richer.

8 When did money become the voice of the people?
9 When did we sell off our public spaces, chunks of our
10 national parks and monuments, parts of our public
11 infrastructure, and public water facilities for two
12 corporations to profit off of? I guess I was asleep
13 when all of that took place, but I am not asleep
14 anymore. I am awake, and I am angry.

15 (Whereupon, the comments were concluded.)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COMMENTS OF
KRISTIN GATES

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center
1201 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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

2 MS. KRISTIN GATES: Thank you.

3 My name is Kristin Gates from Coldfoot, Alaska. I
4 grew up in New York and Connecticut, and I have been
5 living in Alaska's Arctic and subarctic for the last
6 decade. A few years ago, I walked across Alaska's
7 Brooks Range from the Canadian border to the Chukchi
8 Sea by myself. That trek took me right across the
9 width of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

10 I am here today to stand with the Gwich'in Nation
11 to protect the refuge. I have been so lucky to have
12 spent time in Gwich'in communities in Alaska and Canada
13 and to have seen and learned about the Gwich'in's
14 profound connection with the Porcupine herd. When I
15 walked across the refuge, I came across the Porcupine
16 herd migration. I had come over pastures to see
17 hundreds of caribou in the next valleys. I walked the
18 game shells that they have been wearing down for
19 thousands of years. Having grown up around concrete
20 and pollution, this was the most powerful experience I
21 have ever had.

22 I have worked as a guide in the Brooks Range. And

1 this is why people spend thousands of dollars to come
2 here from all over the world, to witness this intact
3 pristine ecosystem. Tourism can be important to Alaska
4 long after oil and gas.

5 It amazes me that the longest land mammal
6 migration on Earth goes through our country. It amazes
7 me that 40,000 caribou are born in the Coastal Plain
8 every year and that the environment is so helpful to
9 their survival. The land is open enough that they can
10 look out for predators. The food is rich in nutrients.
11 And the breeze off the sea keeps the mosquitoes at bay.
12 This land is a miracle, and it is so important to the
13 Porcupine caribou herd. On the years that they don't
14 make it, their calf mortality rates rise quickly.

15 During 2018, I spent time with wildlife biologist
16 Dr. Catherine Gagnon. And I learned that caribou
17 populations around the world are declining. Herds are
18 disappearing. But the Porcupine caribou are healthy.

19 We already know that development is what is
20 leading to the decline of the caribou around the globe.
21 The Porcupine herd is doing so well because they
22 haven't had to deal with the stresses of development.

1 They are already up against enough with predation,
2 climate change, and the harsh environment.

3 I am very concerned about how the draft of the
4 Environmental Impact Statement downplayed and
5 understudied the effect that development of the Coastal
6 Plain will have on wildlife. The report also implied
7 that developing the Coastal Plain will have little to
8 no impact on the Gwich'in subsistence resources,
9 despite reporting that it will affect the caribou. The
10 Gwich'in way of life is completely intertwined with the
11 Porcupine caribou herd. And the Coastal Plain is their
12 sacred land. Allowing oil companies to drill in the
13 Coastal Plain would be cultural genocide.

14 A review of the Environmental Impact Statement
15 makes it clear that little serious work has been done
16 to estimate the negative impact the development will
17 have on the Porcupine herd. One only need to observe
18 how the caribou herds in other regions have been
19 severely depleted as a result of development.
20 Mitigation efforts suggested in the Environmental
21 Impact Statement are insufficient. Once development
22 begins and the theoretical mitigation efforts do not

1 work, there will be no going back. The damage will
2 have been done. And it will be irreversible.

3 If our country goes forward with development of
4 the Coastal Plain that has been sacred to the Gwich'in
5 Nation for tens of thousands of years, what will be the
6 benefit? And at what cost? The perceived benefit is
7 the extraction of oil for a number of decades. The
8 cost of the development of the region is likely the
9 destruction of the Gwich'in way of life. The question
10 for our country is whether or not this is a fair or
11 wise tradeoff. Once we have negatively impacted the
12 Gwich'in culture, there is no way of repairing that
13 damage. There is no going back. So are several
14 decades of oil extraction and adequate benefit to
15 justify the destruction of a culture.

