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**Department of the Interior – Leasing Plan
Public Hearing – Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Good evening. My name is John Gfrorer, I am a taxpayer and concerned citizen from Deptford, New Jersey, 08096. I am here today because I strongly oppose any oil and gas drilling on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

With all of your impact studies and the industry safeguards, you cannot account for, anticipate or prevent all human error, industry shortcuts and system failures.

I lived in Anchorage from May 1988 thru July 1990 as an employee of the Internal Revenue Service. I lived thru the Exxon Valdez disaster. Despite all of the industries and governments' safety procedures, promises and studies, they could not plan for human error like inebriated crew members.

I watched on local TV refrigerated trailers being loaded with dead wildlife to be used as evidence in a lawsuit that was sure to follow. When they felt they had enough evidence, remaining dead wildlife was burned in large piles.

The carcasses of more than 35,000 birds and 1,000 sea otters were found after the spill, but since most carcasses sink, this is considered to be a small fraction of the actual death toll. The best estimates are: 250,000 seabirds, 2,800 sea otters, 300 harbor seals, 250 bald eagles, up to 22 killer whales, and billions of salmon and herring eggs.

The NTSB investigated the accident and determined that the probable causes of the grounding were: