1	Bureau of Ocean Management Regulation and Enforcement
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5	Public Hearing
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7	Environmental Impact Supplemental Statement
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9	Relating to Chukchi Sea Sale 193
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38	Michael Routhier, NEPA Coordinator
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42	John Callahan, Public Affairs Officer
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## PROCEEDINGS

2 (On record at 7:06 p.m.)

1

- MR. LOMAN: My good friend from Point Hope has entered the
- 4 room, so we can get started. Hi, Earl.
- 5 Good evening and thank you very much for taking your time
- 6 to come attend this Public Hearing. This is the sixth and final
- 7 Public Hearing that we've held.
- 8 My name is Jeffery Loman. I am the Deputy Regional
- 9 Director for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation
- 10 and Enforcement, formerly known as MMS.
- The purpose of this hearing is pretty straightforward. As
- most of you know, our Agency prepared an Environmental Impact
- 13 Statement back in 2007. And the purpose of this Environmental
- 14 Impact Statement was to analyze the effects to the human
- 15 environment under the National Environmental Policy Act for an
- oil and gas lease sale in the Chukchi Sea, Sale 193. This map
- 17 describes the results of that sale, because the Agency held that
- 18 sale in February of 2008. And a total of 487 leases were issued
- 19 for almost \$2.7 billion. Can you hear me back there? Okay,
- 20 good. Somebody was trying to send me a message.
- 21 We were challenged by a number of parties. And the case
- 22 went to the Alaska District Court. And the Court, in July of
- 23 this year, issued an Order and remanded the Agency to do a
- 24 couple of things. Analyze the effects of natural gas
- 25 production, because the Agency did not do that. And these

- 1 leases have incentives associated with natural gas.
- 2 The other thing the Court wanted us to do was to address
- 3 about 40 pages, in the Plaintiffs' Exhibit 129, of missing
- 4 information or uncertainty, try to address the context of that
- 5 information in the context of informing the decision maker, the
- 6 decision to hold this oil and gas Lease Sale. This missing
- 7 information is something the Court said, find out if it's
- 8 obtainable and if the cost of obtaining it is exorbitant.
- And, so, when we got that remand, like any National
- 10 Environmental Policy Act litigation, a court will say, do your
- 11 environmental assessment right, or do more. And we prepared a
- 12 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address this
- 13 court remand.
- And the purpose of this hearing is driven by this Federal
- 15 law called NEPA, is the acronym, and it's a Sunshine Law. It
- 16 requires us to do everything out in the open to produce a draft
- document, which is here tonight, if you haven't seen it. We
- 18 still have copies available.
- By the standing room only attendance, and I apologize for
- that, we weren't expecting to have standing room only attendance
- tonight. We're not so sure what drove that, but it doesn't make
- 22 any difference, we're delighted and inspired that you've taken
- an interest and, obviously, share our passion for protecting the
- ocean and enhancing our country's energy. It is a extremely
- important aspect of Alaska's economy. And it's an extremely

- 1 important issue to the Alaska Natives who live in the Arctic.
- 2 We were there all week last week, starting in Kotzebue,
- 3 continuing on to Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright and Barrow.
- 4 And we met with folks in each one of those communities at public
- 5 hearings. And we held government to government consultation
- 6 meetings, as well. So, I have pretty much explained what the
- 7 Court asked us to do. Sharon, do you have anything to add to
- 8 that?
- 9 MS. WARREN: Just that the timeframe, as Jeffery said,
- 10 what the Court asked us to do. There's also -- copies out
- 11 there. There's a September 2<sup>nd</sup> Order from the Court outlining
- 12 the deadline. And the District Court Judge thought it would be
- 13 reasonable for us to make the effort to have this final EIS
- 14 completed by January 21, 2011. And, after that date, it would
- 15 be filed with the Court. The Administrative Record would be
- 16 filed with the Court on that date. The Plaintiffs will have an
- opportunity to review the final EIS, as well as the
- 18 Administrative Record and file briefs with the U.S. District
- 19 Court on March 21, 2011. So far, that is the schedule that was
- outlined in the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Court Order by Judge Beistline.
- 21 So, that's all.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you Sharon. Mike Routhier is our
- 23 colleague who worked extensively on the draft Supplemental
- 24 Environmental Impact Statement. Mike, could you tell our
- 25 attendees about that document?

- 1 MR. ROUTHIER: Sure thing. The Judge's remand was
- 2 specific in what he wanted us to do, a little bit of more NEPA.
- 3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Could you speak a little bit louder?
- 4 MR. ROUTHIER: Oh, I'm sorry. The Judge's remand was
- 5 fairly specific in what he wanted us to do. He wanted a little
- 6 bit more NEPA and there were bits that he wanted done correctly.
- 7 He found deficiencies in some of the parts. In order to
- 8 accomplish what the remand required, we elected to do a
- 9 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, which allowed us to
- 10 do a pretty thorough analysis of the issues. And, also
- 11 incorporate some public process. It let us go out to visit the
- 12 communities on the North Slope. It let us have this meeting
- 13 here tonight.
- 14 As Jeffery stated, there were a couple different
- 15 components of the Judge's remand. The first component was the
- 16 requirement to analyze the potential environmental impacts of
- 17 natural gas development and production.
- Now, in asking the analysts who work with us, the
- 19 scientists who do our analysis, we couldn't just ask them to
- analyze development and production generally, we needed some
- 21 more specific information form them to analyze. What we needed
- 22 was a feasible scenario, a reasonable scenario that talked about
- 23 what kinds of developments would be necessary. How things would
- 24 actually work. So, to get guidance on what the natural gas
- development and production would entail, we consulted with our

- 1 Resource and Economic Analysis Section. These are Geologists
- 2 and experts in the oil and gas field. And they helped us --
- 3 they provided us with a scenario that the analysts could then
- 4 take and analyze. And I'm going to introduce Bob here, from
- 5 that Section, to speak a little bit more on that.
- 6 MR. PETERSON: Thanks. Hi, I'm Bob Peterson, Chief of the
- 7 Resource and Economic Analysis Section. As Mike pointed out,
- 8 one of the key things that their group needed was something
- 9 specific -- can you hear me okay?
- 10 AUDIENCE: No.
- 11 MR. PETERSON: What they needed was something specific to
- 12 analyze. And, again, when the Judge came back, he said, we
- 13 hadn't analyzed. But keep in mind, this was put together in
- 14 2006-2007. At that time, we didn't see gas as reasonably
- 15 foreseeable. But in our leasing instrument, we did give an
- incentive in barrels of oil equivalent, which could be either
- oil or gas. And so the Judge wanted to see an analysis of gas.
- 18 In our final Environmental Impact Statement that we had
- 19 completed, we looked at a scenario of an oilfield of
- 20 approximately a billion barrels in size. Well, what we did is,
- 21 added to that accumulation, we certainly see possibilities of
- this in the Chukchi Sea of a billion barrels of oil and an
- associated accumulation with that of two and one-half trillion
- 24 cubic feet of gas.
- We thought this was the most reasonable scenario to begin

- 1 our development. Oil is a much more valuable commodity than
- gas. We did not feel it was reasonable for a gas only
- 3 accumulation to be economically viable. But in the case where
- 4 you had oil that could be developed, and that provide a lot of
- 5 the infrastructure in place then for then a gas development, we
- 6 thought that was the most reasonable scenario to have both -- to
- 7 analyze both an oil and a gas case on the environment.
- 8 So the first stage in our first EIS, we looked at an oil
- 9 development of a billion barrels in the Chukchi Sea, a bottom
- 10 grounded -- sea floor grounded structure, a oil pipeline to the
- 11 shore. From that point at the shore, taking off across NPRA on
- 12 an onshore oil pipeline to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline over near
- 13 Prudhoe Bay.
- It's important to note that this oil would probably begin
- 15 about 12 to 15 years from today, assuming drilling would take
- 16 place tomorrow. This would be, still, a number of years out
- 17 before oil production began. Sometime during that period of
- 18 time, the infrastructure for gas production would begin to be
- 19 developed. And that would include the gas pipeline to the
- 20 shore, gas facilities at the shoreline. And then along the same
- 21 right-of-ways as the oil pipeline, a parallel gas pipeline
- 22 across NPRA that then would connect to, well, maybe Denali,
- 23 maybe AGIA. We don't really know. But it would be something
- 24 coming from the Prudhoe Bay area to the south. This would take
- 25 place after about 15 years of oil development. So there would

- 1 be a transition stage where we had both oil and gas, with ever
- 2 decreasing oil. And then for the last 10 years of the field
- 3 development, you would have only gas coming off of this offshore
- 4 Chukchi Sea development. And you could be looking at a project
- 5 that would have, maybe, a 35 year lifetime.
- 6 It is important to, I think, mention, of course, the
- 7 offshore oil and gas pays royalties to the U.S. Government. But
- 8 also, a lot of the -- in fact, all of the onshore facilities
- 9 could be \$4 billion worth of onshore infrastructure would be
- taxable by the State. with a percentage of that going to the
- 11 North Slope Borough in property tax. And this does add up.
- 12 Currently the North Slope Borough's getting about \$250 million a
- 13 year in property tax income from existing infrastructure in the
- 14 Prudhoe Bay area. So we did now have a concrete scenario that
- could be analyzed by the people up in the Environmental Group
- and the staff that Mike was working with.
- 17 MR. ROUTHIER: Yeah, that's correct. So, basically, we
- 18 passed around a scenario that Bob's office provided us with.
- 19 And this was reviewed by BOEMRE's team of scientists and
- 20 analysts. Scientists included Marine Biologists, Economists,
- 21 Cultural Anthropologists, a variety of disciplines. And each
- 22 analyzed the potential impacts of the natural gas development
- 23 and production to those various resources. And that's contained
- in the heart of the document.
- Basically, you break it down into -- well, first we

- summarized what the original EIS said about the oil development
- 2 and production, just to give people context. Then we
- 3 specifically addressed the natural gas development, so
- 4 installation of pipelines and things of that nature. And then
- 5 in a separate section we had analysis of production activities.
- 6 And we just organized that for clarity, basically. But that
- 7 basically took care of the first item of the Judge's remand.
- 8 And that brings us to the second and third concerns in the
- 9 remand which, both, basically pertained to his holding that we
- were deficient in our dealing with incomplete information.
- Within NEPA and its implementing regulations, there's
- 12 certain protocol that Agencies must follow if incomplete
- information exists or is identified. We didn't do a good enough
- job of that the first time. So, we do it again and we try to do
- it the right way. To ensure that we did it the right way, we
- 16 developed a pretty systematic logically progressing analytical
- tool that, basically focused our analysis on the precise words
- 18 of the regulations.
- 19 For instance, the first step was asked whether the missing
- 20 -- or the incomplete information was relevant to reasonably
- 21 foreseeable significant adverse affects on human environment.
- 22 So, we worked with our analysts to determine what was relevant
- 23 to these types of impacts. If a particular item identified in
- the Plaintiffs' exhibit or during our subsequent review,
- indicated that an item was not relevant to that type of impacts,

- 1 we simply noted that and moved on to the next item. If we found
- that the item was relevant to that specific type of impacts,
- 3 then we'd progress through the next step in the analysis. That
- 4 asked whether the incomplete information is, quote, essential to
- 5 a reasoned choice among alternatives. And, basically, our
- 6 scientists and our management got together and we tried to hash
- out what was really essential and what wasn't.
- 8 All the findings are memorialized in Appendix A of the
- 9 Supplemental EIS. And that's the type of thing that we
- 10 appreciate your comments on, whether we did a sufficient job of
- 11 doing that analysis.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you, Mike. In our meetings with the
- 13 communities along the Arctic Coast and in Kotzebue, we did get
- 14 some good constructive comments that will help us put together a
- 15 better, final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. We
- 16 also got some good suggestions from Tribal Leaders, leaders of
- 17 the Native villages on how to improve our Agency. Because we
- 18 are in the process of going through a major reorganization,
- 19 which is the impetus for the name change. And we expect to have
- 20 yet another Agency created here in the next couple of months,
- 21 the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, with the
- 22 goal -- to the primary over-arching goal to restore the public's
- 23 trust in what we do.
- So, are there any questions about anything we've talked
- about, the reason we're here tonight about this environmental

- law or any kind of question that I can answer before we get to
- the public comment period? Yes sir.
- 3 TOM: Who are the Plaintiffs?
- 4 MR. LOMAN: The Plaintiffs are the Native Village of Point
- 5 Hope, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, and a number of
- 6 environmental advocacy groups. Sharon has, I believe, an Order
- 7 that lists all the Plaintiffs. Can you give it?
- MS. WARREN: Yes. The Plaintiffs in the case, Native
- 9 Village of Point Hope, the City of Point Hope, the Inupiat of
- 10 Arctic Slope, Red Oil, Alaska Wilderness League, Center for
- 11 Biological Diversity, National Audubon Society, Natural
- 12 Resources Defense Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center,
- Oceania, Pacific Environment, Sierra Club and the Wilderness
- 14 Society.
- And the Defendants in this case is the Bureau of Ocean
- 16 Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement, previously
- 17 Minerals Management Service, the Secretary of the Interior. And
- 18 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was sued concerning the
- 19 Dangerous Species Act, but that claim, through the Court, was
- 20 moot, because the Fish and Wildlife Service redid -- updated the
- 21 biological opinion was a subject to the litigation, so that --.
- 22 The Interveners in the case is Shell Gulf of Mexico,
- 23 Incorporated, Conoco Phillips Company and the State of Alaska.
- MR. LOMAN: Any other questions? Tom?
- TOM: Yeah, did you try and incorporate any of the lessons

- 1 learned or was this -- from the Gulf spill? Or, was this just
- 2 strictly addressing court actions?
- MR. LOMAN: It sets out to address the remand, court
- 4 actions.
- 5 TOM: So is there going to be any subsequent change to the
- 6 analysis regarding, you know, the ability to mitigate -- as we
- 7 saw, with such a miserable failure in the Gulf?
- MR. LOMAN: Well, here's the beauty of our system. It is
- 9 multi-step, multi-phased. And the environmental analysis, in
- this case, was to hold an oil and gas lease sale. And some of
- 11 the things that would happen after a lease sale are seismic
- 12 exploration. That requires additional environmental analysis or
- 13 exploratory drilling. More environmental analysis if a viable,
- 14 economically and recoverable resource was found. And they went
- into a development scenario and production scenario, more
- 16 environmental analysis would be required for each and every step
- 17 of the process.
- 18 There are long lists of things that have already taken
- 19 place. Some of these things are voluntary. Industry has made
- 20 changes on their own, because of the Deepwater Horizon spill.
- 21 And some things are being mandated by other authorities that the
- 22 Department of Interior has. So, the long and short of it is --.
- TOM: There will be a whole new set of EISs required down
- 24 the road.
- MR. LOMAN: More environmental assessments, or

- 1 Environmental Impact Statements and other authorities that, in
- the addition to, the creation of a stand-alone, regulatory
- 3 Agency to oversee industry's activities that we have been
- 4 involved with making recommendations we believe will be
- 5 successful in full measure at restoring the trust of the
- 6 American people in what we do. Any other questions? Yes,
- 7 Michael.
- 8 MICHAEL: You said that, in your documentation, that
- 9 nearly \$140 million has been spent on pre-leasing studies. Do
- you have a handle on how much money in total has been spent to
- 11 this point on studying?
- MR. LOMAN: Environmental studies in the Arctic is
- probably approaching about \$400 million by our Agency alone.
- 14 Industry spends tens of millions of dollars, just in the short
- 15 time that I've been with the Agency, to do their own science in
- developing baseline information and monitoring of what
- 17 activities have taken place.
- 18 Most recently, Shell and the North Slope Borough entered
- 19 into an agreement by which they will work collectively to do
- 20 even more baseline science. And, the posters on the wall, with
- 21 the little chart on an easel back there -- when the meeting is
- 22 over, I invite anyone who's intellectually curious about the
- 23 amount of scientific information that we base our decisions on,
- 24 to take a look at this list of environmental studies that have
- 25 been conducted and that are currently being worked on. So there

- 1 is a substantial amount of information, scientific information
- 2 to base these kinds of decisions on. And, I can tell you very
- 3 briefly that in the case of the decision to hold a sale in the
- 4 Chukchi Sea, the decision maker did ask some hard questions.
- 5 The decision maker wanted to know if the people in the
- 6 communities along the Arctic were confident in industry's
- 7 ability to clean up an oil spill. And whether or not industry
- 8 could clean up an oil spill. These are questions that are a
- 9 little different than the norm, inside the Beltway. They
- 10 require answers that someone might not like. But, this process
- 11 under the National Environmental Policy Act and this meeting
- 12 that we're having right now are all part of informing the
- 13 decision maker. And, so, when and if the decision maker asks
- 14 how people view certain things, it's our job, as employees of
- this Agency, to tell them the truth. And so that's our job, and
- 16 we're proud to do it. Tom.
- 17 TOM: Jeffery, can you comment on whether, and if so, when
- 18 the Agency would submit to the State of Alaska revised Coastal
- 19 Consistency Determination, under the State's Coastal Management
- 20 Program?
- MR. LOMAN: For this particular Supplemental Environmental
- 22 Impact Statement?
- TOM: Right.
- MR. LOMAN: We talked about that this past week. we have
- 25 not, because we just got back.

