

In the Matter Of:
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

August 18, 2022

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TRANSCRIPT OF
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 18, 2022

**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**

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

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3 MS. RICE: Good evening, everyone, and welcome
4 to the fourth virtual public meeting for the Bureau of Land
5 Management's supplemental environmental impact statement,
6 or EIS, for ConocoPhillips' proposed Willow Master
7 Development Plan.

8 My name is Stephanie Rice. I'm a planning and
9 environmental coordinator for BLM Alaska and the Willow
10 Project manager.

11 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to take
12 comments from the public on the BLM's environmental
13 analysis of the Willow Project, and, for that reason,
14 tonight's presentation will be recorded.

15 Closed captioning is available during the
16 presentation. You can turn on subtitles by clicking "more"
17 on the toolbar at the bottom of your screen and clicking
18 "show subtitles."

19 I'd like to start with a quick overview of our
20 agenda. Tonight's meeting will be broken into three main
21 parts. We will start with opening remarks from the BLM
22 leadership, followed by a brief explanation of how to use
23 Zoom during the meeting. Then we will give a short
24 presentation on the Willow Project in the analysis in the
25 supplemental EIS, and then we will take comments from you

1 all for the record.

2 And, with that, I will hand it over to our
3 deputy state director, Kevin Pendergast.

4 MR. PENDERGAST: Thank you, Stephanie.

5 Can you hear me all right?

6 MS. RICE: Yes, we can.

7 MR. PENDERGAST: Great.

8 So I just have a couple of quick remarks for
9 folks. First of all, hello. As Stephanie mentioned, my
10 name is Kevin Pendergast. I'm the deputy state director
11 for resources here at BLM Alaska.

12 Steve Cohen is our Alaska state director. He
13 would have loved to be here with you all, but he is
14 traveling this week throughout Alaska with our national
15 director, Tracy Stone-Manning.

16 With that, I'd like to welcome you all to the
17 fourth and final virtual public meeting that we're hosting
18 for this revised environmental review, supplemental
19 environmental impact statement, for the proposed Willow
20 Master Development Plan.

21 A quick note about where we are in the process.
22 If you haven't heard, a decision was made to maintain the
23 current 45-day public comment period on the draft. So this
24 will close on August 29th; however, we do continue to hold
25 in-person public meetings in North Slope communities, as

1 planned, and the last of those will be in Nuiqsut this
2 coming Monday evening.

3 Finally, I just want to assure you that your
4 perspectives are vital for us at the BLM and for this
5 administration to be able to move toward a timely, informed
6 final decision. So we're very happy that you took the time
7 to attend this meeting today, and we look forward to
8 hearing from you.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. RICE: Thank you, Kevin.

11 Before we get started with the presentation, I'd
12 like to go over the functions of Zoom that we will be using
13 for tonight's meeting. We have people calling in from
14 telephones, as well as participating on their computers.

15 First off, everyone has been placed on mute for
16 the duration of the presentation, and you will be asked to
17 unmute by the host when it is your turn to comment.

18 Comments will be limited to three minutes per person,
19 unless we have more than 100 people wanting to make
20 comments tonight, in which case we will limit comments to
21 two minutes per person.

22 Phone users will press star six to unmute, and
23 computer users will accept the host's request to unmute
24 when it is your turn to speak.

25 We also have a chat function available for

1 people to submit written comments and for people needing
2 technical assistance during the meeting. If you need
3 technical assistance, open the chat window by clicking on
4 "chat" at the bottom of your screen, and select the
5 "technical assistance host" from the chat drop down menu,
6 as shown in the graphic on the right.

7 If you would like to make a written comment for
8 the record, please select the "Willow comments host" from
9 the chat drop down menu and type your comment in the chat.

10 We will be using the raise-hand function to
11 organize commenting tonight. Please raise your hand if you
12 would like to comment. To raise your hand, click on the
13 "reactions" button on the toolbar at the bottom of your
14 screen and select "raise hand." If you are calling in on
15 the phone, press star nine to raise your hand.

16 If you would like to make a comment after the
17 presentation, please raise your hand now. Again, for users
18 on the phone, press star nine to raise your hand.

19 And, lastly, please identify yourself by your
20 first and last name by renaming yourself as shown in the
21 graphic on the right. Click on the "participants" button
22 at the bottom of your screen to open the participant's
23 window, hover your mouse over your screen name, select
24 "more," and then select "rename."

25 I will be calling on people by name to make

1 comments later this evening, and I will be using the name
2 that appears on the participant list. If you are calling
3 in by phone, I will be calling on you using the last four
4 digits of your phone number.

5 If you need to call back into the meeting, the
6 call-in information is shown here. Dial 1-253-215-8782,
7 enter the meeting ID, 842 6784 1949, and then enter the
8 pass code, 097461. This call-in information is also
9 contained in your registration e-mail.

10 And now we will begin the presentation.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you for your
12 interest in the BLM supplemental environmental impact
13 statement, or EIS, for ConocoPhillips' proposed Willow
14 Master Development Plan.

15 This supplemental EIS was prepared by BLM in
16 response to the U.S. District Court's decision to vacate
17 the 2020 record of decision. This document provides the
18 public and agencies with information about a new
19 alternative that BLM has evaluated specifically to address
20 the court's decision.

21 This recorded presentation provides a summary of
22 the newly developed alternative and the key conclusions in
23 the draft supplemental EIS which is currently out for
24 public review and available on BLM's E planning site. BLM
25 is accepting public comments through August 29th.

1 During this presentation, we will provide
2 background of the previous EIS process for this project and
3 the U.S. District Court's decision from August 2021;
4 information on the purpose of this supplemental EIS, which
5 is focused on the court's decision; a summary of BLM's new
6 alternative; an overview of the supplemental EIS format;
7 and information on how to provide comments.

8 In 2018 ConocoPhillips of Alaska applied to
9 develop the Willow prospect on BLM managed public lands
10 within the Bear Tooth Unit of the National Petroleum
11 Reserve in Alaska, or NPRA, and within waters managed by
12 the State of Alaska.

13 This proposal was originally evaluated through a
14 master development plan EIS. In response to this, BLM
15 issued a notice of intent in the federal register to
16 prepare a draft EIS. Scoping and cooperating agency
17 meetings were held in August and September 2018, and the
18 draft EIS went out for public review in August 2019.

19 In November 2019 ConocoPhillips submitted
20 substantial changes to its proposed plan in response to
21 stakeholder concerns and draft EIS public comments. The
22 updated proposal from ConocoPhillips contained design
23 optimizations for each project component of Alternative B,
24 in addition to a new module transport option.

25 In March 2020 BLM Alaska released a supplement

1 to the draft EIS. The final EIS was published in August,
2 and the BLM signed its record of decision in October 2020.
3 Based on litigation filed soon after the record of decision
4 was signed, the U.S. District Court of Alaska vacated the
5 record of decision in August 2021 and remanded the EIS to
6 BLM. The court's instructions were to address National
7 Environmental Policy Act deficiencies that it had
8 identified.

9 This supplemental EIS addresses the court's
10 decision by including foreign greenhouse gas emissions and
11 the climate change analysis. In the alternatives analysis,
12 the court specifically stated that BLM's assumption that
13 ConocoPhillips has the right to extract all possible oil
14 and gas from its leases was flawed and BLM failed to
15 consider the statutory directive that it give maximum
16 protection to surface values in the Teshekpuk Lake Special
17 Area.

18 The supplemental EIS process started in
19 September 2021, when internal and external stakeholders met
20 to discuss the best approach to addressing the issues
21 identified in the court's decision. BLM decided to
22 initiate a supplemental EIS.

23 In February 2022 it published a notice of intent
24 in the federal register. BLM met with cooperating agencies
25 to discuss potential alternatives to minimize impacts in

1 the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and mitigation measures.

2 An informal public comment period ran from
3 February 7th to March 9th, 2022, and the EIS team prepared
4 the draft supplemental EIS between February and June. BLM
5 has issued the draft supplemental EIS for a 45-day public
6 review period. Comments will be addressed in the third
7 quarter, after which BLM will prepare and publish the final
8 supplemental EIS and record of decision.

9 The following slides contain a summary of the
10 originally proposed project and alternatives that were
11 considered by BLM in the original EIS.

12 The project area is located on the North Slope
13 of Alaska. The majority of the proposed facilities are on
14 leased federal lands within the northeastern portion of the
15 NPRA, as shown on this map with a red boundary. The NPRA
16 is within the North Slope Borough and is predominantly
17 managed by BLM.

18 Supporting infrastructure for the project would
19 be located on federal and native corporation-owned lands,
20 on private lands owned by Kuukpiik Corporation and on lands
21 or waters owned and managed by the State of Alaska.

22 Elements of the project would occur within the
23 Teshekpuk Lake Special Area of the NPRA, which is shown on
24 this map in green.

25 The Teshekpuk Lake Special Area was designated

1 by the Secretary of the Interior in 1977 for its
2 significant value to waterfowl and shorebirds. The
3 designation has since been expanded to protect caribou,
4 waterbirds, shorebirds, and their habitats.

5 BLM considered four alternatives in its original
6 EIS for this project: Alternative A, the no-action
7 alternative; Alternative B, ConocoPhillips' proposed
8 project; Alternative C, disconnected infield roads; and
9 Alternative D, disconnected access.

10 Three options were considered for module
11 transport. Two were module transfer island options, and
12 the third option was to use the existing Oliktok Dock and
13 gravel roads, coupled with the Colville River ice bridge
14 crossing and ice roads. Alternative B and Option 3 was
15 determined to be the preferred alternative in the 2020
16 final EIS and record of decision.

17 ConocoPhillips' proposed project would extend an
18 all-season gravel road from the Greater Mooses Tooth 2
19 development southwest toward the project area and would
20 include gravel road connections to all proposed drill
21 sites.

22 ConocoPhillips initially proposed construction
23 of an offshore module transferred island and transport via
24 ice roads. They revised their proposed project to use the
25 existing Oliktok Dock and module transport via existing

1 gravel roads and new or existing ice road alignments,
2 including an ice bridge over the Colville River.

3 The project is anticipated to have a peak
4 production in excess of 180,000 barrels of oil per day,
5 with a processing capacity of 200,000 barrels of oil per
6 day over its 30-year life. This would produce up to 629
7 million barrels of oil over the life of the project.

8 ConocoPhillips' proposed project includes
9 construction of five drill sites, a central processing
10 facility, and an operation center pad. Other project
11 components include construction of new gravel roads, ice
12 roads, and pipelines, a constructed fresh water reservoir,
13 an airstrip, and a new gravel mine site.

14 Alternative C would not have a gravel road
15 connection from the processing facility to drill site Bear
16 Tooth 1. This alternative was considered because it would
17 eliminate the need for a bridge crossing over Judy Creek
18 and would reduce the amount of gravel roads in important
19 subsistence areas.

20 The intent of Alternative C was to reduce
21 effects on caribou movement and impacts to subsistence
22 users, as well as decrease the number of stream crossings
23 required.

24 Alternative D would not be connected by an
25 all-season gravel access road to the Greater Mooses Tooth

1 and Alpine developments, but it would employ the other
2 gravel roads, as proposed under Alternative B, to connect
3 drill sites with other project infrastructure.

4 The intent of Alternative D was to minimize the
5 project's footprint and fill and lessen the length of
6 linear infrastructure on the landscape to decrease effects
7 on caribou movement and subsistence.

8 There are eight federal, state, local, and
9 tribal entities working with the BLM as cooperating
10 agencies on this supplemental EIS. The cooperating
11 agencies that helped prepare the 2020 EIS are also
12 cooperating agencies on this supplemental EIS.

13 This supplemental EIS includes a no-action
14 alternative, the three action alternatives, and three
15 module delivery options considered in the 2020 EIS, and
16 BLM's new alternative E, which addresses the court's
17 decision.

18 The supplemental EIS has been formatted for
19 readers so they can easily find new information on the
20 updated analysis and the new alternative. New substantive
21 information considered in the draft supplemental EIS is
22 shown highlighted in yellow, and the relevant section
23 header or table or figure caption includes an asterisk at
24 the end.

25 Let's look at BLM's new Alternative E. This

1 alternative was developed by BLM and cooperating agencies
2 to reduce surface impacts in response to the district
3 court's decision. This map shows the project as originally
4 proposed by ConocoPhillips and shown as Alternative B in
5 the EIS.

6 Under Alternative E drill site Bear Tooth 4 is
7 eliminated, and Bear Tooth 2 is relocated north of Fish
8 Creek to gain access to a portion of the target reservoir
9 that would have otherwise been captured by Bear Tooth 4.
10 These changes reduce gravel infrastructure in the Teshekpuk
11 Lake special area by more than 40 percent relative to
12 Alternative B.

13 Alternative E would also relocate drill site
14 Bear Tooth 5 northeast to avoid two yellow-billed loon
15 buffer setbacks. This location would reduce the length of
16 the Bear Tooth 5 infield road and pipelines by
17 approximately 2 miles relative to Alternative B.

18 Alternative E reduces surface infrastructure by
19 eliminating Bear Tooth 4, moving Bear Tooth 2 to the north,
20 and relocating Bear Tooth 5.

21 Alternative E includes several water source
22 access pads instead of the constructed freshwater
23 reservoir.

24 The supplemental EIS analyzes the full
25 development of the Willow Project, which includes four

1 drill sites; however, if Alternative E is selected only
2 Bear Tooth 1, 2, and 3 would be authorized by BLM in its
3 record of decision.

4 The intent of Alternative E is to reduce the
5 amount of surface infrastructure within the Teshekpuk Lake
6 Special Area and reduce the impacts to identified
7 yellow-billed loon nests located near the Bear Tooth 5
8 location. This alternative would reduce the
9 overall amount of infrastructure, such as the gravel
10 footprint, miles of gravel road, and miles of pipeline that
11 may impede caribou movement and impact subsistence users.
12 Reduced gravel infrastructure would also lessen impacts to
13 wetlands and vegetation, hydrology, gravel resources, and
14 wildlife. Deferring Bear Tooth 5 authorization
15 may also reduce the intensity of impacts to surface
16 resources by reducing the overlap of construction and
17 drilling activity in the project area.

18 Now let's look at the key findings of the
19 supplemental EIS analysis.

20 Alternative E reduces water resource impacts
21 substantially, including in wetlands due to less gravel
22 fill needed for pads, reduced gravel and ice road mileage,
23 lower spill risk due to decreased pipeline length, and
24 fewer bridges and culverts needed for river and stream
25 crossings.

1 This table shows specifically how the water
2 resource impacts are reduced under Alternative E,
3 categorized by project component. One impact increase
4 under Alternative E is the number of vertical support
5 members, or VSM's, that would be constructed within water
6 bodies below ordinary high water, or OHW. VSM's are the
7 support structures that hold up pipelines.

8 Under Alternative E, the number of VSM's
9 increases by approximately 89 percent because this
10 alternative does not include the constructed freshwater
11 reservoir as proposed under Alternatives B, C, and D.
12 Instead Alternative E uses five area lakes as water
13 sources. Fresh water intake pipelines supported on VSM's
14 would be constructed from the water source access pad and
15 extend out to the deepest part of the lakes.

16 Alternative E is expected to have a lower
17 potential impact on caribou relative to Alternative B
18 primarily because it reduces the road length in the
19 Teshekpuk Lake Special Area. There is also a decrease in
20 the percent of the herd range near project roads and
21 percent of caribou crossing the project road alignments
22 relative to Alternative B.

23 The elimination of drill site Bear Tooth 4 moves
24 project infrastructure further away from the core calving
25 range of the Teshekpuk caribou herd. In addition, there

1 would also be small decreases in ground and air traffic
2 relative to Alternative B.