16 As an aside, we don't really need the oil from the
17 refuge because we are able to purchase oil from already
18 developed reserves from friendly places around the
19 world, such as Canada. The development of the Arctic
20 Refuge is being driven by greed, the greed of oil
21 companies and the greed of the politicians who are
22 being funded by the same oil companies. This is a

1 blatant example of chorny capitalism.

2 I believe that the development of these lands is
3 immoral, and I am deeply disturbed by our country's
4 willingness to destroy the Gwich'in Nation for
5 development that isn't necessary. And this leads me to
6 one more issue, namely the public hearings that are
7 being held to allow people to express their concerns
8 about development of the refuge. I have been gravely
9 disappointed in the process and believe it is nothing
10 more than a "check the box" event so that officials can
11 claim that they have fulfilled their duty and followed
12 accepted protocol. The process has been a farce and
13 has been designed to minimize public debate on this
14 important moral issue.

15 Many of the people here today have had to travel
16 thousands of miles to be here. And, yet, we just have
17 a few hours to speak our concerns. In Fairbanks, the
18 community was only give five days' notice before the
19 public hearing occurred. And they were only able to
20 have their words recorded by court stenographers. The
21 BLM said that they had experts available to talk about
22 wildlife and the watershed, but they didn't have a

1 single Native as an expert there. The process has been
2 inadequate and has been disrespectful to the Gwich'in
3 people.

4 I have heard Bernadette from the Gwich'in Steering
5 Committee say, "Do things in a good way. It is not
6 always easy, but it is effective." We all need to live
7 by this motto.

8 Developing the Arctic Refuge would be a
9 shortsighted, greedy tragedy. We know in our hearts
10 that it would be wrong. Please stand with the Gwich'in
11 Nation and defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

12 (Whereupon, the comments were concluded.)

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COMMENTS OF
ROBERT SCHAMBERG

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center
1201 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. ROBERT SCHAMBERG: My comments are in three
3 areas. The first one is regarding the process and my
4 concerns about dishonesty and misleading processes that
5 are part of this. So, first off, these leases were
6 buried in the Tax and Jobs Act without any opportunity
7 for those who care about these lands to provide
8 input.

9 I have -- I almost said, "period." I have been to
10 the earlier scoping hearings. I care deeply about
11 this. And I have found that due to the law as written
12 and done in the dead of night without knowledge of the
13 community, that this was buried in the Tax and Jobs Act
14 at each stage along the way, I have been informed that
15 there is not an opportunity to talk about the
16 environmental impacts at any of the hearings so far.
17 Rather, the impression is that this is a done deal.

18 The Environmental Impact Statement, which as a
19 political figure myself should have been available in
20 paper at this hearing but is not, the Environmental
21 Impact Statement according to the statements by the
22 woman leading this project does not address the

1 potential impacts because the act of leasing the land
2 would have no environmental impacts. I find that
3 deplorable. In other words, there is not a connection
4 between the different -- the language that they use
5 here is the different alternatives. There is not a
6 connection between that and the environmental impact.
7 And the fact that the law says this will be done, the
8 alternative A, which is the one that would not have an
9 environmental impact, is off the table.

10 So I am concerned that the Environmental Impact
11 Statement does not give any opportunities to address
12 those environmental impacts. And so the act of having
13 a public hearing about the Environmental Impact
14 Statement without providing the Environmental Impact
15 Statement to the people attending is suspect.

16 I have been listening to the public statements for
17 the past hour and have found that you have mainly
18 people that are pushing for this who get paid who have
19 a financial interest in abusing these lands and in
20 drilling. So I find that this hearing is not balanced
21 and, again, because there is a environmental -- there
22 is the requirement that these be leased, it makes this

1 into a sham.

2 So now I am going to give my reasons why I believe

3 that alternative A is the correct alternative to take.

4 And the first reason is fairly simple. All of the

5 alternatives except for environmental A will have

6 negative environmental and cultural impacts on this

7 land and on our Earth. The biggest -- the big picture

8 is global warming. I'm not going to reargue that, but

9 I am going to say that global warming is real, and we

10 must take action now to avoid very detrimental effects

11 on the Earth.

12 There is absolutely no reason to drill for oil at

13 this time. Solar, wind, and other sustainable methods

14 of gaining energy are -- have come into play. They are

15 all technically feasible, and we should be doing that.