- 1 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What's the question?
- 2 MR. LOMAN: Question is, whether or not we will consult
- 3 with the State, under the Coastal Zone Management Act and get,
- 4 would essentially be, a confirmation or re-confirmation of
- 5 consistency. We have not had the chance to hold those
- 6 discussions with the State because we just got on the ground the
- 7 other day. And, we had to prepare for this meeting. But we
- 8 will. And we will get back to the North Slope Borough with
- 9 that. Yes, ma'am.
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: How long will public comments be
- 11 accepted for the EIS statement?
- MR. LOMAN: November the  $30^{th}$ . Apparently, it was --
- November 29<sup>th</sup> is the date. But somebody sent somebody something
- 14 that said, it was November the 30<sup>th</sup>, so, with the great powers
- bestowed on me, I have extended the comment date one whole day.
- 16 And hopefully that will work for you. This is a
- 17 straightforward, easy to comprehend document and matter. And
- 18 that should do it. Jeff, yes.
- 19 JEFF: You mentioned several times the decision maker.
- 20 Who's going to be the decision maker on this, on this EIS?
- 21 MR. LOMAN: Well, you know, that -- it's the Secretary's
- 22 shot to call. And the Secretary has he ability to delegate
- 23 down. I can tell you this, since the Deepwater Horizon
- 24 incident, decisions on doing things in the Arctic with respect
- to oil and gas exploration, seem to be of great interest to the

- 1 Secretary, and even the President, as one could easily
- 2 understand. So, at a minimum, it will be made by the Secretary
- of Interior unless he decides to delegate it to the Assistant
- 4 Secretary of Land and Minerals Management. Yes.
- MR. HARBOUR: Question on process. It looks like we may
- 6 have several score of people here interested in testifying.
- 7 What are your rules? Are we going to have a certain time limit?
- 8 And how long are you going to allocate? Or are we going to stay
- 9 here as long as it takes for everybody to be heard? Or are you
- 10 going to put a limit on tonight?
- 11 MR. LOMAN: He's moving me along. Yeah, let's get into
- 12 that. Because we do have a long list. Thank you sir. A long
- list of people that do want to testify. And so, I counted that
- 14 list and did the math. We have 'til 10 p.m. and that gives the
- 15 78 people about two minutes each. I know how these work,
- 16 because I do this for a living. Some people will change their
- mind because somebody's already said something that they said.
- 18 And that's okay.
- 19 What I'm going to do is, I'm going to call the names in
- 20 the order of the sign-in sheet. Just to let you know, so you
- 21 can get in the batter's box, we're going to start with Mr. Taft,
- 22 and on deck will be Mr. Gilbert. So, if you could move that
- 23 way, we can get started straight away.
- And then I would ask that everyone, insomuch as possible,
- 25 that you summarize what you want to say. And if you have it in

- 1 writing, I will take it from you and make it part of the record.
- 2 The only real rules that we have is that we respect each other
- 3 and be courteous. We talk just loud enough for our Court
- 4 Reporter, Judy, to understand you. There's no sense to let our
- 5 emotions get the best of us.
- So, without further ado, I know we have more questions,
- 7 but I'm not going to take them because we do have to get into
- 8 the testimony. I'd be happy to answer any questions, burning
- 9 questions that you have, after the hearing is closed. Mr. Taft,
- 10 you have the floor.
- 11 MR. TAFT: Thank you sir. Thanks to you and your
- organization for all the hard and good work that you do for this
- 13 State
- 14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can't hear back here.
- MR. TAFT: Is that okay?
- MR. LOMAN: That will be picked up by the Court Reporter,
- 17 loud and clear. You may not be able to hear the person.
- MR. TAFT: I'll do my best.
- MR. LOMAN: Okay, do your best.
- MR. TAFT: Yeah, --.
- 21 REPORTER: Could I just ask that you tell me your name so
- 22 I can put it on the record?
- MR. TAFT: Yeah, that's my first line. My name is Maynard
- 24 Taft. I'm a Partner in a small business, Hawk Consultants. We
- 25 provide supplemental personnel to the oil and gas industry here

- in Alaska. We're an Alaskan company, founded here in 1985.
- 2 Last year we lost 50 employees due to the state of the oil
- 3 industry at this time. We also are a member of the Alaska
- 4 Support Industry Alliance, which is an organization representing
- 5 500 member companies, and their 35,000 employees.
- 6 We believe the OCS should be made available for oil and
- 7 gas exploration and development for these following reasons.
- 8 The United States is in a vulnerable position related to oil
- 9 energy consumption. Oil imports have risen about 20 percent in
- the last few years and the U.S. local production has declined by
- 11 14 to 16 percent. We import over 59 percent of our energy as
- 12 reflected in oil. Where and what is our energy policy?
- 13 Opposition to oil and gas exploration and production here in
- 14 Alaska impacts here in Alaska, the Lower 48 and is a threat to
- 15 nation's security.
- Even if we were to get approved tomorrow, OCS production
- may not be available for some 6 to 10 years, when you consider
- 18 the permitting and contingency plans and different
- 19 (indiscernible). Can we accept a vulnerable and subservient
- 20 position relative to our energy needs? Do you think that the
- 21 American people will accept a damaged economy, stand by while
- 22 their elders freeze up in New England? Wars have started over
- 23 problems less than this. We must be always in a position of
- 24 strength, energy independence, flexibility, sustainability, when
- 25 it comes to our national security. Energy is the foundation of

- our independence and the strength of the world.
- Seventy percent of Alaskans, including the Alaskan Native
- 3 community, support environmentally, responsible development.
- 4 Shell is working closely with the local community in Barrow and
- 5 understands -- and incorporates concerns of the Indigenous
- 6 Alaskan people. We are citizens of this State, all of us in the
- oil industry. We care deeply about the environment and its
- 8 citizens. Remember, even oil companies are made up of people.
- I recall an experience when I was working in Barrow in
- 10 1972 to '74. We were doing a cleanup project at Umiat. And
- 11 workers came back and said, they expressed their amazement at
- the amount of oil seeping out, just naturally seeping out under
- 13 the tundra, up there. And I commented to them, the oil
- 14 companies have a more stringent oil policy than Mother Nature.
- 15 Alaska needs the jobs, revenues and oil production. And the
- 16 U.S. needs its energy sources for our nation's security.
- 17 Exploration and production is a win, win, win -- revenues for
- 18 the government, energy independence for the nation and jobs for
- 19 a stagnant economy. Thank you.
- 20 MR. LOMAN: Thank you Mr. Taft. I have your written
- 21 statement. I appreciate your comments. Mr. Gilbert you're up
- 22 next. And, for the Mayor of Anchorage, Ms. Schubert, I hope
- you're still here? Yes. Ms. Schubert -- Stacey, you're on
- 24 deck. Mr. Gilbert, you have the floor.
- MR. GILBERT: My name is James Gilbert. I'm the President

- of Udelhoven Oilfield Systems Services. We're a 40 year Alaskan
- 2 company.
- The goal of Lease Sale 193 was to produce oil from the
- 4 Alaska OCS and boost domestic production from potential world-
- 5 class energy deposits. OCS production has the potential to
- 6 refill the Alaska pipeline which is now operating at one-third
- 7 of its 1988 peak flow.
- 8 Oil and gas production resulting from Sale 193 will occur
- 9 under the world's highest safety and environmental standards.
- 10 Activities will be governed by stringent lease stipulations
- 11 identified in the environmental impact studies. Numerous
- 12 mitigation measures, including seasonal operating restrictions,
- 13 will minimize potential impacts. There has never been a blowout
- in the Alaskan or Canadian Arctic that resulted in a oil spill.
- 15 Thirty wells have been drilled in the Beaufort and five in the
- 16 Chukchi, all without incident. And these wells were drilled
- 17 utilizing 1980s technology, which is far behind what's used
- 18 today.
- 19 According to a University of Alaska study, new OCS
- 20 production in Alaska would provide an annual average of 35,000
- 21 jobs in Alaska, with a total payroll of more than \$72 billion
- 22 over 50 years. And that's over \$18 billion in income tax
- 23 dollars, alone.
- Demand for energy is continuing to rise and the U.S.
- 25 requires continued development of America's oil and gas

- 1 resources, as the nation transitions to new energy sources for
- 2 the future.
- I urge you to move forward with development of the 193
- 4 lease area. Our nation needs it. Alaska needs it. And we, as
- 5 Americans, need it also. Thank you very much.
- 6 MR. LOMAN: Thank you Mr. Gilbert. I have had a couple of
- 7 requests here to -- thank you -- ask that the speakers face,
- 8 stand and face the audience. And I think our Recorder will be
- 9 able to hear.
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can they sit and turn around?
- MR. LOMAN: If you really want to hear, they have to stand.
- 12 Do you mind?
- 13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Thank you Stacey.
- MS. SCHUBERT: Good evening, and thank you for allowing me
- 16 the opportunity to testify. For the record, my name is Stacey
- 17 Shubert. And I am the Inter-governmental Affairs Director for
- 18 Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan. He asked me to apologize that
- 19 he's not with you tonight in person. But it's because he's
- 20 currently occupied at our Assembly Meeting where our lawmakers
- 21 are addressing the 2011 City budget. As Mayor Sullivan's
- jurisdiction spans nearly 2.000 square miles and almost 300,000
- 23 people. I am testifying on his behalf to oppose any further
- 24 delay of development of Alaska's offshore oil and gas resources,
- and to encourage you to affirm expeditiously, Lease Sale 193, as

- 1 held by the U.S. District Court for Alaska in 2008.
- The economic security of our nation is in peril,
- 3 jeopardized further by the potential significant loss of jobs
- 4 and local, State and Federal revenues that the de-facto Arctic
- offshore moratorium is imposing.
- Your Agency has estimated that Alaska's OCS has up to 29
- 7 billion barrels of oil, compared to the 16 billion barrels of
- 8 oil already produced on the North Slope since 1977. The Trans-
- 9 Alaska Pipeline system has the capacity to ship more oil to the
- 10 domestic market. It is currently operating at only one-third of
- 11 its peak flow. And Alaskans need the jobs that will be created
- 12 by the development of offshore oil and gas. Further, Alaska's
- OCS may hold 209 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, further
- 14 positioning, both our State and this nation for reduction in
- internationally imported supplies of these resources.
- As an Alaskan who understands the Arctic's extreme
- 17 temperatures and remoteness, and the importance of this industry
- 18 to our State, Mayor Sullivan has personally met with Shell
- 19 Alaska Vice President, Pete Slayby (ph). The Mayor appreciates
- the company's need for a decision by your Agency in the next few
- 21 weeks to move forward with its 2011 plans that involve moving a
- 22 drilling ship and other infrastructure into place.
- Surely, there will be opponents to drilling in Alaska's
- 24 OCS who refer to the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of
- 25 Mexico. The last time Mayor Sullivan testified before your

- 1 Agency on August 26, 2010, in front of Director Michael
- 2 Bromwich, he said, quote, The action to suspend drilling
- announced by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on July 12, 2010,
- 4 was likely a prudent move, given what we did not know about the
- 5 Deepwater accident. However, now is the time to move forward.
- 6 Mayor Sullivan also said, nearly four months ago, quote, We
- 7 must, as a nation responsibly move forward with domestic
- 8 offshore energy production to meet our needs by building a
- 9 robust and inclusive OCS leasing program that includes both the
- 10 Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. He urged BOEM to continue its work
- 11 to evaluate regulatory structures that improve safety and spill
- 12 response, while simultaneously making sure any changes are
- 13 appropriate to make certain that offshore energy production can
- 14 be done responsibly, taking heed to protect the environment,
- workers, American consumers and our economy.
- Again, now is the time to move this leasing program
- 17 forward. We have learned much from the Deepwater incident, and
- 18 we know that drilling in the shallow Arctic is far different
- 19 from drilling in the deep Gulf, including overall geology, well
- 20 design and pressure. More than 250 studies have been funded in
- 21 the Arctic in the past decade, with the bulk focused on the
- 22 Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. We know that there's never been a
- 23 blowout in Alaska, or the Canadian Arctic that resulted in an
- oil spill. Five wells have been drilled in the Chukchi and 30
- 25 wells have been drilled in the Beaufort, and all without

- 1 incident. What's more is that these wells were drilled in the
- 2 1980s when technology was not nearly as advanced, as it is
- 3 today.
- 4 One tenant of Alaska's Constitution that we hold dear is
- 5 that we will control our own destiny. Article 8, Section 1,
- 6 establishes the policy of the State to develop our resources by
- 7 making them available for maximum use consistent with public
- 8 interest. Access to Alaska's assets is fundamental to our
- 9 national security interests. If the U.S. Government doesn't
- 10 provide a reasonable, regulatory environment, the multi-national
- 11 companies who are in a position to invest, will do so outside
- our country and, therefore, funneling hundreds of millions, even
- 13 billions of dollars to outside economies that likely do not have
- 14 the stringent regulatory framework to support America's
- 15 interests.
- Through our actions with Shell, including a steadfast
- 17 commitment to prevention, and a rigorous review of Alaska Spill
- 18 Response Plans during recent legislative hearings,
- 19 Mayor Sullivan has the confidence that now is the time to move
- forward with OCS drilling. We have, for too long, delayed our
- 21 country, of Alaska's available resources. Our economy will
- 22 benefit from an annual average of 35,000 jobs with a total
- 23 payroll of more than \$72 billion in the next 50 years. Other
- 24 States will benefit from enhanced private sector demands made
- 25 possible by exporting Alaska's high volume of oil and gas

- 1 resources.
- 2 What if that risk is more delay and overburdens and
- 3 regulation, significant market disruptions that are likely to
- 4 lead to price volatility and higher prices for American energy
- 5 consumers and for Alaskans who are so dependent on oil and gas
- 6 revenues to make our economy tick. To that end, Mayor Sullivan
- 7 encourages action by Congress to provide States with a fair
- 8 share of revenues derived from production (indiscernible) to
- 9 drive revenue and help direct a more responsive path forward.
- 10 I'd like to reiterate Mayor Sullivan's opposition to any
- 11 further delay to development of Alaska's offshore oil and gas
- 12 resources, and to encourage you to expeditiously affirm Lease
- 13 Sale 193.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you.
- 15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Point of order.
- MR. LOMAN: Ms. Beardsley. Sit down sir.
- 17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, point of order.
- 18 MR. LOMAN: No, sit down sir. No, sit down sir. Sit
- 19 down.
- 20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I am sitting down. But I feel I'm
- obligated (indiscernible).
- MR. LOMAN: You will sit, please, thank you. Ms.
- 23 Beardsley. And Mr. Danson on deck. Again, please, in the
- 24 effort to allow people enough time to speak, please summarize
- your statements, if you can. We appreciate it.