3 For subsistence, the primary difference under
4 Alternative E relates to resource availability. Reduced
5 infrastructure within the Teshekpuk Lake Special area may
6 lessen impacts to caribou movement.

7 Alternative E still has road infrastructure and
8 a road pinch point, which could cause caribou to alter
9 their movements through the area.

10 Other differences between Alternatives E and B
11 include one less winter season of gravel mining and
12 placement, reduced road length to the west of the new exit
13 between Bear Tooth 3 and Bear Tooth 5, and the previously
14 mentioned reduction in air and ground traffic.

15 Additional analysis was done for air quality
16 emissions related to Alternative E as part of the
17 supplemental EIS. This analysis concluded that criteria
18 and hazardous air pollutants are below regulatory
19 thresholds under Alternative E, as well as all other action
20 alternatives.

21 Alternative E total life of project emissions
22 are generally similar to Alternative B, with slightly
23 higher nitrogen oxides and particulate matter emissions and
24 slightly lower volatile organic compound and hazardous air
25 pollutant emissions. Alternative E air quality impacts

1 near well sites and facilities would be lower than or
2 similar to Alternative B and would be below all regulatory
3 thresholds.

4 Alternative E regional air quality impacts and
5 impacts to air quality related values, including visibility
6 and atmospheric deposition would be lower than Alternative
7 B and would be below all regulatory thresholds.

8 BLM used its energy submodel to determine
9 indirect greenhouse gas emissions resulting from downstream
10 consumption of the oil produced by the Willow Project.
11 This model analyzes how a change in onshore oil, gas, or
12 coal production may affect energy markets more broadly,
13 including global energy markets.

14 The model found that greenhouse gas emissions
15 from foreign oil consumption would increase due to Willow
16 production under all action alternatives; however, the
17 total greenhouse gas emissions under Alternative E are
18 lower than all of the other action alternatives.

19 BLM also followed the latest greenhouse gas
20 interagency working group guidance to determine the social
21 cost of greenhouse gases, which is a way of monetizing the
22 impacts of global damages from incremental increases in
23 greenhouse gas emissions.

24 Using this method, the supplemental EIS analysis
25 concludes that the social cost of greenhouse gases are

1 lower under Alternative E than Alternative B and other
2 action alternatives.

3 BLM is hosting numerous virtual and in-person
4 public meetings, which are listed on BLM's E planning
5 website and advertised on social media.

6 There are many ways to comment on the
7 supplemental EIS. A transcriptionist will be at all of the
8 public meetings to record verbal comments. You can also
9 fill out a comment form online, submit comments by regular
10 mail, or deliver them in person to any BLM office. All
11 comments must be received by August 29th.

12 Comments are most helpful to BLM when they
13 include specific aspects of the range of alternatives
14 considered that should be included in the final preferred
15 alternative, when they have additional mitigation measures
16 that could be included to reduce impacts, or when they
17 contain specific comments on the draft supplemental EIS.

18 As always, please submit comments if you find an
19 error and analysis that may affect the outcome, new
20 information that would change the analysis and conclusions,
21 something that should be clarified, or a substantially
22 different alternative that meets the purpose and needs
23 statement and has not been considered. BLM has guidance
24 for making substantive comments, which you can access
25 online.

1 This concludes our presentation. For more
2 information, please visit the project website or e-mail the
3 BLM project manager Stephanie Rice at srice@blm.gov.

4 MS. RICE: All right, everyone. I think, as
5 many of you have seen, we have been having some technical
6 difficulties with this meeting. All participants were not
7 able to join to give testimony, so we will be holding an
8 additional virtual public meeting next week on Wednesday,
9 August 24th, at 2:00 p.m. Alaska time. And our website
10 will be updated as soon as this meeting is over.

11 I see that we do have some people that are
12 joining us. And if you would like to give testimony this
13 evening, please raise your hand. You can do that virtually
14 by clicking on the reactions button at the bottom of your
15 screen in the toolbar and clicking on "raise hand." If you
16 are joining by phone, please press star nine to raise your
17 hand and get in line to comment.

18 Before we begin, I would like to go over some of
19 the commenting rules.

20 Please do not use profanity or slurs in your
21 comments. Only one person will speak at a time, and I will
22 call on you using the name that appears in the participant
23 window to give your comments.

24 If you are calling in by phone, I will call on
25 you using the last four digits of your phone number. Once

1 you begin your comment, you will have three minutes to talk
2 before being placed back on mute. A timer will appear on
3 the screen to let you know how much time you have left. If
4 you are calling in on a phone, I will tell you when you
5 have 30 seconds left.

6 If you do not adhere to these rules, you will
7 forfeit your right to speak your comment at this meeting.
8 You may still comment on the Willow Project by submitting a
9 written comment on the project website or by mailing in a
10 hard copy comment.

11 And now we'll open the floor to commenters.
12 Again, comments are limited to three minutes, and you will
13 need to accept the request to unmute or press star six, if
14 calling in by the phone.

15 Testimony longer than three minutes can be
16 entered into the chat or submitted on the project website.

17 So first up for commenting, we have Terrence
18 Dalton, followed by Jennifer Collins.

19 And, Terrence, I am asking you to unmute.

20 MR. DALTON: Hello, and thank you for the
21 opportunity to comment this afternoon.

22 My name is Terence Dalton, and I am an Alaskan
23 resident, avid birder, hiker, and a 10-year energy-industry
24 employee. I do work for ConocoPhillips, but I'm currently
25 speaking on my own behalf.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to provide public
2 input on the Willow Master Development Plan.

3 I've visited the North Slope many times for
4 work, and I can honestly say that they are some of the
5 cleanest and most protected industrial sites I've ever
6 visited in my career.

7 Working on the North Slope is a very special
8 place because the people who are there realize we have some
9 of the highest standards of environmental performance. In
10 my many trips to the North Slope, I've seen some amazing
11 life-list birds, such as king and spectacled eider, as well
12 as my absolute favorite, pomarine jaegers. These birds are
13 very difficult to see in other places across Alaska and
14 almost impossible if you live in the Lower 48.

15 It's very important to me that people realize
16 the North Slope operations function in harmony with the
17 migratory birds that make their summer homes in the Arctic.
18 It's amazing to be able to see these wonderful birds in
19 their native habitat on the slope.

20 I think Willow is an incredibly important
21 project because it actually impacts all of Alaska and even
22 our American national energy security. In these uncertain
23 times with war in Europe and tensions in the Middle East, I
24 think it's critical we do not cripple our national energy
25 security by stifling innovative and vital projects like

1 Willow.

2 In comparison to other countries, like Russia or
3 Iran, where oil is produced with no regard for wildlife,
4 Alaskan-led projects like Willow are essential. Alaska can
5 responsibly develop projects like Willow during the energy
6 transition and still help USA meet our ambitious greenhouse
7 gas emission targets. While technologies like carbon
8 capture and renewable energy are growing, the reality is
9 that new oil will still be required during the energy
10 transition.

11 Nationally we're on an excellent climate change
12 pathway. With recent legislative action, like the passage
13 of the Inflation Reduction Act and responsible projects
14 like Willow, with very low GHG intensity oil per barrel,
15 there's an essential role for Alaska to play in the future
16 of our country, our economy, and in supporting our global
17 allies, who are trying to reduce their reliance on hostile
18 actors who provide them with their current energy supplies.

19 Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify
20 today.

21 MS. RICE: All right. Thank you.

22 I see that we had a number of people just join
23 us. If you would like to give testimony tonight, please
24 raise your hand. You can do that by clicking on the
25 "reactions" button in the toolbar at the bottom of your

1 screen and clicking "raise hand." And if you joined by
2 phone, you can raise your hand by clicking star nine.

3 Next up we have Jennifer Collins, followed by
4 Bruce Craig.

5 And, Jennifer, I am asking you to unmute.

6 MS. COLLINS: Thank you.

7 My name is Jennifer Collins, and I have been a
8 proud Alaska resident for over 20 years. I'm an
9 environmental professional in the oil and gas industry, but
10 today I'm speaking on my own behalf as an Alaskan.

11 I'm testifying in support of Alternative E as a
12 supplement to the Willow draft EIS. This option represents
13 a reduction in surface infrastructure, addresses
14 stakeholder concerns, and enables a practical way forward
15 for the project.

16 ConocoPhillips has been operating responsibly in
17 Alaska for more than 50 years and goes to extensive
18 measures to protect the sensitive ecosystem of the North
19 Slope. Rigorous environmental practices are used to
20 minimize the footprints of operations, such as annual ice
21 roads and pads, and set up permanent gravel placement onto
22 the tundra.

23 When gravel is absolutely required, every square
24 foot is considered, and all efforts are made to reduce the
25 size of the expansion to only what is necessary.

1 Alternative E of the draft EIS is a perfect example of
2 these footprint reductions for Willow.

3 I have been listening to the testimony of those
4 who oppose the Willow Project, and I'd like to address a
5 few frequently recited incorrect statements.

6 First, it has been stated multiple times that
7 Willow greenhouse gas emissions will equal the annual
8 emissions of 76 coal plants. This comparison is misleading
9 and factually incorrect. It compares cumulative emissions
10 from 30 years of Willow oil production to a singular year
11 of hypothetical coal-fired power plants.

12 The following comparison is based on the facts.
13 Willow's net annualized emissions are roughly equivalent to
14 one coal-fire power plant.

15 Another inaccuracy is that ConocoPhillips will
16 use so-called artificial chillers at Willow to freeze the
17 tundra due to global warming. This is completely false.

18 The Willow Project will use passive
19 thermosiphon, like many areas in the Arctic, including in
20 communities at schools and clinics. Thermosiphon are not
21 powered. They are not tundra refrigerators, and they're
22 certainly not new.

23 The Willow Project design does not differ from
24 standard Arctic engineering practices that have been in
25 place in many countries for decades. The number and extent

1 of thermosiphon installations plan for Willow will be
2 commensurate with installation at existing facilities on
3 the western North Slope. Latest design standards will be
4 used to optimize their effectiveness.

5 The oil produced by the Willow Project will be
6 among the cleanest and most environmentally responsible
7 barrels produced anywhere on the planet. If there is an
8 impression that stopping the Willow Project will prevent
9 these critical barrels of oil from being extracted
10 elsewhere, I'm sorry to say, this is mistaken.

11 Alaska and our country will benefit from the
12 Willow Project, and to prevent this project from occurring
13 will just push oil production to another location with less
14 stringent environmental and social justice practices.

15 Our country needs energy, and Willow represents
16 a significant opportunity to promote U.S. energy security
17 by increasing domestic oil supply. And while I fully
18 recognize our world is in the midst of an energy
19 transition, sensible projects like Willow will have a vital
20 role to play while technology is developed to make that
21 transition possible.

22 Again, I support the Willow Project, and I
23 encourage the BLM to complete the SEIS and record of
24 decision in time to allow construction for the '22-'23
25 winter season.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. RICE: Thank you, Jennifer.

3 Next up we have Bruce Craig, followed by Peter
4 Windsor.

5 And, Bruce, I am asking you to unmute. You
6 should see a popup that says "accept the request."

7 MR. CRAIG: Can -- can you hear me now?

8 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

9 MR. CRAIG: I had a problem. My screen blanked
10 out on me for a minute there.

11 MS. RICE: No problem.

12 MR. CRAIG: So sorry.

13 Okay. Am I able to speak now? I can't see.

14 MS. RICE: Yes. Go ahead. You may give your
15 comment now.

16 MR. CRAIG: My name is Bruce Craig. I live in
17 Bellingham, Washington. I consider myself to be a citizen
18 in the world, and I have been a lifelong conservationist.

19 I just want to begin by saying I have always
20 believed that ecology is more important than economy, and
21 we are in extreme crisis with the global warming. We are
22 heading for extinction, and if we do not stop developing
23 fossil fuels, we will just hasten our own extinction.

24 And so I'm absolutely 100 percent opposed to the
25 Willow Project. I think that that entire north shore of

1 Alaska should be a wilderness area. Hands off. No
2 development at all.

3 And I would really strongly urge people to
4 vacate the state of Alaska. Global warming is happening
5 there much faster. Extinction is going to happen there
6 sooner, and we should actually evacuate the state and get
7 people down to the Lower 48 quickly.

8 And that is all I have to say. Thank you.

9 MS. RICE: All right. Thank you, Bruce.

10 Next up we have Peter Windsor, followed by
11 Jolene Linkenoff.

12 And, Peter, I am asking you to unmute.

13 MR. WINDSOR: Thank you so much, Stephanie.

14 My name is Dr. Peter Windsor. I'm the executive
15 director of Alaska Wilderness League and a former tenured
16 professor at University of Alaska Fairbanks. I live in
17 Fairbanks, and I've spent the last 25 years of my life
18 studying the Arctic and the Arctic ecosystems.

19 The Willow Project, as put forward here by
20 ConocoPhillips, is really a climate catastrophe presented
21 in front of us.

22 The Teshekpuk Special Area, as an example, is a
23 globally important ecosystem, an ecosystem that's extremely
24 sensitive to changes, and it's already on there extreme
25 stress from climate change effects alone. Any added

1 stresses to this ecosystem could easily put it over the
2 tipping point, where this ecosystem will collapse and we
3 will lose species forever in an irreversible process.

4 So I am strongly urging BLM to take this
5 seriously. And I think the SEIS, as currently written, is
6 understating a lot of the issues with the proposed
7 development. So Alternative A, no action, is the only
8 viable action for us to protect these fragile ecosystems
9 now and into the future.

10 A couple of keywords have been mentioned here
11 earlier in this -- in public meetings and in public
12 comments. One is that there'll be a decreased risk of
13 spills, and that's just not an acceptable level of
14 protection for these areas.

15 Most recently ConocoPhillips have had extensive
16 gas leaks in the Nuiqsut area that was unattended and
17 untaken care of for over two months and the village of
18 Nuiqsut themselves evacuated several people or tens of
19 people during this gas leak.

20 This shows that, even under current climate
21 conditions, this particular developer, ConocoPhillips, is
22 unable to address climate change effects, such as thawing
23 permafrost on these lands, which was the main reason for
24 the gas leak that occurred.

25 In the future, the Arctic is currently warming

1 four times faster than anywhere in the world. These
2 ecosystems, including the Teshekpuk Special Area, is home
3 to and is globally important ecosystems. Developing new
4 oil and locking us into 30 years of oil and gas development
5 in this particularly important area is just nonsense.

6 We have an inability to protect what this area
7 will look like 10 to 20 years from now, especially with the
8 nonlinear effects of climate change.

9 So, in short, this whole project is an absolute
10 no in terms of protecting the fragile ecosystems, the
11 ecosystem services that people that live here depend on,
12 and I urge BLM to go with Alternative A, no action.

13 And thank you for your attention.

14 MS. RICE: Thank you, Peter.

15 Next up we have Jolene Linkenoff, followed by
16 Alison Parrot.

17 And, Jolene, I am asking you to unmute.

18 MS. LINKENOFF: Hello. My name is Jolene
19 Linkenoff, and I am speaking as an individual who has
20 worked in the oil and gas industry for 10 years.

21 I'm an Alaska native who was born and raised in
22 Anchorage, Alaska, and I am in support of the development
23 of the Willow Project.

24 The Willow Project will not only lead to jobs
25 and less dependency on foreign oil, but better schools,

1 health clinics, and transportation infrastructure for the
2 North Slope region and the state.

3 According to BLM's estimate, at an oil price of
4 approximately \$61 per barrel, the Willow Project can
5 generate between 8 to 17 billion in new revenue from
6 federal royalties, income tax, and gravel sales for the
7 federal government, the State of Alaska, the North Slope
8 Borough, and local communities, and around [inaudible].

9 Furthermore, it's estimated that over
10 2.3 billion could be made available to the North Slope
11 communities through the NPRA impact mitigation grant
12 program, which is a unique program that has significant
13 social and environmental justice benefits.