16 The idea that we are increasing our drilling for oil is

17 ludicrous, particularly when you consider the effects,

18 particularly when you consider the environmental

19 impacts. And one must ask why we are doing this when

20 we are -- and it's essentially to give money to

21 companies that benefit from this; in other words, oil

22 companies and all of the other companies that lead to

1 this. It is just a money grab.

2 And so number one reason is there is no reason to
3 drill for oil. Number two reason, back to global
4 warming, is that we are seeing the effects now. Just
5 today, I saw on the news that some villages -- it is
6 actually in Russia -- have been overwhelmed by polar
7 bears because they can no longer be on the ice. So the
8 polar bears have entered their towns, 50 of them in 1
9 village. And they are going through the landfill to
10 get their food.

11 So as polar bears need to change their habitat,
12 which would be the North Slope, we should consider what
13 is good for them because we are currently ruining
14 through manmade global warming their environment, their
15 habitat. And we should be looking forward to
16 protecting them.

17 Another large habitat that we need to consider is
18 caribou. Caribou were there were for subsistence for
19 the Gwich'in and other tribes. And if you look at the
20 Environmental Impact Statement and the concerns raised,
21 the caribou are dramatically affected under
22 alternatives B, C, D-1, and D-2. All of them have

1 impacts on the caribou, as stated.

2 I haven't been able to delve into fish and other
3 wildlife, but I do see that under alternatives B --
4 actually, under alternatives D-1, D-2, and D and C and
5 B, they all would impact fisheries. Those are all
6 within the areas that would be subject to oil and gas
7 leases. And we know that there are negative effects on
8 fish and, hence, all wildlife that depend upon those
9 rivers.

10 And, you know, a third big-picture issue is once
11 an area is destroyed, you can't get it back. And to
12 think that the oil companies and, frankly, the BLM
13 would be able to minimize damage or -- when there is no
14 reason to. We don't need the oil. This notion that we
15 would be able to protect these resources is ludicrous.

16 My next area that I use to say that alternative A
17 is the right alternative is that this is legacy land.
18 It is for everybody. The Arctic National Wildlife
19 Refuge is the largest area of wilderness. Just the
20 idea that in our limited area, that we would impact the
21 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, just that idea is
22 repulsive to those who care about our wilderness. Even

1 though most Americans will never set foot and most
2 people in the world will never set foot in this area,
3 it is an important concept that we leave these lands
4 for the future for everyone.

5 I have spent much of my life taking children and
6 adults out into the wilderness and through an
7 organization called Inner City Outings. These are
8 children who have never, children and adults who have
9 never, seen public lands, who have never seen in many
10 cases the ocean, who have never seen a wilderness
11 certainly, and who have never seen a forest. Most of
12 our city children are in this category. It is
13 important that we have these lands that they can aspire
14 to, that they can learn about, and that they can grow
15 up wanting to go to. I have taken many of them on raft
16 trips for many days. And there is a power in knowing
17 that there are more rivers and there is more wilderness
18 to experience.

19 There are historical and cultural pieces of this
20 legacy land, including for the Native Americans who are
21 living there now. And while there are several Native
22 Americans who have come to this hearing and voiced that

1 they are for the drilling, there have also been many
2 who are against the drilling. And I met several of
3 them at the scoping hearing. The point is that many of
4 the people that are here are -- from the Gwich'in and
5 other tribes are here because their way was paid
6 through oil money. They are just being bought and
7 while the other folks are here on their own dime.

8 And, finally, other legacy parts of this are that
9 the animals don't have a voice. We need to be the
10 voice for the animals as well as for the wilderness.
11 They can't speak for themselves. And I am speaking for
12 them.

13 I want to thank you for the opportunity to make a
14 statement. And I want to encourage the BLM and others
15 responsible for this decision to advocate for
16 alternative A in the Environmental Impact Statement.
17 Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, the comments were concluded.)

19

20

21

22

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COMMENTS OF
ROSEMARY DONALDSON

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center
1201 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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

2 MS. ROSEMARY DONALDSON: Thank you.

3 As I stand here tonight, I cannot believe that we
4 are still fighting this battle, that we have not grown
5 wiser with the release of years of scientific study.
6 We are talking about our last vast attractive and
7 spoiled land, America's last great wilderness, a place
8 rich in history, home to Native peoples, and the last
9 hope of much of our imperiled wildlife. And, yet,
10 because of the insatiable greed of corporations and our
11 current administration, we are back here again, ready
12 to put the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on the
13 chopping block.