- 1 MS. BEARDSLEY: My name is Betsy Beardsley. I'm the
- 2 Environmental Justice Program Director for Alaska Wilderness
- 3 League. For the record, I'm a life long Alaskan, born and
- 4 raised here, deeply rooted in this State. I have a child and my
- 5 mother-in-law is here in the audience to support me, so I'm not
- 6 an Outside Environmental Extremist.
- We're at an important crossroads right now to the Arctic
- 8 Ocean. And while I'm glad to see that BOEMRE is here, holding
- 9 this public meeting to learn about the issues at hand, I am for
- 10 the Agency to listen local voices, to improve its process in
- 11 working with the community, and to gather the necessary
- 12 scientific data and make decisions based upon sound science.
- The process, so far, has been bureaucratic, rushed and
- 14 technical, to the detriment of capturing local voices on these
- 15 issues. These voices do not only have the most knowledge about
- this pristine wondrous place, but also stand to lose the most,
- 17 if the risky aggressive development proposed by Shell Oil and
- 18 others is allowed to move forward.
- 19 For example, BOEMRE needs to improve outreach to the
- 20 community. In October BOEMRE released a 300 page document on
- 21 its draft FEIS for the Chukchi Sea and an (indiscernible)
- 22 community hearing was ten days after releasing this document.
- 23 This timeline does not give communities adequate enough time to
- 24 digest the hundreds of pages of vital information affecting
- 25 their communities. BOEMRE can do a better job in engaging

- 1 communities in a transparent and fair process.
- Also, very little is known about the icy waters of our
- 3 Arctic Oceans. And the necessary science is still being
- 4 gathered. For this reason, the Obama Administration and two
- 5 Federal Judges suspended all drilling activities in the Arctic
- 6 earlier this summer, with the requests for necessary and missing
- 7 scientific information. The draft FEIS for the Chukchi should
- 8 address the missing scientific information. Instead, the Agency
- 9 dismissed the need to collect missing science and, at this time,
- 10 its potential negative impact on entire species of Arctic
- 11 wildlife.
- We hope that the process could be similar in the Beaufort
- where Agency would release a new draft FEIS that would base
- 14 decisions on sound science, such as the research that your
- 15 sister Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, is currently working
- 16 on. And, also, that you take into account the lessons learned
- 17 from the BP oil spill.
- 18 We learned through the tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico that
- 19 there were significant problems with the way that oil and gas
- 20 development in our nation is managed. In fact, BP's massive
- 21 mistakes in the Gulf have shown the spotlight on something we,
- 22 in Alaska, have known for years, that the oil industry cannot be
- trusted with our precious natural resources. BP's track record
- on Alaska's North Slope has been terrible, averaging more than a
- 25 spill a day over the past 15 years. Just last week, the

- independent investigative news group, Pro Publica, released
- 2 BP's internal report that found that some pipeline walls in
- 3 Alaska's North Slope are 80 percent corroded and could rupture.
- 4 And while Shell has not yet build a track record in the
- 5 Arctic Ocean, the gross inadequacies in their plans for drilling
- 6 have been exposed by Federal Court after Federal Court and don't
- 7 do much to build our confidence that they will be any different.
- 8 What's more, there is extremely limited response capacity to
- 9 deal with a spill in the Arctic Ocean. Simply put, there's no
- 10 way to clean up a spill in the Arctic icy waters.
- Bottom line is that, until we feel confident with the oil
- industry's ability to drill safely and responsibly, no drilling
- 13 should be allowed to move forward in the Arctic Ocean. This is
- 14 a great time to have a time-out, a pause so we can wait for this
- necessary scientific data to be collected, so that, if we are
- going to drill in the Arctic Ocean, that it's done right and
- 17 that local communities are involved, from the beginning.
- This lawsuit, that's brought us here today, was filed by
- 19 the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, among others. The
- 20 Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope is the Regional Tribal
- 21 government for the entire North Slope, representing eight
- villages along the North Slope and then 1,000 of Inupiat Tribal
- 23 members that live there. I think we need to listen to them and
- 24 their concerns. Thank you.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you Betsy. Mr. Danson. And, on deck,

- 1 Mr. Steiner.
- 2 MR. DANSON: I am not from Alaska and I am an
- 3 Environmentalist but I hope I'm not an extremist. My name is
- 4 Ted Danson. I'm on the Board of Directors of Oceana which is an
- 5 International Ocean Advocacy Group, conservation group, with
- 6 offices in Juneau, Alaska.
- 7 I went to Prudhoe Bay, at the invitation of oil companies,
- 8 about 20 years ago because, I was on the opposite side of the
- 9 fence, trying to keep Occidental Petroleum from drilling in
- 10 Santa Monica Bay. We became friends and they flew me and a
- 11 friend of mine up there. And we agreed to disagree. But we did
- 12 find ways to keep oil out of the system by creating a recycled
- used motor oil program. So I firmly believe in working with oil
- 14 companies, when you can.
- I was also able to go to Barrow about five days ago. And
- 16 I met with Mayor Itta and saw somebody in the middle of this
- 17 conversation. Somebody's whose entire -- the people he
- 18 represents have been lifted up economically oil money into a
- 19 place where they can live in a much more sustainable way. And
- 20 at the same time, their spiritual and cultural life depends on
- 21 whaling, the bowhead whale. And they feel that that may or may
- 22 not be in jeopardy from this drilling. But they feel that the
- 23 science -- well, let me now speak for them.
- Oceana now feels that, what you need to do with so much at
- 25 risk, is make sure that the planning and the science is accurate

- 1 so that you are not putting these people at risk.
- 2 We feel like draft that's come out is, actually, basically
- 3 saying, yes we know we don't know this certain amount of
- 4 science. But it's okay that we don't know that science to go
- 5 ahead and start drilling. We disagree. We feel that that would
- 6 be a mistake. I also feel that it's a bit of a mistake that the
- 7 train has left the station and -- before you've done the basic,
- 8 the base science. And by that I mean, really knowing how the
- 9 entire ecosystem works, and is dependent on all, you know, on
- 10 the food chain. That you start leasing things and then say,
- 11 you'll do the science, as you go along the way, each step of the
- way. Whereas, if you'd done the science to begin with, maybe
- 13 you would have said, you know, don't drill here, drill there.
- 14 It has, you know, less impact on the environment. And you can
- 15 still get your oil but you can do it in a safer way over here.
- So our suggestion is, to stop this draft. Do the real
- 17 science, the base science. And it would take, maybe four or
- 18 five years to do that at \$20 million a year, but would well be
- 19 worth that effort. And, we also have many pages of comments and
- 20 suggestions that will be submitted later. Thank you for this
- 21 opportunity.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you Mr. Danson. Mr. Steiner. And
- 23 coming up after Mr. Steiner, Doris Hugo? Yes.
- 24 MR. STEINER: Thank you very much to son of MMS for
- 25 holding the hearing. I also want to thank Mr. Danson. This

- 1 guy's the real deal. He's not just a Hollywood celeb that steps
- into an issue and then walks back to Hollywood. He's been
- 3 involved in ocean conservation issues for decades. And I
- 4 certainly commend him for that. Thank you.
- 5 There were hearings like this prior to TAPS in which
- 6 people said, it's important for jobs, for energy and don't
- 7 worry, there will not be one drop of oil spilled in the Prince
- 8 William Sound. We all know that the -- what's wrong about that,
- 9 at this point. There were hearings like this in the Gulf of
- 10 Mexico prior to deepwater drilling. Obviously, we know what the
- 11 fallacy in that logic as well, right now.
- This is a high risk gamble. I realize that politics are
- 13 against us in Alaska. Most of the people in this room and
- 14 probably, most of the people in Alaska want OCS drilling. We
- 15 get that. The problem is, who shoulders the risk and who gets
- 16 the benefit? The people of the Arctic Slope certainly shoulder
- 17 the majority of the risk. And the environment of the Arctic
- 18 Ocean has most of the risk. So we have to be conscious about
- 19 that.
- 20 My suggestion would be, Alternative II in the FEIS, which
- 21 is, no action. But realizing the political realities, might not
- 22 line up with that. I would suggest, then, an Alternative III-A.
- 23 And Alternative III is the 60 mile deferral corridor one against
- the beach. And would ask that it be suspended for a year while
- further risk analysis and risk assessment is conducted.

- 1 We don't even really know the full causes of the Deepwater
- 2 Horizon at this point. And it's ludicrous, one, to lift the
- 3 moratorium. The Federal Court just suspended the rules that
- 4 were issued by the Department of Interior. And now it's a
- 5 complete free-for-all in the Gulf of Mexico.
- I don't think the industry has it together. The Agency,
- 7 with all due respect, has shown that it does not have it
- 8 together, providing Federal oversight. So we're all, you know,
- 9 we're all on the same team here, I think. We all need to have
- 10 responsible energy. But the way we've been doing it, obviously,
- 11 has been chaotic and hasn't worked, so we need to drop back for
- 12 a year or two, do the risk assessment. Do the blowout
- 13 prevention systems that are much better than what we have right
- 14 now. And do the response planning.
- 15 We know that oil spill response doesn't work. It has
- never, ever, ever worked anywhere, period. We need to disabuse
- ourselves of that notion, period. And, particularly, in broken
- 18 ice situations in the Arctic. If an oil spill were to happen
- 19 right up against -- freeze up, there'd be virtually nothing that
- 20 could be done about it under the ice.
- 21 Should the Alternatives go forward, which I suspect they
- 22 will, regardless of what we say here tonight, I'd ask that an
- 23 Arctic Regional Citizens Advisory Council be a stipulation, and
- 24 a legitimate, independent fully funded one that includes the
- Village and Tribal governments, not necessarily the Regional

- 1 Corporations. That's the latest draft of the Bill reads. And
- 2 would also ask that real time drilling monitoring be conducted
- 3 by Federal Engineers and better inspections be conducted on the
- 4 rigs.
- And lastly, I guess I'd just like to say that I and many
- of my colleagues in the conservation and scientific community
- 7 have been somewhat disappointed so far in the Obama
- 8 Administration. 00 I'm sure a number of people in here have been
- 9 disappointed, as well, for different reasons. But I think it's
- 10 time for the Administration to start governing and stop
- 11 campaigning. And the same for Congress. The gridlock can't --
- is not helping anyone.
- So, we need a sustainable energy policy. I don't think
- 14 this is where we're going to get there.
- 15 MR. LOMAN: Thank you -- Doris you're next.
- MS. HUGO-SHAVIGNS: Good evening I am Doris Hugo-Shavigns.
- 17 I am a Tribal Member of Barrow and the Arctic Slope. I am
- 18 submitting my written testimony for the public hearing regarding
- 19 confirmation of the Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193.
- 20 SEIS provides ample information and analysis to support an
- 21 educated decision for support of Lease Sale 193. Chukchi Basin
- 22 holds enormously massive amounts of oil and natural gas which
- our nation, State and local residents need now. We must stop
- 24 relying on foreign oil. Onshore oil and gas exploration and
- 25 development has afforded many benefits to my people of the

- 1 Arctic Slope region and we're in an economic crisis. Revenues
- 2 are dwindling with the decline of TAPS and fewer companies
- 3 investing in on shore exploration.
- 4 There is no alternative to off shore exploration for the
- 5 people of the North Slope in terms of economic development and
- 6 stability. Good paying jobs are on vast decline and families in
- 7 rural Alaska are at the forefront of the nation's economic
- 8 crisis. Many residents, including some in the North Slope, live
- 9 in third world conditions in inadequate homes not suitable for
- 10 the Arctic.
- 11 Oil and gas revenues has provided education, health and
- 12 social services and numerous other facilities such as proper
- 13 sanitation services, roads, bridges, airstrips and other
- 14 critical infrastructure needed for the well-being of our
- 15 communities.
- I personally had my higher education paid for and
- 17 graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a
- 18 Bachelor's degree thanks to oil and gas dollars provided to my
- 19 region. This also includes the hundreds of other North Slope
- 20 Inupiat that continue to receive scholarships through endowments
- 21 and foundations established with oil and gas dollars. It is not
- 22 a handout, it is a hand up to help our people live in the ever
- 23 changing world. Even subsistence hunting costs money, money
- 24 that comes from jobs that are on the decline. Offshore
- 25 exploration and subsistence hunting co-exist.

- 1 It would be a major disservice to my people and to the
- 2 State of Alaska if BOEM rescinds the leases allowing a de facto
- 3 moratorium to continue, which will do more harm than good.
- 4 strongly urge you to affirm Lease Sale 193 and commence with
- 5 necessary permits to allow development of these important energy
- 6 resources without delay.
- 7 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Mr. Banks for the Governor of
- 8 Alaska. And Ms. St. John on deck.
- 9 MR. BANKS: Thank you. My name is Kevin Banks. I am the
- 10 Director of Oil and Gas at the Department of Natural Resources.
- 11 And I'm here on behalf of Governor Parnell and I thank you all
- 12 for this opportunity to testify.
- The State of Alaska supports Alternative IV in the
- 14 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on oil and gas Lease
- 15 Sale 193 in the Chukchi Sea. And affirming the Sale 193 as it
- was held in February 6, 2008. As all are aware, that Sale
- yielded \$2.6 billion in successful bonus bids from some of the
- 18 most experienced offshore oil companies in the world. Bidding
- 19 behavior such as this is undeniably a huge endorsement of the
- 20 scientific opinion by both BOEMRE and the USGS in their
- 21 assessments of the resource potential in the Chukchi Sea. I'll
- 22 try to be brief for you all.
- Now, almost three years after that sale, in which time
- 24 these companies would have had the opportunity under less
- 25 litigious circumstances, to begin exploration in earnest, the

- 1 Secretary must revisit this decision. We're here today because
- the U.S. District Court in Anchorage remanded the Sale 193
- 3 decision to BOEMRE. The Court asked the Agency only to revisit
- 4 three aspects of the original decision.
- Now, while the State would have hoped for a ruling from
- 6 the Court that would have upheld the Lease Sale, Judge Beistline
- 7 certainly did not deliver a complete victory to those who would
- 8 want to bar any oil and gas activity in the Chukchi Sea. He
- 9 said, quote, This does not necessarily require the Agency to
- 10 completely redo the permitting process. In all other respects
- 11 the Court finds Defendants, that is BOEMRE, have complied with
- 12 NEPA.
- As for natural gas development, the first of the three
- 14 issues raised by the Court, there can be little doubt that this
- will occur in association with and incrementally to oil
- 16 development. BOEMRE correctly concludes the natural gas
- 17 development would merely extend the life of existing plays and
- infrastructure and build new facilities within the previously
- 19 disturbed areas. For this reason, environmental impacts are
- 20 described with words as localized, temporary, minor.
- 21 Should there be a large-scale gas release into the
- 22 environment, the environment would be affected temporary to
- 23 short term and at a negligible to minor level. While impacts
- 24 may occur because of direct operations, over-flights, marine
- 25 transits, pipelines, et cetera, the Agency says that these may

- 1 be avoidable through avoidance and mitigation. And the impacts
- on the human environment from natural gas development are
- 3 described with the comments in the SEIS as, no major impacts are
- 4 expected for Alaska Inupiat Natives.
- 5 These conclusions about the environmental impacts of
- 6 incremental natural gas development, combined with the
- 7 conclusions already made by the BOEMRE and essentially affirmed
- 8 by the District Court in the original Sale 193 FEIS means the
- 9 decision to go ahead with the lease sale has met the
- 10 requirements of NEPA.
- 11 The Agency's analysis of the second and third issues
- identified by the Court is encyclopedic and rigorous. It was
- our impression that the number of instances in the original Sale
- 14 193 FEIS where BOEMRE identified incomplete or unavailable
- 15 information, indicated that the care of the scientist at the
- 16 Alaska OCS Region took to avoid exaggerated and polemic
- 17 statements. On the other hand, the Plaintiffs, before the U.S.
- 18 District Court, presumed that, in spite of exercising an
- 19 abundance of caution that the Agency had somehow erred in
- 20 pressing forward with a lease sale, as if it were completely
- 21 ignorant of the environmental impacts.
- The Court didn't go so far as the Plaintiffs. Instead the
- 23 court recognized that the Agency be given deference in meeting
- the requirement, and we believe that they have done so
- 25 comprehensively.