14 These grants fund city operations, youth
15 programs, and essential community projects, which, in turn,
16 create local jobs for residents. Property taxes from the
17 Willow Project would also help fund essential services such
18 as schools, emergency response capabilities, health
19 clinics, drinking water, waste water, roads, power, and
20 solid waste disposal.

21 Delaying or stopping the first major production
22 in NPRA would deprive NPRA communities of a long-promised
23 partnership and the benefits of resource production.
24 Further delays on these projects are not in the public
25 interest and will continue to have significant negative

1 impacts on the state of Alaska, North Slope Borough, NPRA
2 communities, and other North Slope stakeholders.

3 In conclusion, I am testifying in support of the
4 supplement to the Willow draft EIS, specifically
5 Alternative E, which represents a positive path forward for
6 the Willow Project while reducing surface impacts.

7 I also encourage the BLM to complete the SEIS
8 and record of decision in time to allow construction in the
9 2022-2023 winter season.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.

11 MS. RICE: Thank you, Jolene.

12 Next up we have Allison Parrot followed by
13 Michaela Anderson.

14 And, Allison, I am asking you to unmute.

15 MS. PARROT: Hi. Can you hear me?

16 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

17 MS. PARROT: Okay. So my name is Allison
18 Parrot, and I'm in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

19 The ecological damage that the Willow Project
20 will cause has already been talked about, has already been
21 documented, even by the BLM's own environmental impact
22 statement, the destruction of an ecologically significant
23 landscape, the displacement of the wildlife that lived
24 there, the impact on Alaskan native communities that rely
25 on and have been in a long-term relationship with the land,

1 the release of more than 287 million metric tons of CO2
2 into the atmosphere.

3 So my question is: Why are we all here debating
4 a project whose environmental impacts for Alaska and the
5 world are so plain? We are here because we have forgotten
6 that we are part of the totality of life, a web so
7 intimately connected that the stress on even one species
8 sends a ripple effect through the whole. We are here
9 because we refuse to acknowledge the harm we have done to
10 life on our planet.

11 We distract ourselves from the reality of our
12 situation, seeking to fulfill desires that can never be
13 satisfied because to acknowledge what is happening means
14 fully taking in the horror of our role as the chief
15 architects and feeling the grief for what is being lost.
16 To face our loss and our culpability means we can no longer
17 pretend that it's okay to continue with business as usual.

18 Fossil fuel development is an incredibly
19 shortsighted and unintelligent means of meeting our energy
20 needs because in the end it puts us in the precarious
21 position of stealing from the future, our future and the
22 future of our children and generations to come, and yet we
23 still -- and yet we sit here today and debate a project in
24 an industry that can only contribute to the worsening of
25 the catastrophe we find ourselves in.

1 Projects like the Willow Project are life
2 denying. They put our species and all species in further
3 peril. At this pivotal time in human history, there is so
4 much opportunity and public support for changing our
5 course.

6 Are you, our leaders, really going to continue
7 to lock us into a technology that is literally making our
8 planet uninhabitable, or are you going to step into a
9 vision that leads humanity into an era of reckoning with
10 our mistakes and repairing the harm that we have done?
11 What legacy will you choose?

12 To be clear, I am requesting that the
13 administration reject this project. Select Alternative A,
14 no action.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. RICE: Thank you.

17 Next up we have Michaela Anderson, followed by
18 Lisa Kobos.

19 And, Michaela, I am asking you to unmute.

20 MS. ANDERSON: All right. Thank you.

21 I'm Michaela Anderson, a lifelong Alaska
22 resident, and government relations director for the
23 Associated General Contractors of Alaska.

24 The Associated General Contractors of Alaska, or
25 AGC, is a construction trade association representing over

1 600 contractors, specialty contractors, suppliers, and
2 manufacturers in Alaska. Within our membership is much of
3 Alaska's industrial and commercial construction industry.

4 We are commenting today in support of the Willow
5 Master Development Plan draft SEIS, and we appreciate the
6 opportunity to comment on this very important issue.

7 At AGC we don't represent a specific resource
8 industry. Rather we advocate instead for a healthy
9 economy, responsible environmental and developmental
10 partnerships, and proper legal, well-established permitting
11 and review processes. We advocate for these things
12 because, when the economy is healthy, so is the
13 construction industry.

14 In response to the Bureau of Land Management's
15 release of the draft supplemental environmental impact
16 statement for the Willow Master Development Plan, AGC
17 strongly encourages BLM to not delay a supportive decision
18 any further.

19 The Willow Project has endured extensive
20 regulatory review and studies. A timely decision is
21 crucial to Willow being able to begin the construction in
22 the 2022-2023 season. This will create over 2,000 jobs
23 with 300 long-term jobs. The construction of Willow will
24 result in tens of billions of dollars in revenue for the
25 state, federal, and local governments. Additionally, the

1 project has overwhelming regional and state support.

2 The Willow Project conforms to BLM's 2022 and
3 PRA integrated activity plan, meeting all state and federal
4 environmental mandates, including over 250 mitigation and
5 best practices currently in place. The oil from Willow
6 will be some of the most environmentally and socially
7 responsible and technologically advanced oil produced in
8 the world.

9 This will increase energy security, not only for
10 Alaska but the U.S., by producing competitive low
11 greenhouse gas emission intensity domestic oil after years
12 of declining supply.

13 After years of rigorous environmental review,
14 extensive regulatory assessment, court review, and
15 supplemental analysis, it is time to permit this project.
16 For these and many other reasons, AGC supports the Willow
17 Project and urges BLM to adopt Alternative E and permit the
18 Willow Project without further delay to ensure a timely
19 progression and the ability to capitalize on the upcoming
20 construction season.

21 Thank you for your consideration.

22 MS. RICE: Thank you, Michaela.

23 Next up we have Lisa Kobos, followed by Chad
24 Gilbert.

25 And, Lisa, I am asking you to unmute.

1 MS. KOBOS: Hello. Can you hear me?

2 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

3 MS. KOBOS: Wonderful. Thank you.

4 My name is Dr. Lisa Kobos. I am from West
5 Virginia, and I work as a health scientist.

6 I urge BLM to proceed with proposed Alternative
7 A, no-action alternative. While I certainly will not and
8 cannot deny the short-term economic benefits of the Willow
9 Project, the effects on the citizenry at large are
10 unfortunately not commensurate to the potential benefits.

11 As I previously mentioned, I am from West
12 Virginia, and I have seen my state make this mistake. I've
13 experienced both the short-term personal and long-term
14 economic effects of the overall alliance on a limited
15 natural resource. In the case of West Virginia, coal.

16 For decades our state structured much of our
17 economy around the extraction and sale of coal, and today
18 approximately one in six of our citizens live below the
19 poverty line. Rates of drug use and overdose deaths are
20 some of the highest in the nation.

21 I've seen testimonials of miners with limited
22 respiratory function and suffering from black lung. Most
23 of these miners can no longer work and many die early.
24 Opportunities are limited here, and our state is rapidly
25 losing our people to the degree that we recently lost a

1 congressional seat due to population decline. Our state is
2 poor, and it is sick, and it is unfortunately dying a slow
3 death.

4 I implore BLM and those of you listening to
5 remember the reserves of oil present in Alaska are not
6 infinite, nor does their extraction come without
7 consequence. If BLM proceeds to -- elects to proceed with
8 the Willow Project, they are condemning the state of Alaska
9 to the same fate as West Virginia. They will be trading
10 the health and well-being of Alaskans in the long term for
11 short-term economic gain, ignoring the long-term effects of
12 illness, poverty, and death of Alaskan citizens.

13 I thank you for your attention and yield my
14 time.

15 MS. RICE: Thank you for those comments.

16 Next up we have Chad Gilbert, followed by Naomi
17 Zercher (phonetic).

18 And, Chad, I am asking you to unmute.

19 MR. GILBERT: Good afternoon, everyone. My name
20 is Chad Gilbert, and I am the director of pipeline and gas
21 distribution for the United Association of Union Plumbers
22 and Pipefitters.

23 The UA is a labor union representing more than
24 359,000 skilled crafts people in the U.S. and Canada. Our
25 members perform highly skilled welding and other work in

1 the construction of pipelines and associated facilities.

2 I thank you for the opportunity to provide these
3 brief comments today. The UA strongly supports approval of
4 the Willow Project. This is a critical infrastructure
5 project that would deliver reliable energy to consumers and
6 would provide billions of dollars in economic investment to
7 local communities.

8 It would also create many good-paying union jobs
9 for our members and other workers at a time when these jobs
10 are critically needed. UA pipeliners are highly trained in
11 the work they perform and would ensure that the project is
12 built according to the highest standards with an emphasis
13 on safety and protection of the environment.

14 The UA further believes that time is of the
15 essence when it comes to the bureau's review process in
16 this matter. Timely review is necessary, not only to bring
17 about the benefits the project would create, in terms of
18 jobs, energy, infrastructure, and local investment.

19 Alaska's extremely short construction season
20 also creates the need for procedural expediency. Even a
21 short delay in this process could push construction out an
22 entire year, threatening the project's viability in
23 general.

24 The bureau should look at any request for delays
25 such as those requests to extend the current 45-day comment

1 period on the SEIS, with a very critical eye. These delay
2 tactics serve no purpose other than to prolong the
3 permitting process in the hopes that delay alone will cause
4 the project to be canceled. Frankly, the UA has
5 encountered these delay tactics over and over again in
6 similar situations.

7 In recent years, we have several crucial oil and
8 natural gas transportation projects be canceled, not
9 because they were denied necessary permits, but because
10 they were burdened by the procedural delays to the point of
11 no longer being economically feasible. The bureau should
12 not allow itself to be complicit in those disingenuous and
13 harmful efforts to derail the Willow Project for
14 nonsubstantive reasons.

15 We urge the bureau to act quickly to review and
16 to ultimately approve the project.

17 Thank you again for the opportunity to speak
18 today. I am happy to answer any questions that the bureau
19 may have.

20 MS. RICE: Thank you.

21 Next up we have Naomi Zercher, followed by
22 Melissa Harper-France.

23 And, Naomi, I am asking you to unmute.

24 MS. ZERCHER: Yes. My name is Naomi Zercher,
25 and I am actually calling in from Lucerne, Switzerland.

1 And although I am an American presently located
2 abroad, atmospheric pollution does not discriminate and
3 does not remain where it was created. Projects such as
4 Willow will negatively impact the entire planet.

5 As a forestry professional, I am totally opposed
6 to the Willow Project, not just because of the exponential
7 increase in the resulting greenhouse gas emissions but
8 because of the irreparable damage to a unique, publicly
9 owned environmental treasure, as well as the destruction of
10 indigenous sacred lands, their culture, and way of life.

11 In addition, the probability of spill remains
12 extremely high, as with all such projects, and even
13 Alternative E cannot adequately secure the environment's
14 continued well-being.

15 Our efforts must focus on the implementation of
16 sustainable renewable energy technology that already exists
17 and not continue government subservient to the fossil fuel
18 industry that has done everything in its power to deny the
19 climate crisis that has their fingerprints all over it.

20 Given the fact that the entire globe is either
21 burning, melting, or drowning, the squandering of such an
22 environmentally important treasure would be unconscionable.
23 I therefore ask that the BLM select Alternative A option
24 the no-action alternative.

25 Thank you very much for the opportunity to

1 comment.

2 MS. RICE: Thank you.

3 I see we had a couple new people join us. If
4 you'd like to comment, please raise your hand. Phone users
5 can raise their hand by pressing star nine.

6 Next up we have Melissa Harper-France followed
7 by Emily Enterkin (phonetic).

8 And, Melissa, I am asking you to unmute.

9 MS. HARPER-FRANCE: Hi. My name is Melissa
10 Harper-France, and I live in St. Paul, Minnesota.

11 Today I'm asking the BLM to choose the proposed
12 Alternative A, no-action alternative.

13 I oppose the Willow Project for many reasons;
14 however, the main one being the recent IPCC reports that
15 have stated that to effectively fight climate change,
16 fossil fuel need to stay in the ground.

17 The amount of CO2 that would be released through
18 the Willow Project would have a devastating effect on
19 global climate, and it's an effect that the world cannot
20 afford.

21 I believe the summer especially has shown,
22 through the historic drought across Europe, unprecedented
23 heat waves in India, and the worsening water crisis in the
24 western United States, that the only way forward is to
25 drastically cut the reliance on fossil fuels.

1 Unfortunately, due to inaction by previous
2 American administrations and the world as a whole, we've
3 now reached a point where the reduction of fossil fuels
4 will cause pain to economies, is a pain that could have
5 been avoided had emissions not steadily risen over the past
6 20 years.

7 However, to stabilize the climate, I believe we
8 have to work through this frightening transition period by
9 not authorizing development projects like the Willow
10 Project but by expanding the renewable energy sector to
11 ensure a habitable planet for future generations.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.

13 MS. RICE: Thank you.

14 Next up we have Emily Enterkin, followed by Dan
15 Ritzman.

16 And, Emily, I'm asking you to unmute.

17 MS. ENTERKIN: Great.

18 Hello. My name is Emily Enterkin, and I reside
19 here in Fairbanks, Alaska.

20 The past 13 years I have been making my living
21 guiding trips throughout the Alaskan Arctic. There's few
22 places left in the world which have large areas of open
23 landscapes void of human infrastructure as Alaska does.

24 These open spaces are critical resources for our
25 future generation in our nation and throughout the world.

1 We must not encroach upon these valuable resources with
2 more infrastructure. I oppose the Willow Project.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. RICE: Thank you.

5 Next up we have Dan Ritzman, followed by Jeffrey
6 Sien (phonetic).

7 And, Dan, I am asking you to unmute.

8 MR. RITZMAN: Hi. Thank you for the opportunity
9 to speak with you today.

10 My name is Dan Ritzman, and I live in
11 Albuquerque, New Mexico. I'm the land, water, and wildlife
12 campaign director for the Sierra Club. Additionally, I
13 have 25 years of experience traveling and professionally
14 guiding in the Alaskan Arctic.

15 I'm here to request that the BLM select
16 Alternative A, the no-action alternative.

17 I've been trying to figure out what aspects of
18 the Willow proposal I wanted to focus on. I definitely
19 wanted to mention the climate impacts. With the Arctic
20 warming four times faster than the rest of the globe,
21 approval of the Willow Project will make this situation
22 even worse.

23 And then last week I was reading an electronic
24 newsletter, and I saw a ConocoPhillips ad supporting and
25 promoting the Willow Project. The ad had a photo with a

1 simple winter exploratory drilling rig on an ice pad and an
2 ice road stretching across the snow, and I realized that
3 that's what I want to talk about: the oil industry myth of
4 limited impacts.

5 I was around when the Alpine development was
6 first proposed, and the oil industry's talking points were
7 all about isolated development, no roads, limited impacts,
8 et cetera. And then along came the Greater Mooses Tooth,
9 and, once again, the oil industry message was isolated
10 development, limited impacts, limited impacts to the
11 tundra. And now we're hearing the same pitch about Willow:
12 don't worry, these impacts are limited.

13 Well, in early June of this year, I spent a week
14 at Teshekpuk Lake looking at birds and caribou, and when we
15 left, we flew direct from the south shore of the lake to
16 Deadhorse.

17 And along -- and long before we reached the
18 Colville River, we began to see oil-industry sprawl:
19 roads, buildings, pipelines, drill pads. You could see the
20 sprawl stretching for miles, both on the left and the right
21 side of the plane as we flew. And this sprawl continued
22 from before the Colville River to well past the Colville
23 River.

24 When folks ask me about oil-industry sprawl, I
25 like to talk about a fishing net analogy. The net is all

1 squished up on the deck of a boat, doesn't cover very much
2 land, but that's not how oil industry works. It's spread
3 out across the tundra like the net spread out across the
4 ocean.