14 The Bureau of Land Management wants to advance its
15 agenda by pushing a sham assessment of environmental
16 impact and economic benefits under the noses of the
17 American people once again, assuming that with so many
18 other distractions, we won't notice. However, I assure
19 the bureau and the administration we are paying
20 attention.

21 For two years, I have been heartsick as I have
22 watched the administration wantonly sell off the public

1 lands that belong to all Americans. As has been
2 mentioned earlier this evening, the Arctic National
3 Wildlife Refuge is the crown jewel of them all.

4 From everything I have read your economic numbers
5 don't even close to adding up because they are
6 unprojected and played at lease sales. A report
7 released by the Center for American Progress speculated
8 that breaking even in the refuge would require oil
9 companies to make \$78 a barrel, well above the current
10 market rate.

11 But that is just the money part. The other part
12 is this. Right now at this time, we are bargaining for
13 the soul of America and to the futures of our children.
14 The Arctic has been ground zero for climate change
15 data. The lives of its Native peoples, its wildlife,
16 the fragile beauty of its iconic landscapes are already
17 gravely imperiled. Make no mistake. Our lives are
18 dependent upon the welfare of the animals that share
19 our lands, even and especially at the lowest trophic
20 levels. As we continue to assault other species,
21 pillage and destroy our last pristine habitats, we are
22 on a collision course to signing our own death warrants

1 and rendering our planet unlivable for our progeny.

2 And as I stand here, I am dumbfounded that looking
3 over the darker aspects of our history, we have not
4 learned a thing. We have driven out the proud Native
5 peoples who inhabited and protected our lands for
6 thousands of years, marginalizing them when we couldn't
7 turn them into us. We have pillaged our landscapes to
8 such a degree that we are facing one of the gravest
9 mass extinctions of recorded time. And here are poised
10 to do it all again. We are ready to destroy the last
11 remaining habitat of iconic but fragile species, like
12 polar bears and caribou.

13 I would like to end with two personal stories.
14 The first involves a trip I made to Alaska in 2009. I
15 spent so much of my resources there that I have not
16 been able to go anywhere since. And I am saving only
17 to go back.

18 One of my stops was at a wilderness lodge in
19 Kachemak Bay, which is near Homer, Alaska. My
20 daughters and I spent as much time as we could on the
21 bay and rented boats pretty much every day to do that.
22 The girls were entranced with all of the otters that

1 were around the boats, as was I. And it was only later
2 that I discovered that those otters should not have
3 been there, that they had been transplanted there after
4 the Exxon Valdez spill.

5 Drilling for oil, transporting oil, spilling oil
6 have consequences. The otters have each a great many
7 of the fish that were native to Kachemak Bay. And many
8 of them are no longer there at all.

9 My final story goes back to my college years, when
10 I had a Eurail pass and was traveling through Europe by
11 rail. I was in Germany. And two young German women
12 joined me in my railcar. We talked a little bit. And
13 I was telling them how beautiful I found their land to
14 be and commenting on the passing landscape.

15 They didn't say much. And, in fact, they looked
16 very uncomfortable for a period of time. And I wasn't
17 sure if I had trespassed somehow by something I had
18 said. And, finally, one of them swallowed hard and
19 looked at me. And she said, "We are not proud of our
20 country. And we are not proud of our families because
21 we cannot come to terms with the fact that they allowed
22 what happened 30 years ago during World War II to

1 happen and they did not speak up.”

2 And so I ask those people pushing this terrible
3 agenda for your children to give you. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the comments were concluded.)

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COMMENTS OF

KATIE LITTLE

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center

1201 15th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

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

2 MS. KATIE LITTLE: Thank you for taking my
3 comments. I really appreciate it.

4 My name is Katie Little, and I am from
5 Hyattsville, Maryland. And I worked for 3 years, from
6 2004 to 2007, to protect the Arctic National Wildlife
7 Refuge from oil and gas development. Despite multiple
8 attempts to open it during those years by a few members
9 of Congress, it failed to pass because Americans all
10 across the country spoke up. And, as you can see, we
11 are still speaking up. We will continue to speak up.
12 And I can say with certainty that you will be receiving
13 millions of comments in opposition to drilling via your
14 website.