- 1 Lacking a crystal ball or the prescience of our Creator
- 2 should not condemn all human endeavors. Obviously at this stage
- 3 in the process, we can be sufficiently informed about the likely
- 4 impacts of selling oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea. Later
- 5 we can address what we need to know to authorize exploration
- 6 activities. When uncertainties exist, everyone understands that
- 7 we must act with caution. The State of Alaska believes we need
- 8 to act now.
- 9 To wrap up, in deference to all of you, State of Alaska
- 10 has consistently argued that oil and gas development in the
- 11 Arctic OCS is an essential component of the future of our
- industry and our State economy. It will contribute to
- 13 sustaining our livelihoods and our varied cultures. Often lost
- in the debate about OCS development, it's a simple fact that
- 15 when we fail to develop our own resources, we export our
- nation's wealth through deeper trade imbalances and costs to
- 17 maintain our international energy security.
- 18 Failure to develop our domestic resources exacerbates the
- 19 impacts on the environment and other parts of the world where
- 20 values about environmental protection and the laws that minimize
- 21 the impact of industrial activity are non-existent.
- We compliment BOEMRE for the work they've put into this
- 23 SEIS. And we believe that it provides more than sufficient
- 24 support for the decision to affirm the February 6, 2008 Sale
- 25 193. Thank you very much.

- 1 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, Kevin. Okay, I sense the
- frustration. So I'm going to ask one more time to please keep
- 3 your statements down to two minutes. It's appreciated by a lot
- 4 of people. Thank you.
- MS. ST. JOHN: For the record, my name is Jeanine St.
- 6 John. And I'm here representing an Alaska company that many of
- you now, Lynden. We represent a privately held company that has
- 8 over 500 employees in the State Alaska.
- And I'm going to keep my comments extremely brief. I'll
- 10 leave my written comments. What I'd like to say is that we have
- 11 testified at all of these public hearings on everything related
- to this lease sale. It's gone on and on and on. You can see
- all the studies, the scientific studies that have been done.
- 14 believe -- we believe that people understand that oil and gas
- Development has to be done responsibly. And we appreciate the
- 16 fact that companies have had the patience to go through this
- 17 process. However, it's disheartening to go on and on and on
- 18 through this process.
- 19 So we urge quick expeditious activity. And let's move
- 20 forward. We want to keep our employees employed. And we know
- 21 that you guys all want a good Alaska economy.
- So, that's it. .
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Mr. Kendall.
- 24 Mr. Pratt right after Mr. Kendall. Mr. Kendall. Well, Mr.
- 25 Pratt, we have an empty seat for those that are up next.

- UNIDENTFIED MALE: Well, I see the same faces in different
- 2 places. Earlier tonight I rose in the back to call a point of
- 3 order, a point of inquiry to Mr. Loman, here. Again, I see one
- 4 injustice, one inconsistency, one contradiction, one hypocrisy
- 5 after another, to limit us to two minutes. But those people
- 6 that are special, get a longer time. It appears to me that your
- 7 society is decaying. It is unraveling. It is aberating (ph) at
- 8 a scope and scale the likes of which I have never seen before.
- 9 It almost appears to be an insect high colony like design, which
- if you take the money out of the picture, it appears to be a
- 11 natural formulation of revolution.
- My concern is this, you can do all the oil you want. But
- 13 we deserve an equal amount of time for us to evolve as a
- 14 society. Alaska's a very, very special place, ladies and
- 15 gentlemen. It is an intersection of the likes I have never seen
- 16 before. And to put that into some criteria as opposed to a
- 17 philosophical and theoretical position, a ten by ten by ten
- 18 block of water, which is really a hydrogen body, they use water
- 19 as a tricked up term, so that it disconnects you from some
- 20 greater understanding, irrelevancy. But that body of water
- 21 weighs 31 tons, a ten by ten by ten block of water, 31 tons.
- You have the Cook Inlet out here, the Knik Arm area. You
- 23 have one of the world's highest tide flows. You have three
- 24 incoming rivers. You have the capacity to go into that Inlet
- 25 overnight and generate huge amounts of clean energy called in-

- 1 harmony energy. You have the chance to make your residential
- 2 sector in the Valley, in Anchorage and Girdwood to be all
- 3 electrical residential, one of the first areas in the world.
- 4 You have a chance, if you do that, to literally launch the new
- 5 age which is going to be energy based.
- And instead of sharing that moment with some of these
- 7 companies which were some of the most influential in the world,
- 8 to bring (indiscernible) to Mr. Loman to be able to hold over a
- 9 hearing for two minutes at a time, instead of being able to have
- a three or five day, these companies portend levels of influence
- 11 I've never seen the likes of before.
- And what happens is this. Instead of them joining us to
- make this a very special place to evolve our society, to show
- that two paradigms can exist simultaneously, and win out, you
- now, in a fair mode, they continue to evade accountability.
- 16 There is not going to be anymore (indiscernible) Alaska ladies
- 17 and gentlemen. And if you look at the rational factors and all
- 18 the data outside of those people who want to mindset you, by
- occupation, you will realize that technology is coming unleased
- like I have never seen before in my lifetime.
- 21 Carbon and the fossil fuel distribution network system of
- 22 associates, they have so maligned, they have so connived and
- 23 contrived the markets across, just not America, but the planet
- 24 in all reality. That all sectors are now looking to fail. The
- 25 only way to come back is for the true free market enterprise to

- 1 push back with new and in-harmony designs.
- These oil companies know this. And let me give you an
- 3 example. I'm going to do a little something here that hopes to
- 4 connect you or unfold you. There is no such thing as water. It
- is an ancient archaic and distracting term. When you send that
- 6 child over to get you a glass. If you do water, you may as well
- 7 put that child in a cardboard box and bury him. You need to
- 8 send him over to get you a glass of hydrogen with oxygen.
- And when he says to you, mom or dad, what is hydrogen, you
- 10 can explain to him that the ocean is a complex hydrogen body, a
- 11 compound of various particulates and partnerships and life
- 12 forms. It's almost another dimension and to reach into it.
- A river is a hydrogen body. A lake is a hydrogen body.
- 14 When you drink that hydrogen, your body makes electricity and
- 15 sends you a synaptic impulse. When you have two synaptic
- 16 impulses there about, you have what we call a State of Being
- 17 because you can contrast data. You are maintained by a State of
- 18 Being by hydrogen, ladies and gentlemen.
- 19 It is oxygen under which you die -- pardon me? I didn't
- 20 see a timepiece. But out of respect for your distinguished
- 21 quests, here I will do that.
- 22 I'm not sure how you summarize it in a moment of such
- 23 wonders. Well, I am angry at those companies who now, having
- 24 pursued the almost Biblical proportions of greed to feed on
- 25 money that which, no longer has value. Or insect mentality,

- insect mentality is like, I need a job. What is a job get you?
- 2 I missed that one. But, my point -- men like me is like
- 3 kryptonite to Superman. You put me in a time block, fine, but
- 4 I'm down. Really falls off a branch.
- 5 Complex problems ladies and gentlemen requires slower
- 6 thought process at a greater body. And just as you're having
- 7 here tonight, it is an injustice. He should have reconvened
- 8 this meeting. He should have made a three day meeting, brought
- 9 cameras in so that men could rise and challenge other men and
- 10 probe, interrogate and then sit down. And rise again. You are
- in a very special place ladies and gentlemen. You have a chance
- in summary for a moment. You have a chance for your children to
- lead the rest of the world. Within the next two to eight years,
- 14 you could make this transition. The oil companies would be
- 15 there with you. Quite frankly I think they're occupying their -
- 16 they're about to desert you. But the point is, it is my outrage
- 17 and sense of anger and disposition here is because you see a
- 18 great moment, instead of your children. Which are the ones we're
- 19 supposed to be about, to be a more free people. Instead of
- 20 bringing them to that new day and age, by having these
- 21 discussions that expand us all, we're having these Dodge City,
- 22 Kansas moments which are just simply influenced by bullying or
- 23 intimidation. And I'm sad by this.
- Ten seconds. I thank you for the opportunity. And it is
- 25 a special place that I can sit with such a distinguished crowd

- in opposition and not hear weapons being cocked and loaded.
- 2 MR. LOMAN: Thank you.
- MR. PRATT: I've served on Mayor Sullivan's Council. So,
- 4 I am speaking on behalf of myself and my family who moved here
- 5 30 years ago. Alaska is where we chose to raise our family.
- 6 We've had great adventures and hope to continue to do so.
- 7 Alaska economics needs to heal. Sale 193 should be
- 8 affirmed. This is critical to the nation. It would have
- 9 benefits to homes, families and business. It has an economical
- value. Sale 193 has the potential to add domestic supplies, at
- 11 least equal to what has been produced on the North Slope. We
- have a moral imperative to develop and use domestic energy
- 13 supplies.
- Additional onshore and offshore oil development production
- is necessary to extend the useful life of TAPS. An early
- shutdown, due to either physical or economical constraints would
- 17 be devastating to Alaska and America. It was mentioned earlier
- 18 that OCS production in Alaska would provide about 35,000 new
- 19 jobs and \$72 billion worth of payroll over the next 50 years.
- 20 It would also generate thousands of new high paying jobs
- throughout all 50 States in manufacturing, computer technology,
- 22 construction, maintenance, et cetera, et cetera.
- Responsible development of Alaska's onshore and offshore
- 24 resources is critical to the advancement of Alaska's economic
- 25 engine. We are a young State. Population wise, we are a small

- 1 State. We know each other. With fewer than 700,000 residents
- 2 and barely 50 years of Statehood under our belt, we need all the
- 3 economic development we can muster to be a self sustaining,
- 4 envisioned by the Statehood Act. Unless we commercialize our
- 5 natural resources, we have little hope of surviving
- 6 economically.
- 7 Please allow us to continue to live in this thriving
- 8 healthy, pristine, magical place we call Alaska. This is the
- 9 right thing to do for America. This is the right thing to do
- 10 for Alaska families. Affirm Sale 193. Thank you.
- 11 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir. And, Kate Williams, next.
- 12 Sir, the floor is yours.
- MR. MALONEY: Thank you. My name is Sam Maloney. My
- 14 father, Tom, is delivering my testimony this evening as I have
- 15 English and math classes Tuesday and Thursday evenings at UAA
- that I cannot afford to miss. I agree with him.
- A few months ago I had the opportunity to personally
- 18 testify on the OCS and importance to Alaska and the country's
- 19 situation with Secretary of the Interior Salazar.
- This has been a big year for me. High school graduation
- 21 in May from South High School. I attended KCC in the morning
- 22 for their welding program. This great technical program led me
- 23 to major in welding and non-destructive testing at UAA. My goal
- 24 is to become a certified Welding Inspector in the next few
- 25 years. By working very hard I already have four welding certs.

- 1 It cost a lot of money to attend a university and take
- these kind of programs. The welding supplies, books, materials
- 3 are all very expensive. I and my fellow students need to pay
- 4 the piper and not expect anyone else to foot the bill. I worked
- 5 60 hours a week all summer to help pay my way.
- A few years ago the Federal government accepted almost \$3
- 7 billion for lease sales from oil companies. So far, it appears
- 8 that not much is happening to create future employment
- 9 opportunities for Alaskans, like myself. Many of my fellow
- 10 students who are willing to work and obtain the necessary
- 11 education and technical skills are concerned that we will not
- 12 have an oil industry in Alaska a few years from now. Isn't
- there a few trillion dollars worth of oil and gas reserves in
- 14 the OCS that the Federal Treasury may need to pay its debt?
- When my Dad came here about 20 years ago, the Trans-Alaska
- 16 Pipeline had over two million barrels a day. Now we have less
- 17 than a third of that. Will the pipeline shut down when it's
- 18 only one third of what it is now? Will the oil industry, which
- 19 provides almost all of our State revenues, be forced to leave
- 20 Alaska to pursue opportunities overseas? Can I get a job
- 21 related to the oil industry, which is in rapid decline in
- 22 Alaska? Will I be able to pay my student loans and other debts?
- Several of my friends' parents have relocated to places
- 24 like China, Australia, Canada and Germany to develop new oil and
- 25 gas projects in these foreign locations. We are exporting

- 1 Alaskan expertise to other countries that are developing their
- own resources. Why not develop our Alaskan resources to benefit
- 3 Alaskans and Americans?
- We need to develop America's own resources especially
- 5 those here in Alaska. People like me need good paying jobs to
- 6 support families. The oil industry has been good for my family
- 7 and thousands of others. We need to keep it going. I do not
- 8 want to move out of Alaska or maybe the entire United States to
- 9 work as a Welding Inspector.
- 10 Let's get Alaska and America working again. It would be
- 11 nice to see some of my friends return to Alaska with their
- 12 families instead of communication through Facebook, Twitter,
- 13 MySpace and phone calls.
- Thanks for listening and feel free to call or email. Sam
- 15 Maloney.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you.
- 17 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Kate Williams and I am the
- 18 Regulatory Affairs Representative for the Alaska Oil and Gas
- 19 Association, AOGA. AOGA is a private, nonprofit trade
- 20 association whose member companies account for the majority of
- 21 oil and gas exploration, development, production,
- 22 transportation, refining and marketing activities in Alaska.
- 23 We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on the
- 24 draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, for the
- 25 Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193.

- Lease Sale 193 should be affirmed as held in 2008 and in a
- timeframe that does not further delay exploration and
- 3 development in the Chukchi. As stated by BOEM, the purpose of
- 4 the SEIS is to provide new analysis as directed by the U.S.
- 5 District Court for Alaska in a July 2010 Order. This Order
- 6 instructed BOEM to address only three concerns. The SEIS
- 7 addresses those concerns and recommends the sale be affirmed as
- 8 held. AOGA urges the Secretary to accept the conclusions of the
- 9 SEIS and expeditiously affirm Sale 193.
- Lease Sale 193 is the most successful oil and gas lease
- 11 sale in Alaska's history, and at the time in U.S. history,
- generating \$2.7 billion in high bids for 487 leases. The time
- 13 required to get from lease sale to first production is estimated
- to be 20 years. Yet, to date, not even one exploratory well
- associated with Sale 193 has been drilled.
- Development of Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf is vital,
- 17 not only to Alaska's economy, but the nation's energy
- 18 independence. According to conservative Department of Interior
- 19 estimates, Alaska's OCS holds 27 billion barrels of oil and 132
- 20 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. By comparison, total
- 21 production from the North Slope has been approximately 16
- 22 billion barrels of oil. If access to Alaska's OCS resources is
- 23 allowed, Alaska would have the ninth largest oil resources in
- the world, ahead of Nigeria, Libya, Russia and Norway.
- Access to these resources is critical to the continued

- 1 operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system, which is
- 2 currently operating at about one-third of its capacity and could
- 3 be uneconomic to operate after 2020 without additional
- 4 throughput. Access is also a key component to the economic
- 5 feasibility of the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North
- 6 Slope to the Lower 48. OCS oil and gas development would also
- 7 benefit Alaska's economy by providing thousands of high paying
- 8 jobs over a long-term period.
- To reiterate earlier testimony, a study by the University
- of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research and
- 11 Northern Economics found that new offshore energy production in
- 12 Alaska would create an annual average of 35,000 new jobs in the
- 13 State with a total payroll of approximately \$72 billion over the
- 14 50 year life of the project. New offshore development in Alaska
- would also generate thousands of new high paying jobs throughout
- 16 the country across a variety of industries.
- 17 Alaska's North Slope and OCS are now perhaps the most
- 18 studied energy basins in the U.S. In the past decade alone over
- 19 250 studies have been funded in the Arctic with the majority
- 20 focused on the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. All told over \$500
- 21 million have been spent on more than 5,000 independent studies
- 22 since 1973.
- AOGA strongly urges the Secretary to affirm Chukchi Sea
- 24 Lease Sale 193 as recommended by the SEIS. The leases issued
- under Sale 193 were sold only after an exhaustive environmental

- 1 analysis. And the specific concerns the District Court raised
- 2 about the original lease sale in its July 2010 Order are
- 3 sufficiently addressed in the SEIS. Failure to affirm the sale
- 4 would allow a moratorium on exploration and development of
- 5 Alaska's OCS to continue, harming Alaska's economy and the
- 6 nation's energy security, without a corresponding benefit to the
- 7 environment. Thank you.
- 8 MR. LOMAN: You made it, thank you. It is now 8:30 p.m.
- 9 and at a couple of requests. The temperature in this room is no
- 10 longer fit. We'll take a five minute break. Go outside and
- 11 cool off and save your seats. Five minutes. Thank you.
- 12 (Off record at 8:30 p.m.)
- 13 (On record at 8:40 p.m.)
- MR. LOMAN: All right we're going to get started. Mr.
- 15 Hendrix. Mr. Harbour is up next. Okay please be seated. Ir
- 16 five seconds -- four -- three two. Thank you.
- 17 MR. HENDRIX: Good evening, my name is Tom Hendrix. I'm
- 18 Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the Alliance. And
- 19 testifying on behalf of the Alaska Support Industry Alliance.
- 20 The Alliance is a nonprofit trade organization representing
- 21 almost 500 members -- organizations and more than 40,000 Alaskan
- 22 employees that provide goods and services to Alaska's oil and
- 23 gas and mining industries. Our livelihoods depend on a healthy
- 24 Alaska oil and as industry and investment climate. OCS
- 25 exploration and development is critical to our future.