5 The Willow Project will inevitably be a stepping
6 stone to future proposals to move sprawl further to the
7 west, and this should be considered in the EIS.

8 The oil industry talks about minimal isolated
9 impact, but when all these developments add up on the
10 ground, the sprawl negatively impacts the important
11 landscape and the climate.

12 Please choose the no-action alternative. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. RICE: Thank you.

15 Next up we have Jeffrey Sien, followed by Paul
16 Daniellian.

17 And, Jeffrey, I am asking you to unmute.

18 MR. SIEN: Can you hear me?

19 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

20 MR. SIEN: All right, great. Thank you.

21 My name is pronounced Sien. It's a made up
22 immigrant name, so you wouldn't have gotten that, but thank
23 you.

24 All right. I live in Minnesota. I'm a writer,
25 background in biology.

1 What I've heard, from people that are proposing
2 that we should go forward with Willow, I've heard two major
3 things. One is U.S. energy security. The other is jobs.

4 So where is the security, when all the leading
5 scientists on the planet are saying that fossil fuels are
6 creating huge insecurities in climate disasters, in our
7 water, and storms and droughts and farming and food
8 insecurity, et cetera?

9 So we have a climate emergency caused by fossil
10 fuels causing imminent harm, and we're debating whether or
11 not we should pour more gasoline on the fire. That to me
12 is the absolute definition of insanity, sitting at the
13 kitchen table, watching the house burn and debating how
14 much oil we should throw on the fire.

15 The job issues are important. I think people
16 that are in that industry could be retrained and helped any
17 way that we could. I would rather spend the money doing
18 that than encouraging more jobs and pouring more fuel on
19 the fire that's destroying our planet.

20 Two years ago major leading scientist across the
21 world signed a letter saying that all ecosystems on the
22 planet were, in fact, close to imminent collapsed. In
23 other words, it's a roll of the dice. We don't know.
24 We're playing with fire outside of the climate crisis
25 because of pesticides and other things that we don't know

1 when ecosystems might start falling apart.

2 Why are we rolling the dice and going forward
3 with another project that has caused all of our misery up
4 to this date worldwide and in this country? It's not
5 security that it will bring. It's bringing more
6 insecurity. And, I'm sorry, but we can't pay for jobs that
7 are going to add to that insecurity.

8 I think the BLM is not listening to scientists.
9 They're listening to opinions. They're listening to
10 Conoco's CEO's and shareholders. This is not a public
11 need. There's no need to have this. There's not a public
12 benefit out of this. It's short term, it's shortsighted,
13 and BLM would be grossly negligent to let this go forward.

14 So absolutely Alternative A, no-action
15 alternative. Thank you.

16 MS. RICE: Thank you.

17 Next up we have Paul Daniellian, followed by
18 Lindsay Hunter.

19 And, Paul, I am asking you to unmute.

20 MR. DANIELLIAN: Hello. Thank you for giving me
21 the opportunity to comment today. My name is Paul
22 Daniellian. I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico, another
23 state with substantial drilling for fossil fuels.

24 In this session, I strongly urge the BLM to
25 choose Alternative A, no-action alternative, for the

1 following reasons.

2 The Willow Project will commit more than 250
3 million tons of damaging greenhouse gases over a 30-year
4 period, and this is a time when reducing emissions and
5 global warming are critical issues for the whole planet.

6 This project will also exacerbate the ongoing
7 detrimental impact of drilling in the western Arctic upon
8 the health and the way of life of the indigenous and
9 Inupiaq peoples.

10 In addition to this, this project will cause
11 local environmental damage for its construction, water
12 usage, and pollution. I propose that moving forward with
13 this project would be a substantial long-term environmental
14 disaster, criminal use of federal lands, and one over which
15 the U.S. citizens have a say.

16 Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to
17 comment today.

18 MS. RICE: Thank you.

19 Next up we have Lindsay Hunter, followed by Ron
20 Fache (phonetic).

21 And, Lindsay, I am asking you to unmute.

22 MS. HUNTER: Can you hear me?

23 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

24 MS. HUNTER: Excellent.

25 Hello. My name is Lindsay Hunter. I'm a

1 born-and-raised Alaskan, who has a vested interest in
2 Alaska's economic future for my children.

3 I work for ConocoPhillips, but I'm an Alaskan
4 first, and today I am speaking on my own behalf in support
5 of the Willow Project.

6 With approximately 600 million estimated total
7 recoverable barrels, Willow could produce approximately
8 180,000 barrels per day at peak production. This
9 additional oil production will help sustain the
10 Trans-Alaska Pipeline System well into the future.

11 Willow is expected to create as many as 2,000
12 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs and could generate
13 between 8 and \$17 billion in total revenue for the federal
14 government, the State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough,
15 and communities in and around NPRA.

16 Willow will promote U.S. energy security by
17 increasing competitive domestic oil supply. When Willow
18 comes online, its greenhouse gas emission intensity will be
19 some of the lowest in the world amongst North America and
20 OPEC countries, based on recent data for oil production,
21 making it very sustainable and efficient.

22 I strongly encourage BLM to adopt Alternative E
23 as the preferred alternative in the SEIS and the record of
24 decision.

25 Thank you for giving me the chance to comment

1 today.

2 MS. RICE: Thank you.

3 Next up we have Ron Fache, followed by Spencer
4 Shaver.

5 And, Ron, I am asking you to unmute.

6 MR. FACHE: Yes. Hello. Can you hear me?

7 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

8 MR. FACHE: Okay. My name is Ron Fache, and I'm
9 also from Albuquerque, New Mexico. I'm so proud to hear of
10 my neighbors who feel the same way that I do.

11 I don't have to repeat so much of the
12 environmental impacts that other people are talking about,
13 but given the fact that it will hurt the biodiversity, the
14 overall ecology, it will impact the native people, the sea
15 ice melt, polar bears, caribou, permafrost thaw, all of
16 that, I just have to say I'm in total opposition to the
17 approval of any alternative that would allow this project
18 to proceed.

19 I'm reminded all the time of the definition of
20 insanity as being something that you do again and again
21 with adverse outcomes, but you continue to do it. And
22 isn't that the truth about the overall history of the
23 industry with oil extraction leading us to where we are now
24 regarding climate change, the drought?

25 The Rio Grand, the river that runs through New

1 Mexico recently went dry, if you can imagine. We have a
2 situation with the Glen Canyon and Lake Mead Dams. The
3 water backed up behind them has dropped to the point where
4 they won't even be allowed to generate power because the
5 water levels have gone below the intake tubes. How can we
6 ignore that?

7 It's insane to continue despite all of the
8 arguments for the economic benefits, the jobs, on and on
9 and on. We've heard that for decades, and now, you know,
10 the rubber is literally meeting the road. How can we
11 continue this way?

12 I'm 83 years old. I won't be around that much
13 longer, but, on the other hand, look at all the kids and
14 grandkids who will have to live with these worsening
15 conditions associated with climate change?

16 Please adopt Alternative A, no action. It makes
17 no sense whatever to continue to nitpick. Just one more
18 project, just one more 250 billion gallons or whatever the
19 heck it is. Enough.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. RICE: Thank you.

22 Next up we have Spencer Shaver, followed by Ryan
23 Sandman.

24 And, Spencer, I am asking you to unmute.

25 MR. SHAVER: Hello? Can you hear me?

1 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

2 MR. SHAVER: Hi. And thank you for the
3 opportunity to offer a comment today.

4 My name is Spencer Shaver, and I'm testifying as
5 a campaigns coordinator for Protect our Winters, or POW,
6 based in Boulder, Colorado.

7 POW helps passionate outdoor people protect the
8 places and lifestyles we love from climate change at the
9 federal, state, and local levels through nonpartisan policy
10 and advocacy campaigns.

11 POW urges BLM to select Alternative A, the
12 no-action alternative, proposed in the recently released
13 SEIS for the Willow Project. Like others who request BLM
14 select the no-action alternative, we have found that
15 previous climate analyses were insufficient as it relates
16 to reasonably foreseeable impacts to our changing climate
17 should the Willow Project be allowed to proceed. As we
18 know, the effects of climate change impact every part of
19 the economy.

20 POW works with outdoor athletes, businesses, and
21 corporations who feel these effects firsthand and whose
22 bottom lines depend on open and accessible American
23 landscapes for outdoor recreation.

24 With almost no exceptions, places that depend on
25 winter sports as a fundamental part of the economy and an

1 industry that directly supports over 191,000 jobs in
2 America and hosts over 23 million athletes and visitors
3 participating in snow sports annually, experience less snow
4 pack and fewer operating ski and snowboard areas to
5 utilize.

6 In parts of the Mountain West, the snow season
7 has shrunk by 34 days since the 1980's, resulting in
8 decreased skier business by up to 14 percent during low
9 snow pack years.

10 Summer outdoor recreation businesses also feel
11 the same effects of climate change across America,
12 including extreme heat, drought, smoke from wildfire, and
13 low flow in rivers and streams due to the same reduced snow
14 pack in the summer months.

15 From 2016 to 2020, the western U.S. experienced
16 roughly six to ten weeks of wildfire smoke exposure,
17 resulting in lost days recreating and a significant
18 negative impact on individuals' ability to participate in
19 trail, climbing, biking, and camping activities.

20 As climate change continues to take a toll on
21 our nation's great outdoors, the livelihoods that depend on
22 the outdoors and businesses' bottom lines will suffer, as
23 their work also depends on a stable climate.

24 For these reasons, and for the reasons we
25 outline in our written comments, POW urges BLM to select

1 the no-action alternative.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. RICE: Thank you.

4 Next up we have Ryan Sandman, followed by
5 Russell Donnelley.

6 And, Ryan, I am asking you to unmute.

7 MR. SANDMAN: Hi. How's it going? Can you hear
8 me?

9 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

10 MR. SANDMAN: Awesome. Thank you.

11 My name is Ryan Sandman. I thank you for
12 allowing me to speak today. I'm here on behalf of
13 Laborers' International Union of North America, LIUNA.

14 LIUNA is a diverse union that represents roughly
15 500,000 Americans who predominantly work within the
16 construction sector throughout all of North America.

17 We support the Willow Project because of what it
18 means -- what it will bring to our local LIUNA members and
19 the benefits to our nation and the strict environmental
20 guidelines to which it will be built under.

21 A brief background on LIUNA. You name it, we
22 build it: highways, roadways, and bridges, tunnels for
23 subways and railways, city skyscrapers, and buildings.
24 LIUNA members go to work every day literally building
25 America. It's what we do, and it's who we are.

1 One sector in particular that has brought
2 significant work hours to our members is our nation's vast
3 energy infrastructure network. Our members go to work
4 every day within our nation's energy infrastructure sector,
5 keeping the lights on for millions, from wind farms to
6 solar panel fields to hydro and nuclear facilities to
7 natural gas and oil pipelines.

8 But unlike several sectors within the energy
9 industry, where we have had countless fights through the
10 low wages and unsatisfactory benefits packages, it is the
11 oil and natural gas industry that has truly provided good
12 union jobs with family supporting wages and benefits to
13 thousands of LIUNA members across the country. The same is
14 true for Willow.

15 All of this, however, is put into jeopardy, as
16 our nation's critical infrastructure continues to be put
17 under constant restraint brought on by costly and
18 burdensome delays. The Willow Project has already gone
19 through a rigorous and comprehensive review process,
20 including a multi-year environmental analysis.

21 On top of all of this, the project comes at a
22 time when energy independence is vital to our nation's
23 security and competitiveness.

24 It is unfortunate that delays have become the
25 norm within the construction sector. No matter what it is,

1 projects are being challenged in every direction, and we
2 are seeing this literally with our infrastructure crumbling
3 in front of us and the prosperity is forgone.

4 To put it in perspective, the environmental
5 review process for a federal highway can take up to seven
6 years. Thanks to the Biden Administration, congress passed
7 one of the largest infrastructure -- sorry. Thanks to the
8 Biden Administration, congress passed the largest
9 infrastructure act in the history of our country, but like
10 Willow opponents to infrastructure use tactical maneuvers
11 to exhaust advancements and cause needless delays that will
12 ultimately forego and upend projects altogether.

13 Opponents of Willow will say that these are
14 temporary, dirty, and dangerous jobs, but the fact of the
15 matter is that all construction jobs, by their very nature,
16 are, in fact, temporary, dirty, and dangerous.

17 Opponents of Willow will call environmental
18 foul. Alternative E addresses these concerns, as a
19 collaborative effort by ConocoPhillips, in response to
20 them.

21 Opponents will also call into question the
22 integrity of the project's construction itself, but
23 Americans union workforce is second to none. We are
24 literally the world's best.

25 For many Americans, flicking on a light switch

1 or turning on the television is second nature, but the
2 reliability of our nation's energy infrastructure is the
3 reason that those are second nature to begin with.

4 You'll notice earlier that I used the "term
5 work" hours and not "jobs." That is because it's not
6 necessarily how we calibrate it. You can create a -- a
7 project can create a hundred jobs for a week or a hundred
8 jobs for a year. That's why we use it in terms of work
9 hours. And Willow is the latter.

10 Our members move from job to job, project to
11 project, gaining the skills and experience that build
12 construction careers. We have some of our Alaska members
13 on the line today, and they'll go into further detail what
14 Willow means to our union members, as well as their fellow
15 building trades men and women, who will be employed on this
16 project.

17 MS. RICE: Excuse me, Ryan.

18 MR. SANDMAN: At the end of the day -- yes.

19 MS. RICE: Excuse me. I'm sorry. Your three
20 minutes is up, and we do --

21 MR. SANDMAN: Oh, I apologize.

22 MS. RICE: We do have a lot of -- yeah. We have
23 a lot of people ready to comment.

24 Thank you so much for those comments.

25 Anyone with testimony over three minutes can

1 submit a comment online or can chat it to the Willow
2 comments here in Zoom.

3 MR. SANDMAN: Will do.

4 MS. RICE: So next up we have Russell Donnelley,
5 followed by Rena Garcia.

6 And, Russell, I am asking you to unmute.

7 Russell, so you'll just have to accept the
8 request to unmute.

9 I'm going to send it again.

10 So it looks like Russell is having some
11 difficulty unmuting, so we'll keep going down the list.

12 And, Russell, please raise your hand again to
13 get back on the list.

14 So Rena Garcia, I am asking you to unmute.

15 MS. GARCIA: Hello. And thank you for allowing
16 me to comment today.

17 My name is Rena Garcia. I am a campaigner with
18 Friends of the Earth based in D.C., although I am calling
19 in from Albuquerque, New Mexico, which I'm actually not too
20 surprised there are quite a few of us on today. Given our
21 state's own issues with oil and gas, the Willow Project
22 hits very close to home.

23 I would like to take the time to urge the BLM to
24 take action to prevent harm to communities and habitats in
25 Alaska and to select Alternative A, no-action alternative.

1 The extraction and burning of fossil fuels from
2 public lands and waters accounts for nearly a quarter of
3 U.S. climate emissions and the more public land sacrifice
4 to oil and gas projects, the more economic, environmental,
5 and public health damage and destruction are baked into our
6 future.

7 An accurate environmental impact review would
8 analyze and show an accurate description of the effects
9 from the Willow Project, including a significant increase
10 of greenhouse gas emissions, collective impacts to public
11 health and wildlife, and reasonable alternatives to the
12 proposed project.

13 President Biden campaigned on a robust clean
14 energy plan and has very ambitious goals for climate that
15 require bold strategies in which large and harmful
16 developments like the Willow Project do not align. It is
17 unfortunate that the federal government is willing to green
18 light this project without fully analyzing impacts on
19 communities living nearby.