15 I am here, as you can guess, to speak out for the
16 protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for a
17 number of reasons, for all the reasons that have
18 already been stated concerning the livelihood of the
19 Gwich'in Native Alaskans, the protection of wildlife,
20 and the environmental benefits of keeping this area
21 free from oil and gas development.

22 I am also here because I am an aunt of two young

1 boys, whom I hope one day will get to go there and
2 experience the grand place that it is. I have never
3 been there and probably never will be able to go, but
4 that is okay because this land is a wildlife refuge, as
5 you know, and is home to thousands of animals, many of
6 whom are struggling to survive. Polar bears are
7 literally drowning because their ice is melting and
8 they are literally eating their young to survive. This
9 is absolutely unacceptable, and it is our
10 responsibility to stop this from worsening by drilling
11 more. The Coastal Plain is the most important on-land
12 denning area for these critically endangered polar
13 bears.

14 I also work for a nonprofit that advocates for
15 endangered species. And just today, I read letters
16 from third graders telling my organization that they
17 care deeply about all wildlife and asking what they can
18 do to protect the wildlife. I pray that someday these
19 children can visit the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
20 because this is the best place in our country to see
21 wildlife.

22 It is common knowledge that there is not enough

1 oil and gas to make it worth the time and expense of
2 drilling. Major oil companies have publicly stated
3 that it is not worth their time or energy. Please be
4 honest about the fact that this is a political ploy to
5 open up all environmental areas across the country and
6 to allow the oil and gas industry to become richer.

7 Because the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the
8 backbone of the National Wildlife Refuge System, if
9 they are able to open up our Nation's last great
10 wilderness in our country, they will be able to open up
11 all wilderness areas and refuges.

12 There is no issue more important to me than this.
13 And that is the case for most, if not all, American
14 environmentalists and animal advocates. So please do
15 not open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the
16 wildlife, the Gwich'in, future generations, and all of
17 us here today, and those who wanted to be here but
18 couldn't.

19 (Whereupon, the comments were concluded.)

20

21

22

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COMMENTS OF

SPENCER CONNER

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center

1201 15th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MR. SPENCER CONNER: I am Spencer Conner from
3 Bridgeport, Ohio originally. I just want to lodge
4 another no vote. I noticed that there are several
5 options being floated here. And none of the above is
6 kind of like my vote. I don't think there should be
7 any development in the ANWR. The reasoning for that is
8 that I think extraction companies tend to overstate
9 their capabilities as far as maintaining a low impact.

10 I grew up in the Ohio River Valley. I have
11 personally -- as a child, I swam in the rivers and
12 streams and walked through the woods. And I've seen
13 the runoff, and I have walked by the flaring wells.
14 And even from half a mile away, they are incredibly
15 loud. They smell. I have seen runoff from coal mines
16 and every other, you know, mineral extraction and oil
17 extraction left over you can think of. And they aren't
18 cleaned up, really.

19 There is no such thing as low-impact extraction.
20 The decision-makers don't really see the impacts of
21 what they are saying yes to. There is either pristine
22 undeveloped land that can support humans and wildlife

1 for generations to come. And, then, there is developed
2 lands. That supports a small monied interest in the
3 economy for a few years at best. So either it is
4 untouched or it is no longer a shared resource.

5 That is all.

6 (Whereupon, the comments were concluded.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

COMMENTS OF

SOPHIA MARJANOVIC, PH.D.

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center

1201 15th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

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

2 MS. SOPHIA MARJANOVIC: Yes. My name is Dr.

3 Sophia Marjanovic. I am a member of the Oglala Lakota,

4 the Fort Peck tribes in Montana, the Oceti Sakowin of

5 Montana. And I live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

6 I am concerned about the drilling in the Arctic

7 National Wildlife Refuge. I know from my experience

8 being a tribe that has been drilled for oil for decades

9 now that there is no accountability for the oil

10 companies who destroy our water and our lifestyles.

11 And I am here to support the Gwich'in and standing up

12 for the homelands.

13 (Whereupon, the comments were concluded.)

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22