- 1 Unfortunately, as a result of a depressed business
- 2 activity in Alaska's oil patch, hundreds of Alaska oilfield
- 3 workers and professionals have lost their job. On behalf of the
- 4 Alliance and its members, I first want to thank the MMS and the
- 5 EIS that you've done, to date. And I have one simple request
- 6 tonight. Please submit your Supplemental Environmental Impact
- 7 Statement to the Court immediately.
- 8 Thirty-five thousand Alaska jobs are at stake. Alaskans
- 9 are ready to go to work. It's time for the Bureau of Ocean
- 10 Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement to do the same, and
- 11 fulfill their obligation to properly develop Alaska's Federal
- resources and create business opportunities for Alaska's oil
- 13 field contractors and suppliers and their employees. Thank you.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much. Mr. Lakosh, two minutes.
- MR. LAKOSH: Thank you for accommodating my disability. My
- name is Tom Lakosh. I'm an Oil Spill Researcher. I've been
- involved in assessing the legal and technical requirements of
- 18 affected oil spill prevention and mitigation.
- 19 I'd like to say -- start -- I admit that I'm not entirely
- 20 prepared to produce comments on the EIS. But it's apparent that
- 21 certain questions need to be addressed because of the concerns
- 22 of the citizenry. I'd like to remind all of those that are
- 23 interested in development that, because of scrutiny, there has
- 24 been half a billion dollars already invested in studying
- 25 environmental impacts.

- If the conservation community and support industries would
- get together, I think you'd find that we could probably do this
- 3 job right and provide much more -- provide for the rights of
- 4 Alaskans to superior public uses of their resources.
- By the way, oil spills are illegal so they could never be
- a superior public use. But we could provide for more jobs and
- 7 more investments here in Alaska, if we do the job right. Right
- 8 now we find that the regulatory system does not properly account
- 9 for effective planning.
- In the Gulf of Mexico, you'll see that BP planned for a
- 11 491,000 barrel per day spill. They said they had the capability
- of recovering that amount of oil. They would cover an average
- of 1,800 barrels per day. So the methodology called the
- 14 estimated daily recovery capacity was 273 times off of the mark,
- 15 and what it could realistically be recovered. The technology is
- 16 available to do it a lot better, if the industry put as much
- time and effort into developing those technologies as they did
- 18 in extraction equipment.
- 19 They spend billion dollars on floating production and
- 20 offshore storage platforms. They could spend the money on the
- 21 technology and do it. Shell has contributed to the oil skimmer
- 22 X-Prize (ph) but they're not going to study for Arctic skimmers.
- 23 Their present skimmer systems are not -- cannot be used in
- 24 broken ice, because they are not designed to process ice. They
- 25 will break. The boom will bust, will sink, will be floated out

- of the oil area. They will not be able to concentrate the oil
- 2 to get to the skimmers that produce the recovery rates that they
- 3 profess.
- They have not -- nobody has studied the effects of burning
- 5 oil. A recent symposium on that this spring showed pictures of
- 6 the soot coming right back down, due to temperature inversions,
- 7 spreading the oil soot all over the place where bears and fox
- 8 and seals will all roll around in it. They plan to leave the
- 9 oil in the winter, which is against the law. They're supposed
- 10 to recover it in a set period of time. They need to develop the
- 11 technology that can advance in broken ice. They need, to
- 12 Shell's credit, they need those ice breakers, the first that
- 13 have been brought up to the North Slope for recovery purposes.
- 14 And so they're sort of in the right way. They need to spend
- 15 more money. BOEMRE really needs to put some of that \$2.7
- 16 billion into an Arctic skimmer X-Prize (ph). Shell needs to
- 17 cough up a little bit more.
- 18 We could find the solutions, create more jobs and protect
- 19 the rights of the citizens to use the natural resources, if we
- 20 work together. Thank you.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you. June Childress.
- 22 MS. CHILDRESS: My name is June Childress. I live in
- 23 Wainwright, Alaska, and also the President of the Village
- 24 Corporation. And I live right smack dab in the middle of the
- 25 Chukchi Sea. So, this comes from our community as well as our

- 1 Board of Directors of Olgoonik Corporation, our Tribal
- 2 organization and the City of Wainwright.
- For generations we have followed a subsistence lifestyle.
- 4 While the waters of the Chukchi Sea provide many basic food
- 5 sources, it is important to consider the fact that we also must
- 6 rely on jobs to support subsistence. The cost to buy gas for
- our boats, snow machines and 4-wheelers is high. In addition,
- 8 we must pay for the modern community conveniences we enjoy,
- 9 public water, electricity, telecommunications services. Without
- the means of buying supplies, we cannot practice our way of life
- 11 as Inupiat people, let alone pass along cultural values to our
- 12 young people.
- To meet this need for income, we are keenly aware of the
- 14 value of economic development in our community. For that
- 15 reason, the Village of Wainwright sees oil exploration in the
- 16 Chukchi Sea as one of the most important opportunities we have
- for creating jobs. That is why we took the initiative in 2007
- 18 to make some preliminary investments in the local facilities,
- 19 equipment and training needed to support oil company operations
- 20 in the area.
- Over the past four years, Olgoonik has invested in excess
- of \$5.5 million in this effort. This business decision has made
- 23 it possible for Olgoonik to supply oil industry activities with
- 24 Marine Mammal Observers. a Communications Center that helps
- 25 avoid conflict between oil operations and whalers, a crew change

- and supply support operation for companies conducting science
- 2 studies in the region and shore-based logistics and camp
- 3 facilities.
- 4 Let me emphasize that the Olgoonik Corporation is not
- 5 doing this alone. We are working as a team with the City of
- 6 Wainwright, the Tribal Council and the Whaling Captains. You
- 7 heard statements from these groups during testimony in
- 8 Wainwright on November 4th. It is also worth mentioning that
- 9 it's not only Wainwright that supplies properly managed oil
- 10 explorations in the Chukchi. Despite what a few social critics
- 11 say, and the media's focus on this minority, a great many
- 12 residents throughout the North Slope understand that a realistic
- 13 balance between subsistence lifestyle and exploration can be
- 14 maintained. Given the need to bring more jobs to these remote
- 15 villages, we urge the Federal government allow exploration to go
- 16 forward.
- 17 Thank you for your time.
- MR. LOMAN: Dave Harbour.
- MR. HARBOUR: I'll leave you with my written testimony,
- 20 which will be more succinct than the verbal. But I'll offer the
- 21 verbal in view of the time constraint.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you.
- MR. HARBOUR: And maybe, after hearing the other witnesses
- talk a little bit about things that maybe the panel has not
- 25 heard.

- The State of Alaska, when it was formed 51 years ago, was
- 2 formed really via a triumvirate of actions. One was a publicite
- 3 (ph) of the people of Alaska. Second, was the formation of the
- 4 Constitution of the State. And third, was enactment by Congress
- of the Statehood Act. All three, to one degree or another,
- 6 recognized the fact that Alaska should not become a ward of the
- 7 Federal government ever again, that it should be able to sustain
- 8 itself based upon its significant array of natural resources.
- 9 Since Statehood, we've seen a gradual erosion of the
- 10 ability of this State to make a living based on its natural
- 11 resources. And were there more time and if anybody in the
- audience who's shaking a head, wishes to explore that matter we
- 13 could explore it with specific examples at great length.
- At this point, let's look at current actions leading up to
- 15 the present. First of all, Judge Beistline, in effect blessed
- 16 the good work of the MMS, BOEM with the exceptions of some
- 17 remedies that he sought and remanded the work to the BOEM.
- 18 Thanks to conversations that you shared with me before the
- 19 meeting, I learned that you did not have to construct an SEIS
- 20 which is part of NEPA required public hearings like we're having
- 21 around the State now. Rather, you could have submitted the
- 22 remedies more directly to the Court as the Court ordered. But
- out of abundance of caution, you didn't. You went through this
- 24 process. I respect that.
- 25 At this point, as a former regulator in the State of

- 1 Alaska, my advice would be, that because of the delays that have
- 2 been incurred over a long period of time, at a cost to the
- 3 lessees of several billion dollars, about a billion more than
- 4 was originally bid. We're at the point, I believe, where Alaska
- 5 is on the cusp of losing OCS development. If we lose OCS
- 6 development due to further delay, and that delay could be a BOEM
- 7 decision and a Secretary Salazar decision not to provide the
- 8 approvals necessary by the end of this year -- if that doesn't
- 9 happen, we could see the ability of the industry to mobilize for
- 10 the next summer season lost.
- If that happens, we may a see a loss of OCS altogether.
- 12 That could result in an inability of the State to sustain the
- 13 Trans-Alaska Pipeline. A previous witness estimated that it
- 14 could be in 20 years that that pipeline could be -- to fall into
- 15 disuse. But if at three-quarters empty, at this point, between
- 16 500,000 and 600,000 barrels a day declining, at a rate of about
- 17 six percent per year -- you do the math. In a cold winter day,
- 18 out of an abundance of caution, the owners of the pipeline may
- 19 well decide to surplus that pipeline well before that time,
- 20 perhaps as soon as seven years from now.
- Since 90 percent of the State operating budget is based on
- 22 that, and since one-third of the entire State economy is based
- 23 on the throughput of that pipeline, the Chukchi Sea with a
- 24 potential of over twice the productivity of Prudhoe Bay, and
- 25 perhaps five times the reserves of natural gas than exists now

- on the Slope, could provide the ability of the State of Alaska
- 2 not to again become a ward of the Federal government.
- In addition, the provision of Federal income taxes and
- 4 royalties as well as the ability of the State and the local
- 5 governments to achieve property taxes and sustain the dwindling
- 6 throughput of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, could enable the State
- 7 to continue to function. Thank you for the opportunity.
- 8 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Mr. Thompson. Rachael Daniel.
- 9 That was donated by a member of our audience, to help. And Kirk
- 10 Jackson after Rachael. Kirk -- Rachael, the floor is yours.
- 11 MS. DANIEL: My name is Rachael Daniel and I was born and
- raised in Alaska in a family dependent on a subsistence
- 13 lifestyle. And, tonight I'm speaking on behalf of the PUGH (ph)
- 14 Environment Group and we will be submitting comments, written
- 15 comments. So as we have limited time, I will only have enough
- 16 time to focus on one point tonight. Unfortunately, I can't
- 17 cover all the points I'd like to make. And so I'm going to
- 18 focus on one that's important to me and, that's science.
- 19 As a scientist, I would like to say that while there has
- 20 been a great -- well there has been and there continues to be
- 21 really good research conducted in the Chukchi Sea. There
- 22 remains a great deal of unknowns such as those acknowledged by
- 23 BOEMRE in the original Lease Sale 193, both on the lack of
- 24 information about species and habitats, as well as on the
- 25 effects of oil and gas activity on species and habitats.

- 1 The U.S. Geological Survey office in DOI is currently
- 2 conducting an initial review on science gaps related to Outer
- 3 Continental Shelf oil and gas Development in the Arctic,
- 4 Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. This review, under the direction of
- 5 Secretary, was to identify gaps in knowledge about the Arctic
- 6 Ocean with the results are to be viewed -- to be public in April
- 7 of 2011. And this information obtained in the USGS review would
- 8 likely have provided relevant information of data gaps, and the
- 9 means by which to address those gaps as related to OCS oil and
- 10 gas activity.
- 11 Furthermore, Secretarial Order Number 3305 on Scientific
- 12 Integrity signed by Secretary Salazar on September 29, 2010,
- 13 provides policy and direction that any decision from DOI will be
- 14 based on the best available science.
- We do not believe that the review of the gaps in the
- 16 Chukchi Sea EIS was consistent with that policy. And we believe
- that the BOEMRE should coordinate its lease 193 remand analysis
- 18 with the ongoing USGS analysis.
- 19 And related to science, one other point that I'd like to
- 20 make is that missing information could also be incorporated with
- 21 the use of traditional knowledge. And this traditional
- 22 knowledge should accompany research to aid western scientific
- 23 understanding of the Arctic marine environment. In the
- 24 documentation of existing knowledge and gathering of new
- 25 information, those who have the knowledge should be involved

- 1 throughout the research and management continue to help analyze.
- 2 Interpret and apply that knowledge appropriately, in conjunction
- 3 with western scientific findings and other relevant information.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 MR. LOMAN: Thank you Rachael.
- 6 MR. JACKSON: My name is Kirk Jackson. I'm a Business
- 7 Agent for Local 375, the Plumbers and Pipefitters of Fairbanks,
- 8 Alaska. I'm also an instructor at the Pipeline Training
- 9 Facility in Fairbanks. I'll be extremely brief. A lot of the
- 10 points I was going to talk about have been hit multiple times
- 11 this evening from the strongest support the Sale of the Lease
- 193 in the Chukchi and, similarly, the Beaufort.
- The decline of Prudhoe Bay and, of course, TAPS at one
- 14 third and the continued decline of that over the next eight to
- ten years, the development of the Chukchi is vital to Alaskans
- and Alaskans' families and the economy of Alaska. Thanks for
- 17 your time, appreciate it.
- MR. LOMAN: Rick Braun, then Kimberly Howard.
- 19 MR. BRAUN: I'll try to be short. I'm one of the few
- 20 people probably here that doesn't have some sort of financial
- 21 interest in all of this. I'm just a guy who lives here and
- 22 wants to keep living here. And want my kids to keep living
- 23 here. That requires a functioning economy. And I can see with
- the rope-a-dope that's been going on with this lease sale, the
- 25 endless delays, the endless studies -- pretty soon you're going

- 1 to have to have charts that go over the horizon to list the
- 2 studies I think -- or else go to a smaller font, I don't know.
- 3 That will never be enough. They'll want more. They'll
- 4 want another study of this, another delay for that. This is a
- 5 resource State as Mr. Harbour pointed out. We became a State
- 6 because we have resources sufficient to supposedly allow us to
- 7 be a functioning State. We're being strangled with our
- 8 resources, to the point where maybe we won't function anymore
- 9 and we'll be a welfare society State. And I don't know if the
- 10 government's got enough money left to make us a welfare society
- 11 State.
- Instead of going with the Chicken Little scenarios of
- worrying about what about this and what about that, and let's
- 14 study it some more. And that study is two days old so we got to
- do another one because that one is out of date. Let's just get
- on with it. Let's approve the EIS, the Supplemental EIS, the
- 17 whatever EIS you come up with. And let's go do something.
- 18 Because that's the best way to learn what you need to do, how to
- 19 do it, just like in the Gulf. In the McCondo (ph) well,
- 20 everybody had ideas, plans, you name it, theories. Well,
- 21 something went wrong. It didn't all work. And they've learned
- 22 a heck of a lot, I'm sure. That's a 5,000 foot and below well.
- 23 We're talking 150 feet. I think the pressure differential is
- 24 just a little bit different. And maybe we won't have a Mccondo
- 25 (ph).