20 Again, I urge the BLM to select Alternative A,
21 no-action alternative. Thank you.

22 MS. RICE: Thank you, Rena.

23 So, Russell Donnelley, I am going to try to
24 unmute you again.

25 It looks like -- it looks like he dropped off.

1 Okay. We will keep going down the list.

2 Gregory Moga, followed by Doreen Levitt.

3 And, Gregory, I am asking you to unmute.

4 MR. MOGA: Thank you.

5 This is Gregory Moga. I live in -- I'm calling
6 from Mount Vernon, Washington. I am a board member of the
7 Alaska Wilderness League, as well as the League of
8 Conservation Voters.

9 I am requesting that the BLM select the
10 Alternative A, no-action alternative. My reasons for this
11 are many, but, of course, the impact on climate, on
12 wildlife, and on the planet as a whole.

13 The comments that are being submitted today seem
14 to be divided between people who are concerned about
15 climate and the future of the planet and those who are
16 concerned for short-term jobs.

17 I would also note that the United States is
18 already the largest producer of oil and natural gas in the
19 world. So those who say that you have to proceed with
20 Willow because of our dependence on foreign oil and gas are
21 clearly mistaken. They have no idea what they're talking
22 about.

23 The United States is already, again, the largest
24 producer in the world and is not dependent on foreign oil.
25 What we are dependent upon is a global market, and that's

1 what drives the enormous profits that go to countries like
2 Saudi Arabia and Russia.

3 So I'll yield my time with just the summary of I
4 request that the BLM select Alternative A, no-action
5 alternative.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. RICE: Thank you, Gregory.

8 Next up we have Doreen Levitt, followed by
9 Michael Wald.

10 And, Doreen, I'm asking you to unmute.

11 MS. LEVITT: My name is Dorene Levitt, and I'm
12 the director of natural resources for the Inupiaq community
13 of the Arctic Slope and IRA Federally Recognized Regional
14 Tribe.

15 As a lifelong Alaska resident and an Inupiaq, I
16 hear from people on a regular basis what the Willow project
17 means for our community. Our economy is suffering, and we
18 lack opportunities on our own to change it.

19 While the Lower 48 braces for a possible
20 recession, few outside Alaska realize that we are on year
21 eight of an economic slump. We are far away from the
22 continuous United States, and this physical distance often
23 means we are left to create our own opportunities. This
24 project accomplishes just that.

25 It's about economic opportunity, but also so

1 much more. Willow is about allowing native communities to
2 continue living the types of lives we have for generations
3 and to create a better life for our future.

4 Many members of my region continue to lead a
5 subsistence-based way of life, and the current project
6 proposal not only considered our input but also included
7 provisions to improve our subsistence efforts.

8 First, the proposal protects a large swath of
9 coastal wetlands for Inupiaq subsistence use. Second, it
10 will also expand access to gravel roads and ATV trails for
11 subsistence living, providing much needed infrastructure
12 that our region lacks.

13 Alternative E, the three part alternative, in
14 the June supplemental environmental impact statement
15 represents a win-win scenario on new and needed
16 infrastructure, economic opportunity, and sustainable
17 ecology and wildlife management.

18 This project is an extraordinary opportunity for
19 the North Slope Inupiaq people. For us, this decision is
20 personal. That's because the future of the Willow Project
21 will have a direct effort on the daily lives of each person
22 in our community.

23 Willow has followed a thorough and lengthy
24 federal review process already, one that threatens to drown
25 out the voices of us most directly impacting. Any further

1 delay of the project will prolong our financial
2 difficulties and threaten our current way of life.

3 As a community and a region, we look out for one
4 another's best interest, and the broad Inupiaq support for
5 the Willow Project is because it will benefit all of us.
6 This project supports and protects our way of life,
7 provides economic opportunities now, and will help us move
8 into the future to live a life that those in the Lower 48
9 already enjoy.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. RICE: Thank you.

12 Next up we have Michael Wald, followed by
13 Danielle Stickman.

14 And, Michael, I am asking you to unmute.

15 MR. WALD: Hi. My name is Michael Wald. I'm
16 here in Fairbanks, Alaska. And I've spent much of the past
17 25 years working and living in Arctic Alaska.

18 I'd like to strongly urge BLM to choose the
19 no-action alternative for Conoco's Willow Project.

20 I'm not opposed to all development, but I feel
21 like Willow is the wrong project in the wrong place.
22 Others have, and I'm sure will speak to the problems, with
23 the project on a more global and national scale. My
24 experience is much more local, and I think I'll confine my
25 comments to that scale.

1 Industrial development in the area adjacent to
2 the Teshekpuk Wetlands would degrade the most productive
3 wetlands complex in the entire Circumpolar Arctic. The
4 value of this area as well established, and the problems
5 associated with development are well known.

6 With the encroachment of industry comes dust
7 from roads, bringing early snow melt. Development brings
8 gravel pads, towers, habitat for numerous nest predators.
9 Development brings changes in hydrology, phenology, and
10 productivity to an incredibly important area.

11 In addition to the significant ecological
12 impacts on nesting and molting birds, development near the
13 eastern edge of Teshekpuk would put significant stress on
14 the Teshekpuk caribou herd.

15 I've been on the inland of the coast in July
16 when the bugs are so bad you have to breathe through your
17 clenched teeth, and when I've been there, I've wanted
18 nothing more than to leave. Caribou feel the same way.
19 When the bugs are fierce, they need egress to the coast.
20 They need egress to insect-relief habitat.

21 The narrow corridors on either side of Teshekpuk
22 Lake are essential for caribou, allowing them to access
23 ideal forage when it is windy and cool and giving them
24 quick access to the coast when it is too buggy inland. We
25 know that roads and other development slow caribou

1 movements, hindering movements between critical habitats of
2 forage and insect relief. Being stuck in the bugs is
3 especially hard for cows and calves, and anyone who's been
4 there knows how unpleasant it is.

5 My third objection to development in Willow and
6 this proposal to transform the tundra into an oil patch is
7 that I oppose the taking of public land for private
8 industry.

9 Should ConocoPhillips be allowed to develop this
10 area, the public will no longer be allowed. We have been
11 told before that public access will be assured. It never
12 is, and bit by bit Alaskans are barred from entering more
13 of Alaska so that multinational corporations can export our
14 wealth.

15 I urge the Department of Interior to take no
16 action on Willow. And I thank you all for participating in
17 this public meeting.

18 MS. RICE: Thank you.

19 Next up we have Danielle Stickman, followed by
20 Diane Pierce.

21 Danielle, I'm asking you to unmute.

22 MS. STICKMAN: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Danielle Stickman. I am [inaudible] Athabascan, raised in
24 both rural and urban areas of Alaska. Today I'm testifying
25 on behalf of the Wilderness Society, as the Alaska state

1 deputy director.

2 And I have worked around the state for over a
3 decade, working to protect salmon, improve partnerships
4 across different entities, and towards equity and
5 inclusion.

6 TWS has considerable -- considerable concern
7 over the speed of the BLM permitting process for
8 ConocoPhillips' Willow Master Development Project and the
9 agency's decision to keep public comments open for the
10 minimum length of time allowed by law.

11 The scale and consequences of this project are
12 immense, mentioned by many of -- many people here today.
13 No single oil and gas project has more potential to set
14 back the administration's climate and public land's
15 protection goals than the Willow Project.

16 Willow is the single largest oil-extraction
17 project proposed on federal lands, estimated to add more
18 than 284.4 million metric tons of CO2 to the atmosphere
19 over the next 30 years.

20 Moreover, there are eight North Slope Borough
21 indigenous communities who live within or directly adjacent
22 to the NPRA and rely on the public lands to support their
23 subsistence way of life. Those communities deserve the
24 opportunity for BLM to host public meetings there as well.

25 So I ask: How does BLM plan to mitigate the

1 impacts on the well-being and mental health of the
2 communities and also the State of Alaska? If BLM chooses
3 any alternative other than A, the no-action alternative,
4 how will BLM mitigate sleep disturbance, increased stress,
5 and anxiety and depression, in many cases, compounded by
6 preexisting historical trauma?

7 The DSEIS states, "Rapid modernization and
8 development, as well as other multiple stressful
9 conditions, including significant changes in diet, housing,
10 and traditional culture have led to negative health
11 outcomes, including suicide."

12 And also I want to mention subsistence. And I
13 know I'm running out of time. Apologies.

14 The DSEIS fails to take into account subsistence
15 perspectives from an indigenous -- indigenous lens.
16 Indigenous communities, as they have practiced these
17 practices for millennia, and instead the DSEIS employs
18 federal and state definitions.

19 From an indigenous perspective, subsistence
20 expands across lenses, and it recognizes how hunting and
21 gathering related activities are deeply connected to
22 history, culture, and tradition. And from -- we've heard
23 from many elders, the animals are not just a food source,
24 they are relatives.

25 So meaningful participation in these activities

1 provides opportunities for different generations to learn
2 from one another and pass on critical knowledge.

3 And so I would like to urge BLM, absent of a
4 robust stakeholder-engagement process, and considering the
5 other six North Slope Borough indigenous communities have
6 been left out, we call on BLM to select Alternative A.

7 And apologies for going over. Thank you.

8 MS. RICE: Thank you, Danielle.

9 Next up we have Diane Pierce, followed by John
10 Hopson, Jr.

11 And, Diane, I am asking you to unmute.

12 MS. PIERCE: Can you hear me?

13 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

14 MS. PIERCE: Hi. I'm Diane Pierce, and I'm from
15 Ames, Iowa.

16 I urge you to choose the proposed Alternative A,
17 no-action alternative. We need to reduce oil extraction,
18 not create the single largest oil extraction project on
19 federal land possible. It is the only way to keep that
20 area safe.

21 And speaking, I've lived in Ames, Iowa, in the
22 same property, for over 25 years. When we moved here, we
23 -- our kids were small, and we would worry about them
24 getting stung by bees when they went outside, and the
25 butterflies were plentiful. And now I go out, and I have

1 to search to see any butterflies or any bees. It has
2 gotten really bad everywhere.

3 So I urge BLM to choose Alternative A, no
4 action. Thank you.

5 MS. RICE: Thank you.

6 Next up we have John Hobson, Jr., followed by
7 Christina Velos.

8 And, John, I am asking you to unmute.

9 MR. HOBSON: Can you hear me?

10 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

11 MR. HOBSON: Thank you.

12 My name is John Hobson, Jr. I am an Yupik
13 Eskimo from Nuiqsut, Alaska, a community within the
14 National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska. I'm also a whaling
15 captain and the chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling
16 Commission.

17 I've been engaged in public service most of my
18 life, because this is the only way to protect our region
19 and honor our Yupik values. I support Alternative E. We
20 need the Willow Project to continue to move forward.

21 Fifty years ago our people formed the North
22 Slope Borough, a home-rule, municipal government to take
23 care of the needs of the residents of the North Slope. The
24 founders out of -- the founders were true visionaries.
25 There was an act of self-determination. We wanted the

1 right to determine ourselves -- for ourselves what we would
2 do when and when we would do it.

3 To paraphrase from our first mayor, Mayor Eben,
4 Hopson, Sr., the constitution of the State of Alaska allows
5 for the maximum of local government.

6 We wanted the right to send our children to
7 schools operated by our own people within our own region.
8 No more boarding schools. We wanted to plan to make
9 decisions for our future to guarantee the finest
10 environment, to conserve for our children, practicing all
11 of our values -- our values, but mostly we wanted to
12 determine for ourselves our destiny.

13 Our borough the critical -- has the critical
14 ability to levy taxes on the oil and gas infrastructure.
15 This provides us with a means to provide for our people,
16 communities, and region that our forefathers dreamed of.

17 This source of revenue has allowed us to move
18 our villages from a third world condition to first world
19 communities, and this is what everybody is forgetting. We
20 live up here. Let us make the decisions for ourselves.

21 We have been able to install clean water and
22 sanitation in all our communities. We have public health
23 clinics, schools in every community. We have a world class
24 search and rescue and other modern conveniences that the
25 most -- that most of the United States takes for granted.

1 Do you even know what it's like to have a honey
2 bucket in your home or to be a kid and have to dispose of
3 it, dispose of human waste? Well, that's me today.

4 Over the -- over the last 50 years, we've been
5 able to increase our life span by 13 years through these
6 types of enhancing services for our people. This comes at
7 a huge cost of 330 million per year.

8 I've been to many public hearings, and none of
9 the environmental conservationists or animal rights groups
10 have provided us with an alternative for our revenue.

11 I have a lot to say here, and I will be
12 providing my written comments as soon as I can, but we
13 support and I support Alternative E for the Willow Project
14 to move forward.

15 Thank you for taking this -- thank you for this
16 opportunity to speak today.

17 MS. RICE: Thank you, John.

18 Next up we have Christina Velos, followed by
19 Faith Martino.

20 And, Christina, I am asking you to unmute.

21 MS. VELOS: Yes. Hello. My name is Christina
22 Velos, and I live in Seattle, Washington. Thank you for
23 this opportunity to speak. So I just -- thank you
24 everybody for just speaking up.

25 So I am originally from Southern Idaho, where I

1 grew up with monarch butterflies and Pacific coho salmon
2 and Chinook salmon, and now the monarch butterflies are no
3 longer in my home and around Idaho. Of course, we know
4 they are close to extinction.

5 So my -- my selection today is for the BLM to
6 select Alternative A because of the fragile ecosystem that
7 I have witnessed in my growing up in Idaho. And now I'm in
8 Seattle, Washington, and I just am just heartbroken at what
9 I'm seeing with this environment.

10 And I understand the need for jobs, but that is
11 shortsighted. And I believe that we can work together, and
12 we -- but we need to protect the fragile ecosystem.

13 And, once again, I'm asking the BLM to select
14 Alternative A. Thank you.

15 MS. RICE: Thank you.

16 Next up we have Faith Martino, followed by Brian
17 Russo.

18 And, Faith, I am asking you to unmute.

19 MS. MARTINO: Thanks, Stephanie.

20 My name is Faith Martino. I live in Anchorage,
21 Alaska, and I'm speaking today on my own behalf, drawing
22 upon my experience as a federal regulator, an environmental
23 consultant, industry permitter, and a former director for
24 the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and also from my
25 time serving on the BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council.

1 A handful of commenters have global climate
2 change as an overriding reason to oppose the Willow Project
3 and have implied a need to immediately transition to
4 renewables. I want to first address the misconception that
5 renewables are somehow free of environmental impacts.

6 Wind turbines, for example, require rare Earth
7 minerals, which are primarily sourced from outside of the
8 U.S. Just last week the Associated Press published the
9 results of a thorough investigation into rare Earth supply
10 chains.

11 The article is aptly titled "The Sacrifice Zone"
12 and describes an area in Southeast Asia where destructive
13 mining practices have gone unregulated causing irreparable
14 environmental damage.

15 According to one of the researchers -- and I
16 quote -- "The disturbing reality is that the cash that
17 fuels these abuses ultimately comes from the world's
18 fast-growing demand for these minerals driven by the
19 scaling up of green energy technologies," end quote.

20 Furthermore, renewables simply cannot fulfill
21 current energy demands. According to the U.S. EIA's
22 forecast, the share of annual electric generation from
23 renewable sources here in the U.S. has increased roughly 1
24 to 2 percent per year for the past 10 years. But even with
25 that growth, renewables still meet less than a quarter of

1 the nation's electricity needs.

2 The U.S. has neither the capacity nor the
3 infrastructure necessary to rely solely upon renewables,
4 which means that there is a continuing need for fossil
5 fuels. Bottom line, all energy production, including from
6 renewables, presents some level of risk, which is why we
7 conduct site-specific analysis. In this case, through a
8 NEPA lens.

9 I believe that it's clear from BLM's draft
10 supplemental EIS, that the Willow project's benefits
11 greatly outweigh the potential impacts and that the work
12 can be accomplished in an environmentally just,
13 responsible, and safe manner.

