My name is Jane Ransdell and I live in Fairbanks. I'm here to voice my opposition to any oil and gas leases being granted on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. I am here to stand up and declare the importance of wild places for their own sake. There is great value in wilderness and in wildlife. The coastal plain is the biological heart of heart of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Oil and gas development will be disruptive to birds and breeding caribou.

The Porcupine Caribou herd is concentrated on a relatively narrow strip of land near the coast. This land is bordered by hills that are the home to predators who would prey on the newborn calves. Oil and gas development in the past, has caused calving caribou to move their calving grounds. Calving time is a very sensitive period for caribou and oil development in the coastal plain risks causing the caribou to avoid the very areas that are most free from biting insects and predators.

The Porcupine Caribou herd is invaluable to the Gwich’in people. It is not right for one generation to upset the ecological balance of the Porcupine caribou herd that is a fundamental part of the Gwich’in lifestyle and culture.

The argument that the United States needs the resources under that land is misguided. What our nation needs is to put all its efforts into developing clean energy technology. The burning of fossil fuels is accelerating global climate change, threatening the future of our species and our planet.

I ask you not to open up the 1002 area to oil and gas leasing.