- It's amazing to see in your study that you're trying to
- 2 calculate CO2 and CH3 releases when, isn't the idea of drilling
- 3 a well -- to pull something out and burn it? And you're going
- 4 to worry about how much CO2 and CH3 is -- might be released
- 5 while you're drilling for it? That's a waste of time. The lady
- 6 from Wainwright, I'm sure and other villages, would love some
- 7 natural gas just like this city is starving for natural gas.
- 8 Because even though -- I don't know what the barrels per
- 9 equivalent is of 75 bodies in here, but this is pretty warm.
- 10 But if you shut the gas off, it's not going to be that warm. I
- 11 lived in North Pole for 20 years. Man, when it gets 40 below,
- man I love my heating oil. You just can't make it without it.
- 13 So let's get on with it.
- You keep calling for basing it on sound science. That's
- just a rope-a-dope trick of, we need one more study. We need
- one more study. We need one more, one more -- we'll never get
- 17 to the actual thing.
- 18 Mr. Danson left, and his recycling motor oil thing, well
- 19 we do that over here at the Transfer facility. I don't think
- that'll heat this building, let alone the City of Anchorage.
- 21 Ideas like that might be nice, feel good but that isn't it. We
- 22 need to drill some holes, get some oil, get some gas so we can
- 23 keep on living like we are. Thank you.
- 24 MR. LOMAN: Thank you sir. Kimberly Howard. Mindy
- 25 Houston. Possibly Bill Stoltz. And then Carl Portman. Then

- 1 Mr. Portman, Mr. Portman.
- 2 MR. STOLTZ: Bill Stoltz. Just got another two year
- 3 contract renewal, the fifth one in the Legislature. But I'm
- 4 speaking for myself. The Legislature has also affirmed support
- 5 for this and other developments. Wish I could have been here a
- 6 week ago. Everybody was pro-development a week ago, at least
- 7 the folks who were running against it.
- I support forwarding the Lease 192 (sic), that's EIS. I
- 9 look at one of my grade school friends I wasn't expecting to see
- 10 here. I know his -- he doesn't want his legacy project on
- another study. He's going to -- Colville River to be his legacy
- 12 project. He'd like to be building some things and pointing to
- damns and other projects, not saying well this is my 15 years, I
- 14 got an EIS through. But I'll leave it at that, and I'll supply
- 15 written testimony later.
- 16 MR. LOMAN: Thank you sir. Mr. Portman then Rebecca.
- MR. PORTMAN: Good evening. My name is Carl Portman. I'n
- 18 the Deputy Director of the Resource Development Council here in
- 19 Anchorage. RDC urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to
- 20 confirm Lease Sale 193. We believe the SEIS provides sufficient
- 21 information and analysis to support a decision affirming this
- 22 sale.
- OCS oil and gas production is absolutely critical to
- 24 Alaska's future economy. With the Trans-Alaska Pipeline now
- 25 running at one-third capacity. exploration blocked in ANWR, and

- 1 non-development activists working toward wilderness designations
- 2 in the National Petroleum Reserve, nothing less than Alaska's
- 3 future economy is at stake. The responsible development of
- 4 potentially immense oil and gas deposits in the Chukchi Sea
- 5 would significantly boost the economy and extend the life of our
- 6 oil pipeline. Without new Federal oil production, TAPS could be
- 7 uneconomic to operate sometime in the next decade as we have
- 8 heard here this evening.
- 9 Between ANWR, the Alaska OCS, and NPRA there could be
- nearly 40 billion barrels of oil in place. The sustainability
- 11 of TAPS in our economy will largely depend on some combination
- of oil production from these Federal areas. Yet there are
- 13 forces working hard to prevent development in these areas which
- 14 represent the nation's best onshore and offshore oil and gas
- 15 prospects. If there is no oil and gas development in ANWR or in
- 16 the Chukchi Sea, and the best prospects in NPRA are ultimately
- 17 taken off the table, the Federal government must then accept the
- 18 consequences, including heavier reliance on foreign oil, soaring
- 19 trade deficits, a weaker and more vulnerable national economy
- 20 and compromised national and energy security. For Alaska, our
- 21 future will be bleak with the State losing 90 percent of its
- 22 revenue base.
- Not developing Federal oil in Alaska makes no sense from
- 24 an economic and energy security standpoint, especially given the
- 25 facts that America imports over 60 percent of the oil and at a

- 1 great cost. OCS development in Alaska would generate hundreds
- 2 of billions of dollars in royalty and tax revenues and aid the
- 3 nation's economic recovery by reducing the trade deficit and
- 4 creating tens of thousands of new jobs.
- In addition, OCS gas discoveries would significantly
- 6 improve the long-term economic viability of the proposed gas
- 7 pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48, a clean energy
- 8 priority of the Obama Administration.
- In concluding, RDC has a high level of confidence that
- 10 exploration development can occur safely in the Arctic. Alaska
- 11 does have a bright future and has much to contribute to the
- 12 nation with this abundant natural resources. All that is
- 13 required are policies and key decisions from Washington
- 14 encouraging development of these resources. Thank you.
- 15 MR. LOMAN: Thank you Mr. Portman. Rebecca and then
- 16 Colleen.
- MS. NOBLIN: Hi, my name is Rebecca Noblin, and I'm the
- 18 Alaska Director of the Center for Biological Diversity. And I'm
- 19 also an Alaska resident and a big fan of the Arctic. As you
- 20 know the Arctic is in trouble. It's warming at twice the rate
- 21 of the rest of the world. And Arctic summer sea ice is
- 22 disappearing more rapidly than any of the climate models
- 23 predicted. Chukchi species including, polar bears and Pacific
- 24 walrus are already showing signs of stress from this
- unprecedented loss of their sea ice habitat. This fall Pacific

- 1 walrus are already showing signs of stress from this
- 2 unprecedented loss of their sea ice habitat. This fall Pacific
- 3 walrus congregated on the shore near Pt. Lay in the tens of
- 4 thousands, an absolutely unheard of number, because there was no
- 5 suitable sea ice for them. The climate change isn't the only
- 6 thing threatening these Arctic animals with extinction. They're
- 7 also threatened with increasing industrial oil and gas drilling
- 8 in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.
- The Agency formerly, known as MMS, and still acting like
- 10 MMS, has determined that despite huge gaps in information about
- 11 bowhead whales, polar bears, walrus, and pretty much all living
- things in the Arctic, it was not a mistake to sell the Chukchi
- 13 Sea off to the highest bidders in 2008.
- MMS, I'm here to urge you -- or I'm here to tell you
- 15 something that you should already know. You cannot
- 16 realistically claim that drilling in the Arctic is safe. People
- 17 from Alaska Native communities have been telling you that for
- 18 years. Scientists have been telling you that for years. Courts
- 19 have been telling you that for years. But I'll say it one more
- 20 time. Drilling in the Arctic is too risky.
- No one has the technology to clean up oil in broken ice
- 22 conditions. There is no way to mobilize even a fraction of the
- 23 response required for the Gulf disaster in the remote Arctic.
- 24 And the truth is, that a large oil spill could mean the
- 25 difference between survival and extinction for struggling Arctic

- 1 species.
- 2 Unfortunately, your draft Supplemental Environmental
- 3 Impact Statement doesn't come anywhere near addressing these
- 4 problems of critical importance. Your draft EIS doesn't satisfy
- 5 your obligation to protect America's Arctic and it does not
- 6 comply with the law. In order to comply with the law, you must
- 7 analyze the substantial gaps in scientific information in the
- 8 current EIS, and make a good faith effort at obtaining that
- 9 information that's realistically attainable. And most
- importantly, you must not allow drilling to go forward unless
- 11 you have the scientific knowledge to say, truthfully, that
- 12 drilling in the Arctic is safe.
- 13 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, Rebecca. Colleen Keane and then
- 14 Barbara Huff.
- MS. KEANE: My name is Colleen Keane, and I'm the Alaska
- 16 Program Associate with Pacific Environment. Thank you for the
- 17 opportunity to provide comments tonight. I would like to urge
- 18 the Alaska Region of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- 19 Regulation and Enforcement to issue a new draft SEIS after it
- 20 has reviewed relevant reports from the U.S. Geological Survey
- 21 covering Arctic Ocean science, and from the National Commission
- 22 on the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and offshore drilling
- 23 covering BOEMRE shortcomings.
- This new draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
- 25 needs to include information from these upcoming reports and

- 1 reassess which scientific information in Appendix A of the
- 2 current draft SEIS is obtainable at a cost that is not
- 3 exorbitant, rather than dismissing the need to gather such
- 4 information as was done in the current draft SEIS.
- By dismissing the need to gather such information, the
- 6 Bureau under President Obama, after the Deepwater Horizon spill
- 7 is saying the same thing as the former MMS. That is, that no
- 8 matter what the impacts will be, it would allow drilling to
- 9 proceed. As example, the draft SEIS says that if a large oil
- 10 spill occurs, significant impacts could follow. And it is well
- 11 understood that the environmental impacts associated with a
- large oil spill could be quite severe. Yet the Agency still
- 13 chooses to proceed with drilling.
- The hastily issued draft SEIS runs counter to the law and
- 15 to the Department of Interior's recent commitments to the
- 16 American public to ensure scientific integrity and to improve
- 17 the Agency's leasing decisions and regulatory oversight.
- The consequences of rushing through offshore oil and gas
- 19 drilling approvals, without understanding and disclosing to the
- 20 public the potential impacts, were tragically displayed in the
- 21 Gulf of Mexico. The Bureau should not allow the Arctic Ocean,
- 22 its wildlife or its people to experience a similar disaster.
- 23 Responsible development means not proceeding faster than can be
- 24 justified. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.
- 25 MR. LOMAN: Barbara and then Vince Beltrami.

- MS. HUFF TUCKNESS: Thank you for the opportunity to
- 2 testify this evening. I am not going to bore you with a lot of
- 3 written testimony. We are going to submit more detailed
- 4 information directly to the Bureau. For the record, my name is
- 5 Barbara Huff Tuckness. I'm the Director of Governmental and
- 6 Legislative Affairs for Teamsters, Local 959. And I'm here
- 7 tonight to speak on behalf of Ken Coleman who, unfortunately, is
- 8 out of town.
- 9 We represent approximately 6,000 employees, members of our
- institution, of which we've had hundreds that have worked on the
- 11 Slope. Just for the record, we also represent workers in the
- 12 mining industry. We also represent workers in the film
- industry. So, we have a pretty broad gambit of members that we
- 14 represent across the State. And, fortunately, we believe that
- 15 the industry does have opportunities out there. We also believe
- that the industry can do so in a safe and responsible manner.
- 17 We've talked about the Gulf of Mexico. There's also been
- 18 discussion about the Exxon oil spill. Those are all unfortunate
- 19 situations that did occur. I do believe that a lot of us have
- 20 learned from those particular experiences. And that, just
- looking at the studies that have been done, and we do believe
- 22 that the Bureau has been tasked to continue to make sure that
- the environment is protected, as the industry moves forward with
- 24 the particular job opportunities as well as -- not only on
- offshore but onshore, as well.

- 1 And with that I appreciate the work and the effort that
- 2 you've done. And hopefully you move forward with this. Thank
- 3 you.
- 4 MR. LOMAN: Vince and then Bob Scheidemann.
- 5 MR. BELTRAMI: Thank you and thank you for the opportunity
- 6 to testify. My name's Vince Beltrami. I'm President of the
- 7 Alaska AFL-CIO, representing about 60,000 working families in
- 8 the State of Alaska. And I've also heard from a lot of my
- 9 affiliates in the building trades from Fairbanks who didn't have
- an opportunity to testify, in person, so I carry their message
- 11 as well.
- And with all due respects to my friends in the
- environmental movement who are in opposition to these leases, I
- 14 strongly encourage you to affirm the decision made on Lease Sale
- 15 193 in 2008. And there's nothing in the SEIS that I've seen
- that should derail this process.
- 17 If these leases are rescinded, I think one of the greatest
- 18 opportunities in our nation to create jobs, contribute to the
- 19 reduction of our massive Federal deficit, and wean ourselves as
- 20 a nation away from the grip that foreign oil has on our country,
- 21 will be lost. To be able to produce roughly 29 billion barrels,
- 22 another possible 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the
- 23 Chukchi may well hold the key to helping us solve a significant
- 24 part of our country's energy woes. To rescind these leases
- would be to remove the potential of 35,000 year-round jobs and a

- 1 payroll of more than \$70 billion.
- Obviously, concerns about the safety of the environment
- 3 are paramount. And Shell should and, I'm sure, will be held to
- 4 the highest safety accountability standards possible. And as
- 5 everyone knows, we can ill afford a Gulf Coast style catastrophe
- 6 in our Arctic waters. But this company's got an excellent track
- 7 record in Alaska. They've got a robust safety plan. They've
- 8 been safely drilling in Alaska for 50 years. And as long as the
- 9 company can meet all environmental and regulatory benchmarks,
- they should be allowed to proceed towards development.
- 11 As it's been said, dozens of wells have been drilled in
- 12 the Beaufort and Chukchi, all without incident and all with
- older technologies. I'm confident and appreciative in knowing
- 14 that the Obama Administration trusts and values the concerns
- 15 expressed by the hard-working men and women of the Alaska labor
- 16 movement. The ability to safely explore and produce oil in
- 17 Alaska is among the highest priority of Alaska's building and
- 18 construction trades unions.
- 19 And thank you again for the opportunity.
- 20 MR. LOMAN: Thank you sir. Bob Scheidemann and then
- 21 Robert Foster.
- MR. SCHEIDEMANN: I'm Bob Scheidemann. I'm a scientist.
- 23 A lot of the points supporting exploration, I agree with. And
- 24 I'd like to concur with those people and recommend that we
- 25 proceed with exploration in the Chukchi. Over 60 wells have

- 1 been drilled in the Alaska OCS since 1980, all without
- 2 significant incident or any incident, whatsoever. And I think
- 3 it's prudent to move forward at this time and ask for the SEIS
- 4 to let them move forward.
- 5 MR. LOMAN: Thank you sir. Mr. Foster.
- 6 MR. FOSTER: My name is Robert Foster. I work for Shell
- 7 Oil Company. I'm a Geophysicist. I think most of my points
- 8 have already been covered. I just want to say that I urge the
- 9 Department to affirm its previous lease sale decision and allow
- 10 exploration Sale 193 to proceed.
- 11 MR. LOMAN: Thank you sir. John Shepherd and then Mr.
- 12 Grafe.
- MR. SHEPHERD: Well, I'm John Shepherd. I'm a scientist
- 14 and taxpayer. And my main points in support of Sale 193
- exploration have already been made by others. So to allow more
- 16 time for others, all I need to say is that the Environmental
- 17 Impact Statement and the Supplemental Environmental Impact
- 18 Statement do provide sound scientific basis to allow exploration
- 19 to begin in the Chukchi. And so I urge the Department of the
- 20 Interior to affirm its previous lease sale decision and let's
- 21 get started with exploration. Thank you.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir. Mr. Grafe. And then it looks
- 23 like after Mr. Grafe, Craig Johnson.
- MR. GRAFE: My name is Erik Grafe and I am here on behalf
- of Earthjustice. It's an environmental law firm. And broadly,

- it's our position that offshore oil and gas leasing and drilling
- 2 in the Arctic Ocean should not occur until we have a basic
- 3 scientific understanding of the region, and duly obtain adequate
- 4 spill clean-up capability. Neither exists now. And the
- 5 Deepwater Horizon tragedy shows us that offshore oil and gas
- 6 drilling is terribly risky business. We need to understand and
- 7 fully disclose those risks before making decisions to commit the
- 8 Arctic's people and its wildlife to those risks.
- 9 Specifically, we believe that BOEMRE's Alaska Region has
- 10 failed to meet the obligations of NEPA and the District Court's
- 11 Order in its draft Supplemental EIS here. In the original EIS
- and in the Supplemental EIS, the Agency admits that much
- information -- here it's over 100 pages of admissions of missing
- 14 information is not known. And that a lot this information is
- 15 relevant to significant effects from oil and gas activity.
- Yet, amazingly, in this document BOEMRE concludes that
- 17 none -- not a single piece of that missing information is
- 18 essential to a decision about whether -- where, how, if,
- 19 (indiscernible) in the Chukchi Sea. To take one example, the
- original EIS and the draft Supplement says, we don't know enough
- 21 about marine mammals. And that's a lot of things in the Chukchi
- 22 Sea. We don't know enough so, at this time, we're not able to
- 23 determine whether or not there would be significant effects from
- 24 oil and gas activity on marine mammals.
- Yet, the Agency concludes this isn't essential to our

- 1 choice about where or whether to allow this to happen. This is
- 2 just -- it's simply not credible. The BOEMRE, you owe an
- 3 obligation to the American public so people, to everybody, to do
- 4 your job and figure out what is the information that's missing.
- 5 That it's essential to the lease sale choice and not just paper
- 6 over with -- not just paper the problem over, but do an honest
- 7 effort, a big and honest effort to identify what's missing.
- There are other parts of the government that are doing
- 9 this now. The USGS is conducting a survey about what are the
- 10 important missing information. NOAA says there's important
- 11 missing information. They closed the fisheries up there because
- they need to get more information before you make management
- 13 decisions. This is simply the first step. And doing proper
- 14 management and ensuring that we know it's there. So we know how
- to manage oil and gas in the region and whether it can go
- 16 forward and whether it's a good idea to do so.
- So we urge BOEMRE not to finalize this draft Supplemental
- 18 EIS, but rather to go back, take another look and do an honest -
- take an honest crack at identifying the missing information.
- 20 And finding out, which of it can be gotten, not at an exorbitant
- 21 expense rather than concluding that, simply none of it, not any
- of the hundreds of missing pieces of information is essential to
- the lease sale choice.
- Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you.