14 The Willow Project is located in the national
15 Petroleum Reserve of Alaska, which, as the name implies, is
16 federally managed land expressly set aside for oil
17 exploration and production. Willow will provide billions
18 of dollars in tax revenues and to the NPRA Impact
19 Mitigation Fund.

20 And I hope our out-of-state commenters realize
21 that those funds specifically provide critical community
22 services for folks on the North Slope.

23 The project is also estimated to generate close
24 to 600 million barrels of oil with very low emissions
25 intensity. Emissions intensity is an important metric to

1 keep in mind because those are exactly the kind of barrels
2 that you want to produce. Every barrel of oil produced
3 from Willow will be subject to federal and state regulatory
4 oversight. Every barrel produced here is one less that
5 might otherwise be produced in a jurisdiction without
6 robust protections for the human and natural environment.
7 We need projects like Willow to meet the world's energy
8 demands.

9 I appreciate the opportunity to comment and
10 voice my support for the project.

11 MS. RICE: Thank you, Faith.

12 Next up we have Brian Russo, followed by Jacob
13 Howtoshel (phonetic).

14 And, Brian, I am asking you to unmute.

15 MR. RUSSO: Great.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name
17 is Brian Russo. I'm from New Jersey.

18 I was an auto-damage adjuster for a major
19 insurance company when I first learned the impact of
20 transportation on emissions and pollution. So I cashed out
21 on my 401k and became a full-time activist when I realized
22 that I, along with most of you, are going to die from
23 catastrophic climate related events or illnesses.

24 I'm a member of Food & Water Watch, Greenpeace,
25 Sierra Club, and a few more, but I'm speaking out on my --

1 on behalf of myself.

2 So why do I care about the Willow Project? It's
3 because I care about any project that's going on in this
4 planet, because we all share the same air and the same
5 water. The Union of Concerned Scientists agree that we
6 must cut emissions drastically to prevent additional warmth
7 on the planet and keep our climate stable.

8 We're seeing more intense, catastrophic climate
9 events at higher frequency. Scientists agree that any
10 fraction of a degree of warmth that we can prevent will
11 save lives.

12 Our economy is based on this idea of infinite
13 resources, which is false. We're seeing that we're going
14 to run out of resources soon. We cannot continue to
15 extract oil, pollute our water, and deplete our soil.
16 The use of fossil fuels was known about -- was known by the
17 industry as early as the '60's, if not sooner.

18 Not the Willow Project specifically, but
19 companies have -- but fossil fuel companies have used their
20 subsidies and grants to spread misinformation rather than
21 develop renewable energy. They have even gone so far as to
22 prevent the development of renewable energy.

23 The ICC report says that we need to prevent
24 additional emissions, and we want to be in accordance with
25 the Paris Climate Agreement. Since then, emissions have

1 actually gone up 16 percent.

2 There's alternative types of energy that we
3 could be using, and there's no justification that will
4 allow the oil to be extracted and transported at the
5 expense of lives. We're in a scenario where our water is
6 polluted, life expectancy is declining, people are dying
7 from climate-related events, as population grows.

8 Farmers are warning that this soil is not
9 yielding as much food. We are running out of resources,
10 and the price of everything is going up.

11 I hear that these projects are good for the
12 economy and create jobs, but we can't have an economy on a
13 lifeless planet. Insurance companies and our government
14 cannot continue to send funding to places that have been
15 affected by floods, fires, and other catastrophic climate
16 events. We cannot develop -- we need to develop
17 alternative renewable energy and provide jobs in that
18 process.

19 So I'm asking BLM to vote Alternative A,
20 no-action alternative. Thank you.

21 MS. RICE: Thank you. Next up we have Jacob
22 Howtoshel, followed by Drew Martin.

23 And, Jacob, I am asking you to unmute.

24 MR. HOWTOSHEL: Thank you, and thank you for the
25 opportunity to testify this afternoon. My name is Jacob

1 Howtoshel. I'm a lifelong Alaskan and currently the
2 business manager for Laborers Local 942.

3 Our union represents over 1,000 members in
4 northern and southeast Alaska in the fields of
5 construction, service contract, public transit, tourism,
6 and pipeline maintenance.

7 Laborers Local 942 supports the new Alternative
8 E and encourages BLM to adopt the SEIS in a timely manner
9 to allow construction to begin this winter. We request
10 that BLM prevent any additional delays, since this fifth
11 comment period, along with prior public input, is more than
12 sufficient, and the Alaska District Court affirmed most
13 aspects of the EIS in the Willow Master Development Plan.

14 The Willow Project, which has already
15 incorporated extensive scientific analysis, in addition to
16 agency and public input, presents a valuable opportunity to
17 strengthen our economic and domestic energy security.

18 The economic and community benefits for Willow
19 will be immense. Willow is estimated to hold 600 million
20 barrels of recoverable oil, and production is forecasted to
21 peak at 180,000 barrels of oil per day. By expanding
22 energy -- by expanding domestic production, Willow will
23 enhance our nation's energy security with a reliable energy
24 supply.

25 Willow is expected to significantly increase the

1 taps throughput and continue the viability of that vital
2 economic system. At peak, the project will create over
3 2,000 construction positions, as well as hundreds of legacy
4 jobs. The project will entail approximately 9 million work
5 hours and generate over a billion dollars for the State of
6 Alaska based on taxation.

7 Additionally, Willow will produce federal
8 royalties, as well as NPRA Impact Mitigation grant funds
9 that ultimately will return to the State. The impact
10 grants go to North Slope city governments to fund
11 operations, youth programs, and community projects,
12 creating local jobs.

13 The Willow Project is an environmentally and
14 socially responsible development. New Alternative E,
15 developed by BLM and other agencies with stakeholder input
16 in response to the court decision, is a strong approach to
17 the decrease -- and decreases surface impacts of the
18 project. Based on an accelerated energy transition
19 scenario, worldwide demand for oil is expected to increase
20 in the coming decades.

21 Our union members have direct experience in
22 ensuring that the advanced mitigation measures are
23 effective on projects from the North Slope and the
24 Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Willow will continue this
25 exemplary record of responsible exploration and development

1 of the North Slope.

2 Laborers Local 942 supports the prompt adoption
3 of the SEIS Alternative E so that it is feasible to start
4 construction activities this winter. The Willow Project
5 will jumpstart the economy with jobs, greater revenue
6 sources, and energy security for Alaska and the nation.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. RICE: Thank you, Jacob.

9 Next up we have Drew Martin, followed by Julie
10 Martinson.

11 Drew, I am asking you to unmute.

12 MR. MARTIN: Yes. Can you hear me?

13 MS. RICE: Yes.

14 MR. MARTIN: My name is Drew Martin. I'm from
15 Florida. I am a member of the Sierra Club and cochair of
16 the Sierra Club's [inaudible] Action Team. I am speaking
17 on my own behalf.

18 I want to respond first to the argument about
19 jobs.

20 As we well know, any type of job building a
21 pipeline is a temporary job, and so it is not a reason to
22 destroy our planet for certain temporary jobs.

23 The argument that has been made that we cannot
24 move to alternative fuels is absolutely not true. We are
25 moving to alternative fuels, and we see that the strength

1 of the electric car industry. The damage from fossil fuels
2 is far greater than the damage that may be caused by
3 whatever alternative fuels we are moving towards.

4 The second thing is we need to reduce
5 significantly our use of fossil fuels for items such as
6 single-use plastic. We know that the fossil fuel industry
7 is damaging Alaska.

8 I'll just mention a couple of recent cases of
9 forest fires in Alaska. And I also watched a video that
10 showed many Alaskan Native American houses either falling
11 into the water or having to move back, affecting their
12 traditional hunting.

13 It is of no use to provide people some
14 short-term economic benefit while you basically are
15 destroying their way of life. We know that, in the long
16 run, we must protect the planet. It is the only place
17 where human beings can live.

18 These arguments are all based on very short-term
19 economics and do not offset the huge damage we are seeing
20 right now from floods in the Midwest to forest fires, to
21 the dropping of Lake Mead and the serious drought affecting
22 agriculture of the United States.

23 We cannot give up our viability as human being
24 for some short-term gain, and, in the long run, Alaska
25 depends far more on things like it's wild fish than it does

1 on these sort of investments. And we well know from the
2 Exxon Valdez the damage that these sort of projects do to
3 the environment and the fishing industry.

4 So Alaskans have viable and very productive
5 tourism and fishing industries, and the main -- we need to
6 see a transition away from dependence on fossil fuels and
7 moving toward a -- so I support Alternative A, the
8 alternative option of not building and not moving forward.
9 I support the transition of Alaska to a new economy
10 dependent not on fossil fuels but on protection of the
11 environment and future industries that will provide jobs to
12 the people who live there.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. RICE: Thank you.

15 I would just like to remind everyone that
16 testimony is limited to three minutes. Please do your best
17 to stay within the three-minute timeline.

18 Next up we have Julie Martinson, followed by
19 Patrick Fitzgerald.

20 And, Julie, I am asking you to unmute.

21 MS. MARTINSON: Hello.

22 MS. RICE: Hello.

23 MS. MARTINSON: My name is Julie Martinson. I
24 live in Everett, Washington, and I'm a lifelong nature and
25 animal lover and a member of Sierra Club 350 Everett and

1 Alaska Wilderness.

2 My father and both of my brothers have been
3 Alaska commercial fishermen for many, many years. I'm
4 requesting that the administration select Alternative A,
5 no-action alternative.

6 I'm very opposed to the Willow Project because
7 of the climate impacts and the fragility of the entire
8 North Slope ecosystem and watershed and its harm to all of
9 its inhabitants.

10 At this stage in the fight to prevent further
11 dramatic climate change, the Willow Project would build out
12 fossil fuel infrastructure that would fuel enormous CO2
13 releases over its projected 30-year span.

14 I'm not a scientist at all but a citizen of the
15 world, yet the IPCC report and scientists are urging us to
16 transition away from fossil fuels as fast as possible for
17 the health of all of us. This is the point of no return.
18 The loss of glaciers and snow pack is one of the biggest
19 impacts on water that's going to be available on this
20 planet, and there's going to be huge migration from the
21 global south.

22 This project would do irreparable harm to this
23 remote, ecologically rich landscape and its biodiversity.
24 I urge the selection of Alternative A.

25 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

1 MS. RICE: Thank you.

2 Next up we have Patrick Fitzgerald, followed by
3 John Sonin (phonetic).

4 And, Patrick, I am asking you to unmute.

5 MR. FITZGERALD: Hello. My name is Patrick
6 Fitzgerald. I'm a political coordinator with Alaska
7 Teamsters Local 959, representing over 6,000 members
8 statewide.

9 On behalf of Teamsters Local 959, we request the
10 Bureau of Land Management moves forward with the Willow oil
11 and gas project in the NPRA region of the North Slope.
12 It is in the interest of the Teamsters and all Alaskans for
13 this project to proceed to full development.

14 Alaska Teamsters built the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
15 and were the first break ground in the early days resource
16 extraction. Alaska Teamsters have close ties with resource
17 development and North Slope, and it is with that knowledge
18 that we know the economic value that will come with the
19 development of the Willow Project.

20 The money and jobs project will provide Alaska
21 is desperately needed and will pull our local economy out
22 of a pandemic-caused recession.

23 Safe and responsible resource development of
24 natural resources have created even more jobs in oil and
25 other industries. The pipeline boom of the 1980's brought

1 an explosion of workforce, money, and economic development.

2 Alaska's Resource development regulations are
3 the most stringent and disciplined in the world, and our
4 workforce has a proven history of phenomenal stewardship of
5 the land during the resource extraction process.

6 Development of the Willow oil project will not
7 only bring prosperity to a state eager to ignite its
8 workforce and build towards energy independence years into
9 the future.

10 We ask that the BLM proceed with Alternative E
11 for excellence.

12 Thank you for allowing me to speak and thank my
13 brothers and sisters with organized labor for
14 participating.

15 MS. RICE: Thank you, Patrick.

16 Next up we have John Sonin, followed by Tony
17 Armstrong.

18 And, John, I am asking you to unmute.

19 MR. SONIN: Good afternoon. Thank you for
20 taking my testimony. I'm John Sonin. I live in the
21 beautiful, unceded clean land of Douglas Island, right near
22 Juneau, Alaska.

23 And I think [inaudible] has forsaken the obvious
24 implications of our -- our three or four times faster
25 melting polar icecap regions than the rest of the planet is

1 burning it up. Faster.

2 I mean, it's contrary to what the indigenous
3 fellow from northern Alaska spoke to earlier. He went by
4 John also. I don't think his traditional knowledge has
5 recognized the bigger picture of the consequences of more
6 methane, more carbon dioxide and the destruction of our
7 reality that has been gifted to us that we are the stewards
8 to our children, but we're blowing that stewardship right
9 now.

10 I feel like I forgot to tell you something more
11 about myself. But back on the methane issue, not only is
12 that a consequence of the more -- more fossil fuel
13 extraction and then combustion, the extraction and release
14 of the methane is what the problem is.

15 But the consequences of more oil is able to
16 produce more toxins in the environment, plastic being the
17 number one issue. That's -- I mean, I am a civilized human
18 being who performs civil service daily, everywhere I go,
19 picking up plastic. I'm so tired of looking at it, and I
20 can't stand to pass it up if I see it that on the street.

21 I live in the rainforest, and I want to -- I
22 want to preserve this Edenic reality for my children.
23 Personally, I don't have any children, but I feel like all
24 the planet is my -- well, I feel like definitely in Alaska
25 inhabitants and all organic reality here in this beautiful

1 state are children of mine.

2 Every bit of synthetic toxin we dispose of
3 anywhere in the Earth, in water, on the ground, in the
4 atmosphere, it's suicidal. Anything wasted, discarded must
5 be deactivated for its residual food chain ramifications,
6 and that food chain is being destroyed right now, from the
7 butterflies at the bottom to -- well, to the plastic in --
8 and the birds and then the animals that eat it, eat the
9 birds.

10 MS. RICE: John?

11 MR. SONIN: Yes. It's just suicidal. And I
12 think that option A or Alternative A must be the only
13 alternative because we cannot allow any more of our
14 suicidal thoughts and suicidal traditions to destroy all
15 life on the planet.

16 MS. RICE: Thank you, John. Thank you, John.
17 I'm sorry, your time is up, but anyone can submit
18 additional written comments over their three minutes to the
19 Willow comments host in the chat or online.

20 So next up we have Toni Armstrong, followed by
21 Carol Kilper.

22 And, Tony, I am asking you to unmute.

23 MS. ARMSTRONG: Hello. I'm Toni Armstrong, and
24 I live in St. Louis, Missouri. I'm a member of the board
25 of directors of the Alaska Wilderness League, and we're an

1 all-volunteer board.

2 I've actually vacationed in the NPRA twice. The
3 first trip I paddled and hiked in the Teshekpuk Lake area
4 near the proposed Willow Project. I visited the area with
5 my family and friends, and the area around Teshekpuk Lake
6 is unique.

7 In my ten trips, and about four months on the
8 ground north of the Brooks Range, over a number of years,
9 I've not experienced the extensive wetlands that surround
10 Teshekpuk Lake. These wetlands are home to thousands of
11 nesting and molting birds.

12 As we walked each evening to different ponds, we
13 experienced views of different species, to our great
14 delight. It seemed every pond was home to a multitude of
15 birds. The area is important habitat for yellow-billed
16 loons, dunlins, molting geese, and speckled eiders.

17 Teshekpuk Lake area was designated a special
18 area for a reason. Spend some time on the ground walking
19 in the land around the proposed Willow Project in the
20 summer. See what the land offers. It's far more than just
21 oil.

22 Oil exploration, with its permanent gravel
23 roads, airstrips, and hundreds of miles of pipeline are not
24 compatible with the thriving population of birds.