- MR. JOHNSON: My name is Craig Johnson. I'm the sitting
- 2 Chair of Natural Resources Co-Chair in the House of
- 3 Representatives. I'm here today to, hopefully, bring this
- 4 conversation back to why we're here. We've heard about polar
- 5 bears. We've heard about shrinking ice. We've heard about, yes
- 6 we should, no we shouldn't.
- 7 What we're here today for, is to decide whether or not --
- 8 and your charge is to decide whether or not to return something
- 9 that a Judge has asked you for. That's the bottom line. If
- 10 you've done your job, and I believe you have. I've looked
- 11 through the document. Then I encourage you tonight, put a stamp
- on it. Send it to the Judge. And then he'll be the person that
- determines whether or not you did a good job. That's where it's
- 14 going to end up. It's not going to end up in this group. It's
- 15 not going to end up with you. It's going to end up in the hands
- of the Judge who's going to say, yes you did, or no you didn't.
- 17 If you did, we're done. If you didn't, we'll be back here in
- 18 three weeks doing this all over again.
- We just had a President go to India. And he's saying,
- 20 35,000 jobs, boy, look what we did. We could provide 35,000
- 21 jobs here starting quickly. And we don't even want a seat on
- 22 the Security Council. We don't even want to be in the U.N. We
- 23 just want our jobs. We want our resources. You've done your
- 24 job. Finish it up. Put a stamp on it. Do it tonight.
- 25 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much. Mr. Pastos, Nikos

- 1 Patstos, Center for Water Advocacy. Jeff Jones. Jeff Jones?
- 2 MR. JONES: Thank you. For the record, my name is Jeff
- 3 Jones. I want to thank the Bureau for the opportunity to speak
- 4 tonight.
- I think it's clear to a lot of people who live here. I've
- 6 lived here for ten years -- that the topic under discussion
- 7 tonight is vital to the future economy of the State of Alaska.
- 8 Our economy has been and will continue to be, in large part,
- 9 tied to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. And OCS plays an integral
- 10 role in, hopefully, putting some additional oil, potentially a
- 11 large amount of oil, into that pipeline and keeping it going,
- 12 and keeping people working in this State.
- But I think that it goes much beyond our borders and
- 14 affects what is taking place in the rest of our country and in
- North America. The energy needs in North America and all over
- 16 the world are going to continue to increase drastically in the
- 17 next decades. Alaska can play a vital role in helping to
- 18 provide the energy that is needed, not only in our country, but
- 19 throughout the world. There are a lot of positives. It creates
- 20 jobs. Development of OCS creates wealth. It helps to offset
- 21 our huge negative imbalance with our trades overseas. And it
- 22 also keeps us from sending a lot of money overseas to countries
- 23 like Venezuela and Iran. So I would just like to strongly
- 24 affirm the moving forward with the Lease Sale of 193.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you sir. Nikos, one last time. Carl

- 1 Wassilie? Andrew Hartsig, Andrew? Nikos?
- MR. WASSILIE: No, Carl Wassilie.
- MR. LOMAN: Carl. Going down a long list. Carl, it's all
- 4 yours.
- 5 MR. WASSILIE: Hello, my name is Carl Wassilie, born and
- 6 raised in Alaska. Come from a strong subsistence family, as
- 7 well as a family that's been involved in safety, pipeline
- 8 safety, as well as safety of workers. And I'm really concerned
- 9 about the -- about drilling in the Arctic Ocean, not only
- 10 because of the lack of infrastructure, but the current Bureau of
- Ocean Energy Management. I'm sorry, you used to be called the
- 12 Minerals Management Service, so I keep pausing on that. So the
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Regulation and Enforcement
- is still learning from the Gulf of Mexico, Deepwater Horizon
- 15 catastrophe.
- There's definitely shown that technology and engineering
- for drilling is rapidly outpacing the technology for safety of
- 18 spill prevention. And so the risks are not adequate for the
- 19 pace of development, particularly in the Chukchi Sea and the
- 20 Arctic. Under the current conditions, weather patterns -- and
- 21 so, that's just something that needs to be addressed, as more
- 22 information develops from the hearings that are currently
- 23 happening in D.C., with the Presidential Commission.
- The Arctic is one of the most complex and dynamic
- 25 ecosystems on the earth, at this point in time. It is rapidly

- changing but there's still hadn't been a whole lot of
- information regarding species. And there's a -- the diversity
- 3 of interlocking oceans connected up to the Arctic around the
- 4 planet. So, there's still questionable process of allowing the
- 5 193 Sale to continue without the baseline studies on --
- 6 particularly with the scientific information of indigenous
- 7 science when including traditional ecological knowledge.
- A lot of the basis of long term knowledge of changes, as
- 9 well as species, resides with the indigenous observers that have
- 10 been here for thousands of years. And incorporating this
- 11 knowledge into various systems that are in the culture, that are
- in the indigenous societies that live in the environment that
- are being discussed here today in the Chukchi Sea.
- So the message is clear from the communities that live
- 15 there and subsist off the wildlife and the marine mammals, that
- they want to protect that. And so, got to make sure that all
- 17 the information is there, including that we bring up to speed
- 18 the technology of safety for the environment, for the benefit of
- 19 all the people. But this is -- so I'm opposed to the offshore
- 20 drilling, at this point in time, until there is adequate science
- on oil spill cleanup and technology that catches up to the
- 22 drilling technology, as noticed in the Gulf of Mexico. Thank
- 23 you very much.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you sir. Keith Silver, then Susan Childs
- MR. PASTOS: Sir, my name is Nikos Pastos.

- 1 MR. LOMAN: Yeah, I called your name. Keith Silver is
- 2 next.
- 3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What about Andrew Hartsig would he be
- 4 next?
- MR. LOMAN: Okay I didn't know you were here. Okay,
- 6 sorry. Andrew, Keith, Susan Childs, then you sir.
- 7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All right thank you.
- MR. HARTSIG: My name is Andrew Hartsig. And I'm a
- 9 Director of Ocean Conservancy's Arctic Program. In preparing
- 10 the draft SEIS the Alaska Region should have reviewed the
- information gaps in the original EIS and taken a fresh look at
- 12 the decision to hold a lease sale. Instead, the draft SEIS
- ignores important information gaps in an improper attempt to
- justify a previously made decision. So, despite all these
- 15 charts on the wall and all these studies, the original EIS
- identified hundreds of instances of missing information.
- 17 The draft SEIS concluded that not a single piece of that -
- 18 those missing information was essential to the Agency's
- 19 decision. That conclusion is not plausible. It's not supported
- 20 by the record. And it's inconsistent with the Obama
- 21 Administration's commitment to science-based decision making.
- 22 So the Agency needs to go back to the drawing board and it
- 23 should satisfy this flawed draft SEIS, undertake a more serious
- 24 attempt to identify essential missing information.
- And to do that, the new analysis should be based in part

- on the data generated by the ongoing USGS analysis. Once that
- 2 missing information is identified, the Agency should obtain that
- information, ideally through a comprehensive scientific research
- 4 and monitoring program. And then, finally, the Agency should
- 5 prepare a revised draft SEIS and re-evaluate the lease sale in
- 6 light of the new information. Thanks.
- 7 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir.
- 8 MR. SILVER: Good evening. My name is Keith Silver and
- 9 I'm a resident of Anchorage. We must move forward with Lease
- 10 Sale 193 -- opportunities for employment for those in the area
- as well as other parts of Alaska. Although I realize that the
- 12 U.S. District Court sent this back to you, it is vitally
- important that the EIS be approved. I'm an unemployed oilfield
- 14 service worker. I worked in -- previously, just recently worked
- 15 in Anchorage. It's a lack of activity in the oilfield,
- including that of the Chukchi Sea and the Beaufort Sea, caused
- 17 my firm to downsize. I am one of thousands idle. How do I pay
- 18 for my mortgage or feed my family is the question being asked by
- 19 many of those displaced persons.
- The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is only one-third full and needs
- 21 additional sources of oil to keep it operating. This is the
- 22 sixth or seventh time I have testified on OCS leasing issues.
- 23 will continue to advocate for environmentally responsible oil
- 24 development, as long as necessary. Thank you for your time.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Susan Childs and then Michael

- 1 Droege.
- MS. CHILDS: Good evening. So my name is Susan Childs and
- 3 I'm the Alaska Venture Support Integrator for Shell here in
- 4 Alaska. So there have been lots of comments made that I hope I
- 5 don't repeat. But, the one thing I would ask is that the Agency
- 6 continue with the process that you're on. It's a legal NEPA
- 7 process to go through the draft, to collect these comments, to
- 8 take the comments from the North Slope and from Kotzebue, to
- 9 incorporate those comments into your final report and then on to
- 10 a record of decision. So that's the process that you go through
- in NEPA. And so I support that process and I just encourage you
- 12 to expedite that process.
- So, if you'll indulge me, I'd like to go back to February
- of 2008. It was when the Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193 signaled
- for all in attendance that the offshore was clearly the next
- 16 chapter in this State's oil and gas history. There were audible
- 17 gasps that day when the bids were opened, and with good reason
- 18 because there was \$2.7 billion committed in bonus bids. The
- 19 leases in the Chukchi Sea, which made it the largest lease sale
- 20 in Alaska's history.
- 21 Shell's \$2.1 billion in successful bids also solidified
- 22 our standing as the major leaseholder in the Alaska offshore,
- 23 including in the Beaufort Sea where Shell first started
- 24 purchasing leases again in 2005. So, since we have re-entered
- 25 Alaska, we have spent over \$3.5 billion in pursuit of Arctic

- 1 exploration. And we will commit to many billions more if we are
- able to go forward to a development program. I would like to
- 3 repeat that sentence to you. This company has spent over \$3.5
- 4 billion in pursuit of an exploration program. Not a development
- 5 program, but to drill a well. So for those opposed to OCS
- 6 development, this comment period is another bite at the apple,
- 7 and to take your course.
- 8 But I will tell you there many that understand the issues
- 9 and they are stark and here they are. America depends on oil to
- 10 drive our economy. We will import all oil we do not produce in
- 11 this country. America continues to expand its percentage of
- imported oil today. Alaska depends upon energy development for
- vast portions of our economy. TAPS through-put continues to
- 14 diminish and currently flows at a third of capacity. Alaska's
- OCS could be, and we believe it will be, the new heartland for
- 16 energy and for Alaska and for this country.
- We are ready to go. We have been ready to pursue a
- 18 drilling program since 2007. And yet we wait. We wait upon an
- 19 Administration to establish an Arctic policy to allow the
- 20 permitting process to proceed. We wait upon courts to review an
- 21 incessant number of litigation. We wait for Agencies to review
- 22 and assess more rounds of comments and submissions. And we know
- what's at stake. We've been to over 450 stakeholder engagement
- 24 processes over the last four years on the North Slope. So we
- 25 have engaged with the community. Ae have engaged a great deal

- 1 with the people on the North Slope.
- 2 We just signed a North Slope Borough Science Agreement
- 3 with the mayor and his staff. So that was a long awaited
- 4 collaborative effort. And we look very much forward to making
- 5 sure that we do that, and that we get more studies done.
- 6 Because, I will tell you, the North Slope and the Arctic
- 7 offshore are now perhaps the most studied energy basins in this
- 8 country. In the past decade, over 250 studies have been funded
- 9 in the Arctic with the majority focused on the Beaufort and the
- 10 Chukchi Seas. You can argue with that, but those are the stats.
- 11 Since 1973, more stats -- the Federal agencies and
- industry have performed more than 5,000 environmental
- assessments, studies to better understand the Alaska Outer
- 14 Continental Shelf and coastal environment, because that's very
- important to understand the coastal environment, as well.
- So we've been ready to explore Alaska's OCS. And I do
- 17 thank you for this opportunity to express our wishes for this
- 18 NEPA process to go forward expeditiously.
- 19 MR. LOMAN: Thank you.
- 20 MR. DROEGE: Hi, I'm Michael Droege. I'm the President
- 21 Elect of the Anchorage Board of Realtors. I sit on the State
- 22 Board of Realtors and I'm the Realtor Political Action
- 23 Committee, one of our -- the three Trustees in this state.
- I was born and raised in Alaska. I moved out of the State
- 25 once for six months to L.A. where all of our supposed

- opposition, or a lot of it, comes from. The point of my
- 2 comments are first, personal, and then professional.
- Growing up in the State of Alaska, I've seen industry
- 4 after industry after industry being shut down because the answer
- 5 to most developmental questions from environmental groups is not
- 6 maybe, but no. In this particular project, doing the simple
- 7 math, we've spent nearly \$400 million, at this point, studying
- 8 on a lease sale that generated \$2.7 billion, nearly 17 percent,
- 9 somewhere in that, just going off the top of my head, in
- 10 studying. We studied our way out of the timber industry. We've
- 11 studied our way out of all kinds of economic activity.
- Now the realtors are a very diverse group of people, as
- 13 you can imagine. And we have a lot of different opinions on
- 14 social issues, on environmental issues. But the one issue that
- we coalesce around is economy. If it works, we're for it in a
- 16 responsible way. If it doesn't work, then we'll sit back and
- 17 assess it but the last answer to the question cannot always be
- 18 no, it must be maybe.
- The studies have been completed. With all due respect to
- 20 the people that come here to advocate on behalf of the
- 21 environment, the group of people that you see in front of you
- that are for it, a lot of us are hunters, fishers. We've spent
- 23 time in Prince William Sound. We spend time on the tundras out
- 24 in Western Alaska. We're up in the Arctic Slope. We've been up
- 25 to the Wrangell Mountains, hunting.