25 And I've heard people talk about the pipeline.

1 This aging pipeline was built for a 20-year or 30-year
2 lifetime. It has far exceeded that.

3 And interestingly enough, when we came out of
4 our Teshekpuk Lake trip, we spent some time with a fellow
5 who did maintenance on the pipeline, and he -- and this was
6 several years ago -- was very afraid of that aging pipeline
7 and what was going to happen to it. I haven't heard that
8 it's been well maintained since then, and, at that point in
9 time, there was on average a spill every day. So we need
10 to be thinking about that.

11 And people talk about having -- being oil
12 dependent. I think you were thinking in the past. We need
13 to be thinking about being water independent, not oil.
14 Really water is going to be the resource in the future, and
15 so we are, therefore, I think, having past thoughts about
16 oil.

17 So I am urging the BLM to adopt Alternative A.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. RICE: Thank you.

20 Next up we have Carol Kilper, followed by Katie
21 Kaposi.

22 And, Carol, I am asking you to unmute.

23 MS. KILPER: Hi. My name is Carol Kilper. I'm
24 from Oakland, California. I'm a hiker and was a
25 backpacker. I've traveled to Alaska several times and have

1 had wonderful experiences there in the out of doors.

2 I'm urging the BLM to choose Alternative A, no
3 action. My number one reason is that we are already
4 leaving future generations with a difficult climate, and I
5 believe the Willow Project will just make that worse. And,
6 for that reason, I believe we cannot -- we should not go
7 forward with this project.

8 Thank you for allowing me to make comments.

9 MS. RICE: Thank you.

10 Next up we have Katie Kaposi, followed by
11 Victoria Kasam (phonetic).

12 And, Katie, I'm asking you to unmute.

13 MS. KAPOSI: Hi. Good afternoon. For the
14 record, my name is Katie Kaposi, and I serve as the
15 president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber. I'm a resident of
16 Eagle River, Alaska.

17 I'm calling in today to encourage the Bureau of
18 Land Management to approve the draft supplemental
19 environmental impact statement for the Willow Project and
20 allow this project that's been extensively vetted to move
21 forward.

22 The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953 and is
23 Alaska's largest statewide business advocacy organization.
24 Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in
25 Alaska. The chamber has more than 700 members from all

1 regions of the state. We represent 58,000 Alaskan workers
2 and \$4.6 billion in annual wages.

3 Each year the chamber membership reviews,
4 discusses, and votes on its policy, positions, and
5 priorities. Among the dozens of positions adopted by
6 diverse chamber membership, two specifically apply to the
7 Willow Project and, in fact, are top federal priorities.

8 The first position has been a part of the
9 chamber advocacy agenda for over a decade. The priority
10 states, "Support oil and gas exploration and development in
11 Alaska's federal areas."

12 The second position was adopted in December of
13 2021 and immediately became a top priority due to the
14 onslaught of anti-resource development policies aimed at
15 various projects around the state of Alaska.

16 The priority states, "Advocate for a federal
17 regulatory structure that is balanced, predictable, and
18 stable."

19 The Alaska chamber has witnessed significant
20 federal administrative and legislative actions impacting
21 Alaska's business and overall investment climate. The
22 ability of Alaska to responsibly develop its wealth of
23 natural resources and support a diverse private sector
24 economy is paramount to our future.

25 In light of the chamber priorities, in

1 particular the emphasis on regulatory structure that is
2 balanced and predictable, the chamber strongly encourages
3 the Bureau of Land Management to move forward in finalizing
4 the DSEIS without further delay.

5 The economic project benefits of this project
6 cannot be understated. The Willow project is expected to
7 produce 2,000 construction jobs, 300 permanent jobs,
8 billions of revenue to local, state, and federal
9 governments and will help sustain the Trans-Alaska pipeline
10 system well into the future.

11 The chamber supports Alternative E and
12 appreciates the in-depth stakeholder engagement that took
13 place in developing the alternative. Alternative E reduces
14 the scope, footprint, and impact of the project in areas of
15 most concern to project opponents. Alternative E provides
16 a responsible path forward that addresses the court's
17 concerns from the EIS and takes into account all
18 stakeholder engagement.

19 Lastly, with recent world events threatening the
20 globe's energy supply, it is more important than ever that
21 we have a stable regulatory structure that allows for
22 responsible development of our own natural resources in the
23 United States.

24 Moving forward with Willow Project would ensure
25 social equity and environmental justice as we watch and

1 continue to rely on countries with far fewer environmental
2 regulations and a clear disregard for law, order, and
3 social justice.

4 In closing, the chamber urges BLM to adopt
5 Alternative E and permit the Willow Project without further
6 delay.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

8 MS. RICE: Thank you.

9 Next up -- next up we have Victoria Kasam,
10 followed by Gregory Campbell.

11 And, Victoria, I am asking you to unmute.

12 MS. KASAM: Hello?

13 MS. RICE: Hello. We can hear you.

14 MS. KASAM: Okay. Thank you.

15 Yes. Hello. My name is Victoria Kasam. I live
16 in Stanford, Connecticut. And I've been sitting here since
17 the beginning wondering what has happened to us as a
18 people. What has happened to people who think nothing
19 about destroying each other, destroying the planet?

20 I am asking the BLM to please adopt Alternative
21 A.

22 Sorry. I just ran upstairs.

23 I hear people talking about jobs. Jobs are very
24 important for you, yes. What about your children? What
25 about your grandchildren, when we have totally destroyed

1 our planet? This Earth is burning, drowning, choking.

2 I am -- this will affect more than Alaska. This
3 project will affect the Earth. I am urging again for the
4 BLM to adopt Alternative A.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. RICE: Thank you.

7 Next up we have Gregory Campbell, followed by
8 Eric Myers.

9 And, Gregory, I am asking you to unmute.

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes. Hello. Can you hear me?

11 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah. Thank you. I appreciate
13 the opportunity to provide some testimony here.

14 My name is Greg Campbell. I'm a lifelong
15 Alaskan, Fairbanks Member of Local 375, plumbers and
16 pipefitters. I'm also the president of Houston
17 Contracting, which is an ASRC company.

18 And I just want to specify that I support
19 Alternative E and really support the -- the development of
20 Willow. ConocoPhillips has a 50-year track record of
21 environmentally and social responsible development in North
22 Slope, Alaska, and we believe Willow is the right project
23 in the right place at the right time.

24 Thank you for the opportunity.

25 MS. RICE: Thank you.

1 Next up we have Eric Myers, followed by Mark
2 Winters.

3 And, Eric, I am asking you to unmute.

4 MR. MYERS: Are you there?

5 MS. RICE: Yes. We can hear you.

6 MR. MYERS: Okay. My name is Eric Myers. I
7 live in Anchorage, Alaska. I've lived in Alaska since
8 1977.

9 I think that fundamentally the issue before the
10 BLM and the Biden Administration is that approval of the
11 Willow Project cannot be reconciled with a serious response
12 to the climate change crisis. We know that it's not a
13 question of something out there in the future. It is
14 happening now.

15 As we speak, the Larar River in France, the
16 Yangtze River in China, the Colorado River in the U.S. are
17 at historic lows.

18 The Arctic is warming now at a rate that's four
19 times or more faster than the rest of the Earth. And I
20 think it's important that we recognize that the global
21 climate change crisis is a fundamentally existential matter
22 and that the Willow Project would just exacerbate the
23 problem.

24 There's an old adage that goes, if you find
25 yourself in a hole and you want to get out, you need to

1 stop digging.

2 It should also be noted that there are some
3 peculiar ironies on the North Slope. We heard about
4 testimony suggesting that the project was important for
5 local economic development, but what we haven't heard
6 recently is that the community Utqiagvik, or Barrow, is
7 frantically working to build a sea wall. So we're going to
8 authorize the Willow Project and exacerbate the problem of
9 sea rise and spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a sea
10 wall. It's -- it's just kind of crazy.

11 Another speaker mentioned that the Naval
12 Petroleum Reserve was created for oil and gas. It was
13 created originally in order to address the problem that the
14 Navy -- it's the Naval Petroleum Reserve -- was changing
15 from coal to oil. That's no longer a problem.

16 Finally, I guess we've heard a lot about
17 construction jobs, and I would suggest that construction
18 jobs are important, but they should also be constructive.

19 There's no question in my mind that sometime in
20 the past, we've heard representatives of the buggy whip
21 industry complaining that they were going to lose business,
22 but somehow we manage to move along.

23 So with that, I would just simply say that we
24 have a fundamental choice about whether we're going to have
25 a livable planet or more oil and gas revenue, and I would

1 appreciate the BLM choosing Alternative E.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. RICE: Thank you.

4 Next up we have Mark Winters, followed by
5 Russell Donnelley.

6 And, Mark, I am asking you to unmute.

7 MR. WINTERS: My name is Mark Winters. I'm
8 calling from Seattle, and I'm speaking for myself.

9 In the next five years, we will likely pass a
10 global average temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius
11 over pre-industrial levels. This is a fact that you
12 probably already know, but you do not, I believe,
13 understand what it means.

14 Five years ago I was aware of and concerned
15 about climate change, but I did not imagine compounding
16 global pandemics, nearby towns being swallowed by
17 uncontrollable floods and fires, heat domes in the
18 temperate region where I live, killing hundreds of people
19 and forcing others into air conditioned shelters.

20 I did not imagine summers, smoke turning the sky
21 the color of rust and the air into poison. Reflect and you
22 will see we have left irretrievably behind us. The
23 nurturing and stable world that we all grew up in, and we
24 are peering now through the gates of hell. Do not open
25 that gate. The suggestion that a project expanding fossil

1 fuel extraction for the next 30 years is somehow an example
2 of responsible development is a lie for the short-term
3 financial interest of ConocoPhillips.

4 In the wake of the IPCC sixth assessment report,
5 UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called the
6 development of new fossil fuel infrastructure moral and
7 economic madness. Alternative A, no-action alternative, is
8 our only option.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. RICE: Thank you.

11 Next up we have Russell Donnelley, followed by
12 Sam Connecta (phonetic).

13 And, Russell, I am asking you to unmute.

14 MR. DONNELLEY: Hello. Can you hear me?

15 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

16 MR. DONNELLY: Okay. I would like to give a
17 personal story of what I think about these alternatives.

18 I spend my day going to work and discussing with
19 patients risks versus benefits. The risk of this project
20 does not outweigh its benefits. Why is that? Because I
21 have witnessed myself the change of people moving from
22 gasoline to electric vehicles.

23 In 2020 I would drive to work and plug up a --
24 plug in at the town hall, because there was no plugs at
25 work. Now, today there are eight plugs at work, and we

1 have to move our cars and plug in. That's the future. We
2 don't need gasoline. We don't need oil. We don't need
3 gas. Okay? It doesn't make sense to invest in any of
4 this.

5 Why is that? I live in Massachusetts. In
6 Massachusetts you will acknowledge it's not the most sunny
7 of states. In Massachusetts in 2021 we produced 20 percent
8 of our electricity by solar. It's more now. We will in
9 the future produce much more electricity from offshore
10 wind. That is the future. We don't need this.

11 Investing in this Willow Project is like buying
12 a gasoline car. Why would anyone buy a gasoline car? You
13 just have to bring it in for more repairs. It's useless.
14 This -- this is a risky proposition. In 10 years we will
15 not need this oil.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. RICE: Thank you.

18 Next up we have Sam Connecta, followed by
19 Heather Botral (phonetic).

20 And, Sam, I am asking you to unmute.

21 MR. CONNECTA: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

22 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

23 MR. CONNECTA: Oh, yes. Good afternoon.

24 My name is Samuel Connecta, and I'm a resident
25 of Nuiqsut in Alaska. You know, our village is right smack

1 in the middle of the oil fields.

2 You know, as a kid, growing up here in Nuiqsut,
3 that we could see oil fields coming in from the east, and,
4 you know, we just slowly watched development come to our
5 village. And, you know, as a lifelong subsistence hunter
6 that's been subsisting around this area my whole life,
7 pretty much my whole life, you know, I have concerns, and I
8 have concerns about a lot of things about [inaudible] 810
9 you know, protection of the animals.

10 And, you know, for the past 11 years we've been
11 getting sick fish, broad whitefish. Mold, that's what they
12 call it, according to the North Slope Borough Wildlife
13 Department. And, you know, my concern is that, you know,
14 the mold, as they call it, has gone over to two other
15 species in our river from which we subsist on.

16 And, you know, I've been advocating for
17 Department of Interior, BLM, to look into the Arctic
18 monitoring and assessment program, again, because back in
19 2004, 2005, those studies were -- they started AMAP to
20 study for contaminants associated with industry, polycyclic
21 aromatic hydrocarbons.

22 You know, I've gone to so many meetings. I've
23 spoke in so many meetings about these concerns here with
24 BLM, State of Alaska, pretty much just about every agency
25 involved with industry.

1 And, you know, as a lifelong subsistence hunter,
2 you know, I started reading articles and trying to find out
3 why our fish is getting sick, and I found an article from
4 Quebec, Canada, where they were getting sick fish too. And
5 for 10, 15 years, the Eskimo Inupiaqs of that area pleaded
6 to the government saying we're getting sick fish, and it
7 turns out that they found pH's in the fish. And by that
8 time, adults and the people of that area started getting
9 cancer. Even little kids. And that's what I'm seeing over
10 here in my village, cancer, stomach cancer.

11 Development has moved too fast in this area.
12 First, it was CD 1, 2, 3, and 4 back in 1995. That's when
13 I started seeing these helicopters come around to do the
14 studies for the Alpine Satellite Development Area. Now we
15 have CD 5, CD 6, and now CD 7. Our village is pretty much
16 surrounded by oil fields. They even -- they don't even
17 talk about the [inaudible] project just to the east of us
18 on the other side of the river.

19 MS. RICE: Sam?

20 MR. CONNECTA: It's just being bombed by just
21 too much of activity here. And I choose Alternative --
22 Alternative A until DOI starts AMAP again to see whether or
23 not pH's have been elevated due to winter construction of
24 the roads and development in this area.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. RICE: Thank you, Sam. Thank you for those
2 comments.

3 Next up we have Heather Botral, followed by
4 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.

5 And, Heather, I am asking you to unmute.

6 MS. BOTRAL: Thanks, Stephanie.

7 My name is Heather Botral. I'm a lifelong
8 Alaskan with over 15 years experience as an engineer
9 supporting operations and maintenance on the North Slope,
10 new facility design, and currently GHG emissions reduction
11 opportunities in Alaska's oil fields. This evening I
12 provide comments on my own behalf as an Alaskan.

13 I've seen various oil and gas operations across
14 the United States, and I'm intimately familiar with the
15 Willow Project.

16 To begin, I must address the climate change
17 comments from testifiers both today and in past public
18 meetings.

19 According to the BLM draft SEIS, Willow equates
20 to less than 0.3 percent of the U.S. GHG inventory in 2030.
21 Development of Willow does not fundamentally change the
22 truncation of the energy transition in the United States
23 from an emissions perspective, but it does provide
24 environmentally sustainable low-carbon barrels throughout
25 the coming decades as the transition matures.

1 To directly address some myths about Willow's
2 GHG emissions, Willow's annual direct and net indirect
3 emissions are approximately that of a single average size
4 U.S. power plant, not 76, as some of the ENGO's would have
5 you believe. Only by conflating 30 years of gross direct
6 and indirect emissions, with a single year's indirect
7 emissions from a coal plant, ignoring all the upstream
8 emissions associated with the mining of that coal, can you
9 come up with the sensational numbers that have been
10 repeated in the press.

11 Willow also does nothing to inhibit the Biden
12 Administration's plans to increase renewable energy on
13 federal lands.

14 Again, the use of the comparison of cumulative
15 emissions at Willow through 2050 with the administration's
16 goals over the next seven years through 2030 is misleading.
17 A more appropriate comparison would be Willow by 2030,
18 which is merely a drop in the bucket when compared to the
19 administration's goals. To repeat, Willow simply does not
20 register on any meaningful scale when compared to overall
21 U.S. emissions.

22 Additionally, even under the most optimistic
23 net-zero scenarios, the world still needs substantial
24 amounts of oil through the transition. According to the
25 2021 IEA data, a net-zero scenario will still require about

1 70 million barrels of oil per day in 2030. Willow can
2 support this need through low-carbon intensity barrels.

3 The BLM's market substitution analysis shows
4 that if Alaska and the Willow Project don't produce these
5 barrels, they will be produced somewhere else, likely
6 somewhere without the strong environmental protections
7 provided by the NPRA integrated activity plan, Alaska
8 environmental regulations, and U.S. environmental
9 protections.

10 The Willow barrels are some of the most socially
11 environmentally responsible barrels to be produced. And
12 for these reasons, I support the Willow Project as outlined
13 in Alternative E.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15 MS. RICE: Thank you, Heather.

16 Next up we have Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, followed
17 by Mark Imlay.

18 And, Rosemary, I am asking you to unmute.

19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary
20 Ahtuanguaruak. I live in Nuiqsut. I've been in Nuiqsut
21 over 40 years. I'm currently the mayor of the City of
22 Nuiqsut.

23 I am very concerned about all these activities.
24 I've testified in many different processes and these issues
25 and concern.

1 We understand others, as they are communicating
2 these processes. We also have concerns with the way many
3 are testifying in this process. We are concerned about
4 what is happening to our daily lives, the life, health, and
5 safety of our people.

6 We were put at risk because of the oil and gas
7 development near our community. And during the process
8 when I was working with Ben Stevens, he said this is a
9 regular occurrence. We're not worried about it. Our
10 village, placed within 7 miles of that development, was
11 very concerned.

12 When you can breathe the air and feel the
13 difference, and you watch your children have difficulty in
14 breathing, you watch and respond to medical emergencies, as
15 I did as a health aide for 14 years, and you see the number
16 of flares that go on related to the oil and gas
17 development, and when you see 20 or more flares, and you
18 have to respond all day and night, you get very concerned.

19 You look at the many different issues associated
20 with oil and gas development process and the failure of the
21 federal government to enforce promises that were given to
22 us, like enforcing shutting down the flares so that the
23 particular matter could disperse and not concentrate,
24 because we live in an area where there is an inversion.

25 But we suffered through 80 days of continuous

1 flaring of gas prior to the CD 1 gas leak. CD 1 is the
2 beginning of the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska oil and
3 gas development. These are not good promises to foresee
4 suffering through a development that's going to be seven
5 times the Alpine -- five to seven times more of the
6 development around us.

7 We are very concerned because we live in our
8 lands and waters. We want to continue to eat the foods.
9 We want our foods to be in our lands and waters, where
10 they're supposed to be, and our times to need to harvest
11 them. We want them to be healthy, and we want to make sure
12 that they do not have concerns so that we don't have to
13 worry about having special recommendations for our special
14 people like our pregnant women.

15 When we have to make decisions because of the
16 oil and gas development activities around us and they're
17 evacuating personnel from their facility seven miles away
18 and we are not being communicated effectively in response,
19 we have no access to an alarm system that can inform us
20 whether or not the levels are at concern, when we're
21 already having to watch people with difficulty in
22 breathing.

23 Our families made decisions to protect future
24 generations. Some of them did not wait for the process to
25 be informed by the developer whether or not these were

1 emissions of concern.

2 We know that taking a snatch air sample once a
3 month is not going to tell us, during an event, whether or
4 not the emissions of concern are at an elevated level.
5 You're only getting one grab of air that does not guide all
6 the emissions that are occurring throughout the whole month
7 and can greatly construe the data when you only have 12
8 days of data to average out the emissions with.

9 These are the severity of the concerns that our
10 community faces living in this area, where we are facing
11 these concerns. We are an important community. We deserve
12 to live in our lives and have the safety of being in our
13 homes and not fearing the response of the changes to our
14 lands and waters with the oil and gas development process
15 around us.

16 We need to be able to be informed if there is
17 something that happens nearby because the rapidity of the
18 recent development with year-round drilling over the last
19 three or four years with the recent administration has
20 greatly caused us tremendous concern with the expansion of
21 many wells at these pads nearby.

22 If there are multiple wells that were affected,
23 we are concerned because are we at the end of these
24 emissions, or is this a fracturing of the pad and gives us
25 concern into the future? Process --

1 MS. RICE: Rosemary -- Rosemary, I'm sorry.
2 Your three minutes is up. But thank you so much for those
3 comments.

4 And we'll move on now to Mark Imlay.

5 And, Mark, I am going to ask you to unmute.

6 MR. IMLAY: Thank you.

7 I am on the natural places committee of the
8 Maryland Sierra Club. I've been to every state except
9 Alaska working on the ground, like with the Sierra Club,
10 helping protect the environment. And when I go there, I
11 want to see a wonderful place, when I finally get to
12 Alaska. So I, for many reasons -- that's one of them --
13 I'm opposed to Willow Project and ask for Option A.

14 Now, as everybody said, the oil and gas is not
15 the solution. What we've done in Maryland successfully, we
16 switched many projects by increasing solar and wind and
17 geothermal, and that's, of course, what we need to support
18 in Alaska.

19 So -- and, oh, by the way, about half of my
20 trips to the different states was with the natural resource
21 manager of the Army National Guard. So I have experience
22 on the ground. And I found almost 80 percent of the time
23 there are win-win solutions that protect the environment,
24 and in this case we switch to renewable energies.

25 Thank you so much.

1 MS. RICE: All right. Thank you.

2 I did get a request for someone to continue
3 their testimony that was going over three minutes.

4 So John Hopson, Jr., I am going to ask you to
5 unmute. If you would like to continue with the remainder
6 of your remarks, you may.

7 And, John, I have -- I've asked you to unmute.
8 You just need to accept the request.

9 MR. HOPSON: I did. Can you hear me?

10 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

11 MR. HOPSON: I was just going to ask to see if I
12 can finish this paragraph since others were allowed to go
13 over the three minutes here.

14 MS. RICE: Yes. Please go ahead.

15 MR. HOPSON: As -- as someone who supports
16 Alternative E, Willow just -- Willow doesn't just provide a
17 tax revenue for our borough to invest in the local
18 infrastructure. It will also provide significant impact
19 mitigation funding to our communities directly.

20 Please note that these are -- our impact
21 mitigation funds are provided by law. While we work hard
22 collectively to mitigate impacts on the environment, these
23 funds work to help our communities address the direct
24 impacts of oil and gas to people by allowing our local city
25 governments to have programs for recreation, mental health,

1 science, infrastructure, development, and support. It
2 allows our communities to have a level of
3 self-determination and sufficiency away from our -- away
4 from our borough even.

5 Now, that -- now, that is the maximization of
6 local government that our past leaders were striving to
7 achieve for our people and our region. Our participation
8 in the NPRA, in general, and specifically Willow, major
9 changes have been made to the project to address issues
10 raised by our residents in our own public meetings.

11 We have worked hard to mitigate the biggest
12 concerns in our environment and subsistence resources.
13 Many of these mitigations are now reflected in the new
14 Alternative E in the Willow Master Development Plan,
15 supplemental EIS. Excuse me.

16 Those are -- those are our changes. It is time
17 to move Willow forward. This will provide our region the
18 ability to diversify our economic and mitigate changes to
19 our climate while we feel and see every day.

20 We have the knowledge through over thousands of
21 years of the adaptation in the Arctic to know how to
22 address climate change without becoming its victims. We
23 continue to strive forward towards self-determination and
24 self-sufficiency. Our voices needs to be the loudest in
25 the decisions.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MS. RICE: Thank you, John.

3 I see that Rosemary has her hand up again.

4 So, Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, I am asking you to
5 unmute.

6 And, Rosemary, you'll just have to accept the
7 request to unmute.

8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Can you hear me now?

9 MS. RICE: Yes, I can.

10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. I want to thank
11 everyone that's been participating in this process, as it
12 is important for us to hear all the discussions that are
13 given to this process and that we feel very strongly in our
14 concerns and that we should not be sacrificed for the
15 national energy policy and the development of the oil and
16 gas nearby.

17 We want to make sure that we are engaged in the
18 process around us, regardless of the decision that is being
19 made, and that we are able to prevent the severity of the
20 impacts that continue to affect our daily lives and be
21 guiding of the process of activities around us, reducing
22 the threats to our community, allowing us time to evacuate,
23 if the need arises, because of the threats with activities
24 of oil and gas development, and ensuring us that our
25 families will not suffer their health by having the

1 appropriate research and monitoring to document these
2 emissions that are not being properly evaluated with the
3 way that snatch grabs do not calculate the emissions that
4 are occurring.

5 Our community has many people that are facing
6 very serious health conditions. It makes it very difficult
7 for our community to live in our own village when you face
8 these concerns. When you look at the chemicals that are
9 being emitted in the 1.7 million pounds per year, with the
10 cumulative effect of the oil and gas development process,
11 you worry about adding even another pound to our community
12 when we've seen community members --

13 MS. RICE: Rosemary, I think we lost you. I see
14 that you're -- you're off mute, Rosemary. Can you hear us?

15 Okay. Well, we'll move on with the commenters.
16 I see that Rene Opie has her hand up.

17 And, Rene, I am sending you a request to unmute.

18 And, Rene, I am -- I'm sending you a request to
19 unmute. You'll just have to accept it, and then you'll be
20 able to speak.

21 MS. OPIE: Hi, thank you. For a moment there, I
22 couldn't get a signal which --

23 Hi, Rene Opie, City of Nuiqsut councilman. I'm
24 a resident of Nuiqsut.

25 And it just reminded me of when they were trying

1 to push the [inaudible] project through during that time
2 during COVID, when we were all on hunker down, and they
3 could not come here to hear our public concerns, and they
4 opted to do it on Zoom. And during that time, we had
5 really bad signal too, and we couldn't get on, and our
6 elders didn't know even know how to use Zoom or to call in
7 to these meetings.

8 So I just wanted to point that out, being that I
9 lost a signal for a second there.

10 But I just wanted to state that -- I wanted to
11 thank everyone in the country and around the world for
12 calling in to opt for A, no action. We really appreciate
13 it. And that we, the people of Nuiqsut, our voices should
14 be here first, heard first.

15 And hearing all the comments, you know, that the
16 North Slope Borough says they are mitigating for the
17 impacts here, when they can't even find grants, their
18 excused to do some studies here on our sick fish, which
19 we've been trying -- and our caribou, which we've been
20 trying to get studies done for years and years to have it,
21 you know, scientifically proven, hopefully if, you know,
22 that is happening, because we eat the fish and the caribou
23 here, and our health concerns are getting worse and worse.

24 Cancer has risen. There's more young men, you
25 know, having strokes and just the social factors and health

1 factors has really been a part of the impacts from the
2 industry.

3 And when you guys show the map where you guys
4 are developing, you guys don't even put Nuiqsut right in
5 the dead center. We are people that live here and subsist
6 on this land. We're not even recognized on your map, and
7 that is disturbing.

8 I grew up camping all my life. Not in this
9 area. I was born and raised in Barrow, and I camped in a
10 different area by the [inaudible] River. Every summer,
11 every fish season, too, fall time. And we'd go out there
12 to have peace, live our way of life, serene. It's very
13 healthy for us. Very healthy for us in all aspects.

14 And moving here, I took my family camping, and
15 it's so disturbing to see these oil pads towering over
16 every direction you look. And I just did not get that
17 sense of serenity and peace that we have.

18 Now, we can only travel towards the south to get
19 away from all this development. And we are now surrounded
20 to the west, north, and east, and now they are currently
21 doing seismic explorations in the south. So they're
22 already trying to push forward.

23 The Nanshuk Project to the east, the road is
24 already built, and it's on hold right now because they're
25 trying to get this Willow project going. The Nanshuk

1 Project has already been pushed through during a time, like
2 I said, when we really didn't have a voice in our village
3 to express our concerns and all the impacts that it has on
4 our social and our health-related problems we're having
5 here.

6 And I also would like to say that my daughter
7 does have asthma, and eating the native foods has really
8 helped her health and has gotten it down to where she
9 doesn't get as sick as much, but when the winter
10 exploration comes and those fumes blow to our town and
11 Nuiqsut sits in a bowl and all that pollution goes down and
12 sits -- and sits in the bowl, we're at the lowest level.
13 And that's when the asthma starts going up and respiratory
14 problems start going up.

15 And I also wanted to add that our -- our native
16 food that we subsist on and eat is our main source of food
17 here. A lot of times our stores don't have food due to
18 planes not coming in, weather. Sometimes we have no gas
19 because we can't -- you know, the weather prevents the
20 plane from landing.

21 And even, like, there's been testimony that our
22 subsistence hunters who are hospitalized, they don't get
23 all the energy they need the --

24 MS. RICE: Rene?

25 MS. OPIE: Yes.

1 MS. RICE: You are a little bit over time, and I
2 do see that there is someone in line behind you to give
3 comments.

4 MS. OPIE: Okay.

5 MS. RICE: I'll switch to her, and then, if you
6 have further comments, you can raise your hand again.

7 MS. OPIE: Okay. I just want to close by saying
8 I'm for Alternative A and that our native foods really do
9 help us stay healthy and keep us full and give us energy
10 and keep us healthy.

11 So thank you very much.

12 MS. RICE: Thank you, Rene.

13 MS. OPIE: When you're in a hospital, that's
14 what I meant. It helps you get --

15 MS. RICE: Thank you, Rene.

16 So I think I saw Lauren Hendricks had her hand
17 up.

18 And so, Lauren, I am asking you to unmute.

19 MS. HENDRICKS: Hi. My name is Lauren
20 Hendricks. I live in Anchorage, Alaska. I've been -- I'm
21 actually a third-generation Alaskan, and I'm a huge
22 supporter of the oil and gas industry for helping our state
23 be more stable and compete with jobs and more opportunities
24 in the Lower 48 and keeping people here in Alaska.

25 Basically, I just wanted to thank you for

1 providing more common opportunities this week, especially
2 so that Alaskans like me can show our support for Conoco
3 and the oil and gas industry and Alternative E.

4 And that's all. Thank you.

5 MS. RICE: Great. Thank you, Lauren.

6 If anyone else would like to make comments, you
7 can raise your hand right now. If anyone was unable to
8 complete their comments in their three minute time frame,
9 you are welcome to raise your hand again.

10 You can raise your hand by clicking on the
11 "reactions" button in the tool bar at the bottom of your
12 screen and clicking the "raise hand" button. And if you're
13 calling in on the phone, you can press star nine.

14 All right. I don't see any other hands up. If
15 anyone would like to give comments, you can raise your hand
16 right now. Otherwise we will go ahead and close out this
17 meeting.

18 All right. And seeing no further hands up.

19 I do want to announce that, as many of you know,
20 we did have technical difficulties earlier in the evening,
21 and there were many participants that weren't able to join
22 to give testimony, so we will be holding an additional
23 virtual public meeting next week, Wednesday, August 24th,
24 at 2:00 p.m. Alaska time. I will be sending out a
25 stakeholder e-mail with this announcement and updating our

1 BLM website.

2 So thank you all for joining this evening, and I
3 may see some of you all next week.

4 Thank you.

5 (Off record.)

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I, ELISSA STEEN, RPR, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a true, accurate, and complete transcription of proceedings in Virtual Meeting 4, transcribed by me from a copy of the electronic sound recording, to the best of my knowledge and ability.



ELISSA STEEN

Registered Professional Reporter

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