- 1 There's no more environmentally conscious or conservation
- 2 minded people than the people that live here, want to work here,
- 3 want to continue to have our children do the same as we've been
- 4 privileged to do. So I encourage you, Jeff, keep rolling.
- 5 Thank you.
- 6 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Cathy Giessel, Representative
- 7 Cathy Giessel? Doug Smith?
- 8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He's gone. Doug Smith is gone.
- 9 MR. LOMAN: Michael. Nikos I'm sorry.
- 10 MR. PASTOS: I'll make it quick.
- 11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Sorry about that.
- MR. PASTOS: My name is Nikos Pastos and I was born here
- in Anchorage, didn't come here to get rich. I'm an
- 15 Environmental Sociologist, so I study technological disasters
- and the social impacts of technological disasters of the oil
- 17 spills.
- 18 My comments here are on behalf of the Center for Water
- 19 Advocacy. I'm on the Board of Directors for a nonprofit public
- 20 interest law firm. And simply, our comments are focused at --
- 21 there's three natural resource trusts in the United States.
- 22 There's the State, the Federal government, which is Federal
- 23 Agencies, and Tribal governments. And our comments will
- 24 incorporate a lot of the aspects of conversancy. And there will
- 25 be an extensive written form. All I want to do is simply

- 1 summarize a couple of points.
- 2 We also are completely aligned with the Alaska Inter-
- 3 Tribal Council's Resolution 200508 which opposes Outer
- 4 Continental Shelf drilling and drilling in the Arctic National
- 5 Wildlife Refuge. There is a Federal trust responsibility, it's
- 6 an Executive Order that government Agencies have to consult on a
- 7 government to government on par basis with Tribal governments.
- 8 I think it's legally questionable whether Tribal governments
- 9 have been included in the original scoping process for the EIS
- that we're talking about in the Sale 193.
- 11 Furthermore, we completely support the Native village of
- 12 Point Hope and their Resolutions against the offenses to the
- peace and dignity of humankind. Which, I may be paraphrasing
- 14 the title of it, but there's a -- Point Hope has a Resolution
- 15 opposing Outer Continental Shelf oil development and drilling in
- 16 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- 17 So, given the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Horizon tragedy
- 18 which, again in the news today, there's absolutely no scientific
- 19 proof that we can adequately clean up spilled oil in broken ice
- 20 conditions. It's -- environmentally that's too big a risk to
- 21 take in the Arctic Ocean. Arctic Ocean is much more complex
- 22 than the studies that we've spent so much money on.
- As far as Shell Oil spending so much money, good. We're
- 24 going to hold your feet to the fire and get you to get, you
- 25 know, the best valid peer review -- science available. Beyond

- that, the Tribal governments have the only valid claim in the
- 2 Arctic. The State of Alaska has a fraudulent claim and the
- 3 United States' claim is not fully substantiated when it comes to
- 4 who owns our Outer Continental Shelf.
- So, in the summary, Center of Water Advocacy is in support
- of Resolutions that are standing through the Alaska Inter-Tribal
- 7 Council, and especially with the Native Village of Point Hope.
- 8 This is not just about billions of dollars, it's about the
- 9 health of the oceans and the future of customary and traditional
- 10 life ways of indigenous peoples who have lived in the Arctic
- 11 since time immemorial.
- This is just no simple quick rush oil lease. And so we
- 13 can afford to do a fair and decent and adequate process of
- 14 looking at this. Thank you.
- MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Geoff.
- MR. HADDAD: All right. It's kind of funny talking to
- 17 this mic. I'm not sure it works. All right, I'll talk into it.
- 18 My name is Geoff Haddad and I'm the Alaska Exploration Manager
- 19 for Conoco Phillips. Thank you for the opportunity to speak
- 20 here tonight at this public meeting.
- 21 Conoco Phillips favors developing all forms of energy,
- 22 conventional, renewable and alternative. However, we recognize
- 23 that even with aggressive alternative energy research and
- 24 development, most sources estimate that fossil fuels will still
- 25 represent more than 80 percent of the world's total energy

- supply, even by 2030.
- In addition, the United States currently produces only
- 3 approximately 40 percent of the oil it uses each day. So the
- 4 majority of our oil must be imported. Given this background in
- 5 the analysis and studies that support the decision to lease in
- 6 the Chukchi Sea, Conoco Phillips strongly encourages the Bureau
- of Ocean Energy Management to firm the leases as issued in 2008.
- 8 Conoco Philips sees great potential in the Chukchi Sea as
- 9 evidenced by our investment to \$506 million on 98 OCS leases.
- 10 And Conoco Phillips has also invested tens of millions of
- dollars on environmental studies, working with other offshore
- operators, universities, research institutions and local
- stakeholders on a multi-year program collecting biological,
- 14 oceanographic and air quality data in the Chukchi Sea. This
- 15 program has been well received by the North Slope communities
- 16 and several environmental groups.
- 17 As one of the largest owners of State and Federal leases
- in Alaska, a major owner in the three largest oilfields on the
- 19 Alaska North Slope, operator of both Kuparuk and Alpine
- 20 Oilfields, and operator in the Alaska Cook Inlet, Conoco
- 21 Phillips has over 40 years of safe and environmentally
- 22 responsible operating experience in Arctic conditions. We bring
- 23 decades of experience in preparing our permit applications and
- 24 operational plans for activities in the Arctic.
- 25 Alaska's North Slope production continues to decline with

- 1 TAPS currently flowing at a third of the pipeline capacity.
- 2 Persistent onshore exploration in Alaska has not resulted in oil
- 3 discoveries sufficient to fully extend the decline and supply to
- 4 TAPS. The Arctic OCS waters, particularly the Chukchi Sea, have
- 5 potential to significantly extend the life of TAPS.
- 6 So Conoco Phillips believes progress is needed on
- 7 exploring the lease to that acreage in the OCS, including the
- 8 Chukchi Sea. We are committed to explore the Chukchi Sea lands
- 9 responsibly with respect for the environment, and in a manner
- that also respects the subsistence way of life of the residents
- of the Alaska's North Slope.
- We believe the Supplemental EIS addresses the three issues
- 13 raised by the U.S. District Court of Alaska and that the leases
- 14 awarded in 2008 should be affirmed. We intend to provide more
- comprehensive written comments by the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- 16 Thank you.
- 17 MR. LOMAN: Joseph Liska. And then Christine Klein.
- 18 Christine in here? You're next. Followed by Len Horst.
- 19 MR. LISKA: Good evening my name is Joe Liska. I'm a 40
- 20 year resident of Alaska. Never thought I'd be here this long,
- 21 but I have to say that I'm probably as environmentally conscious
- 22 and as environmentally conservative as anybody in this room.
- 23 I've worked for BP Alaska for -- for BP for 24 years and now I
- 24 work for a Native Corporation, so I've built a livelihood here.
- 25 I've built family here, and I'll probably going to be buried in

- 1 this State.
- 2 And I've heard a lot of pros and cons about development
- 3 but the big idea is this. When the Pilgrims came over here, if
- 4 they would have had to complete an EIS comparable to what Shell
- is going through, we would never have developed America. And
- 6 the big idea is even this, we are a country of doers and
- 7 explorers and producers. And we've always been that way. But
- 8 in the last two decades, this country has taken a turn to the
- 9 left. A turn, which I believe, is prejudicial to the future of
- 10 this country as a world leader, give that whatever you want it
- 11 to be.
- 12 Certainly, scientific studies are important. But we have
- 13 studied this to death. Also what's not -- I haven't heard here
- 14 -- there are Arctic countries which could be threatened by --
- more by an oil spill than our own coastline could be threatened
- in the Arctic, because of the distances from where these leases
- 17 actually exist. And these wells are going to be drilled from an
- 18 exploration standpoint in open water. Yes, there are threats
- 19 for ice. There's always threats. But what's missing in all of
- 20 this is the thread that Americans are doers. They are creators.
- 21 We wouldn't have gone to the moon, we wouldn't have done other
- 22 creative things if we would just -- if we would have let people
- 23 with that whisper say to us, we can't do it. You can't do it.
- 24 You'll never be able to do this. That is a big problem.
- Obviously, I'm pro-development. Thank you.

- 1 MS. KLEIN: For the record, my name is Christine Klein.
- 2 I'm the COO of Calista Native Corporation. We are one of the
- 3 largest Native Corporations in Alaska but, unfortunately, one of
- 4 the poorest socio-economically, and one of the poorest regions
- 5 actually in the United States.
- I want to bring up that our Corporation represents more
- than 13,000 direct shareholders and 20,000 descendants of Yupik,
- 8 Cupik and the Athabascan heritage. And that is 56 villages in
- 9 Alaska and the Yukon Kuskokwim Bering Sea coast. Our
- shareholders, the cheapest airfare to get here was \$600, the
- average was \$1,200, and due to the large distances in our Region
- 12 and the lack of infrastructure, basic infrastructure.
- Many of our shareholders continue to live in remote
- 14 villages, which experience higher costs of living than you can
- imagine. Especially, when it comes to fuel and heating oil
- which, due to the lack of transportation infrastructure, people
- 17 have to travel by boat up the rivers, by aircraft and airports
- 18 in the State and snow machines in winter. Fuel is currently
- 19 three to five times higher than you're seeing at the pump here
- 20 in Anchorage. And, of course, much higher than the rest of the
- United States. Heating fuel often costs \$13 a gallon right now
- 22 in our Region.
- I would like to remind you here, my fellow citizens in
- 24 Alaska as well as others, that the people in Emmonak had to
- choose between fuel and staying warm and food in the Village of

- 1 Emmonak last winter. And that will probably happen again this
- winter. We are tired of being forgotten, treated like a colony
- 3 and being used. Imagine if this would happen to you, here in
- 4 Anchorage even, \$13 a gallon, let alone the rest of the United
- 5 States. If that were to happen to you, do you think we would be
- 6 here having these questions asked of us?
- 7 Calista supports OCS development in an environmentally
- 8 safe drilling manner. We want to see MMS, BOEM, I'm sorry,
- 9 Lease Sale 193 affirmed as intended in 2008 for the purposes of
- 10 producing oil and boosting domestic oil production from our
- 11 existing resources and energy here in Alaska, as well as helping
- 12 the economy of the United States.
- We have many points. I'm not going to go through them. I
- 14 know everyone is very tired and it's extremely hot in here. But
- the second two points are that, we have confidence in the
- 16 existing regulatory and scientific community of Alaska. Those
- 17 regulators and scientists have risen to the challenges of
- 18 responsibly overseeing offshore oil and gas development. And we
- 19 are comfortable that they will ensure the protection of vital
- 20 wildlife and water resources.
- I also wanted to point out that the State of Alaska,
- 22 having been a former regulator and I worked for the State in the
- past, has one of the first and only Pipeline Petroleum
- 24 Inspection and Oversight Programs in the United States. So
- 25 while we're the youngest State and Department in the U.S., or

- one of the few, we do have programs. And so we are very pro-
- 2 active in the State.
- 3 The petroleum industry, third, has demonstrated that it
- 4 can, in fact, operate safely in Arctic and sub-Arctic
- 5 conditions. All of these things, along with the intense
- 6 scrutiny that occurs in Alaska, case in point here, and the
- 7 tough permitting processes in our State give us confidence in
- 8 our Region that the exploration and development can occur in the
- 9 OCS safely to all creatures, great and small. Thank you.
- 10 MR. LOMAN: Thank you.
- MR. HORST: I'm not sure if I should say good evening or
- 12 good morning, the way the clock is going here. But for the
- 13 record, my name is Leonard Horst.
- I wanted to speak to the issue of Lease 193 from three
- 15 perspectives tonight and strongly encourage the Bureau to move
- 16 forward quickly so we can get on with development here in
- 17 Alaska.
- 18 First of all, I want to speak as an Alaskan. I'm a
- 19 relative newcomer here. I've only been here since 1977, but I
- 20 am privileged to be married to a third generation Alaskan. Ou:
- 21 kids we call fourth generation, and looking forward to the fifth
- 22 coming on soon.
- I've been privileged to travel to every corner of this
- 24 State. I have, through work, had the chance to -- many of the
- 25 things that Michael talked about, hunting and fishing, all

- 1 across the State. And having done business in many, many
- 2 places. I'm excited about Alaska's future. But I'm also really
- 3 concerned about the message that we're sending right now with
- 4 the delays that we have undertaken on this project, in
- 5 particular.
- Secondly, I have the privilege of serving as a Senior Vice
- 7 President of Northrim Bank and manage their commercial and
- 8 industrial banking across the State. As a banker and as an
- 9 economist, I got to tell you, I'm extremely concerned about
- 10 where we are right now. We have not suffered like our friends
- and neighbors in the Lower 48 have. But believe me when I say
- it, we are on the verge. It is absolutely time for us to move
- 13 forward with development in this State. We were founded as a
- 14 State based on our ability to stand upon our own resource base.
- 15 And that is what we need to do, and we need to do it now.
- 16 Finally, I have also the privilege of serving on the
- 17 Resource Development Council's Executive Committee and Board of
- 18 Directors. And I joined that group simply because of their
- 19 mission which is to responsibility develop the natural resources
- of the State of Alaska. I believe we've proven we can do it.
- 21 think it is again, time for us to do it again, and do it now.
- I again urge you, as the Bureau, to move forward as
- 23 quickly as possible and affirm Lease Sale 193. Thank you.
- MR. LOMAN: Lois Epstein.
- MS. EPSTEIN: There are actually a few things that haven't

- been said today, so far, so I'll try and hit on those. My name
- 2 is Lois Epstein and I am Arctic Program Director for the
- 3 Wilderness Society. I'm a Licensed Engineer in Alaska. I've
- 4 spent over 20 years working on oil and gas technical and policy
- 5 issues as a private consultant and as an employee of nonprofit
- 6 organizations. I served on Federal Advisory Committees for U.S.
- 7 DOT on pipeline safety and for U.S. EPA on refining. And I was
- 8 a Technical Advisor on the report to the President in May 2010
- 9 which contained recommendations on increasing offshore drilling
- 10 safety.
- In September I served on a Bureau of Ocean Energy
- 12 Management panel in Houston on safety. My message was that,
- business as usual is unacceptable to the public. And that
- 14 significant regulatory inspection and enforcement changes are
- needed, as well as transparent performance reporting by industry
- 16 and government.
- 17 With respect to the Arctic, I focused on the fact that a
- 18 key safety concern is going to be related to human factors, a
- 19 major cause of accidents. Because of the cold and the darkness
- 20 in the Arctic, which we're all familiar with, human factors
- likely would be a greater concern than elsewhere. Moreover,
- 22 frontier and pristine areas always require extra precautions and
- 23 extra safety factors.
- The Wilderness Society's position is that the Bureau needs
- to take the time needed to make scientifically justified

- 1 decisions before allowing drilling in the Chukchi. This
- 2 includes reassessing which scientific information in Appendix A
- of the draft SEIS is obtainable, at a cost that is not
- 4 exorbitant, rather than the Bureau dismissing the need to gather
- 5 such information all together. In effect, the Bureau states in
- 6 the draft SEIS, that it has decided to allow drilling regardless
- of the impacts. The public needs to know those impacts and in
- 8 as specific detail as possible, for rational decision making.
- I was hired on to improve oil and gas operations. I'm not
- 10 opposed to them in Alaska. They just have to be as good as
- 11 possible and made in a rational way, the decisions. If there is
- any doubt about blowouts and other offshore problems in the
- 13 Arctic, consider the following events which also occurred in
- 14 Alaska's shallow offshore areas in Cook Inlet.
- 1985. There was a gas blowout, contrary to what we've
- 16 heard earlier, that we had no blowouts in the State, at the
- 17 Grayling Offshore Platform, which shut down production.
- 18 1987-1988. A gas blowout at the Steelhead Offshore
- 19 Platform occurred while drilling an oil production well. Fire
- 20 burned for one week. While drilling the relief well, another
- 21 blowout occurred. The relief well was finally completed in
- 22 August of 1988.
- 1989. Amoco's Anna Offshore Platform caused a spill of
- over 20,000 gallons of crude. Clean-up was not attempted due to
- 80 to 90 percent moving ice flows in Cook Inlet.

- 1 As some of you, possibly Jeff may have done, I woke up at
- 2 five a.m. yesterday and today to watch the Oil Spill
- 3 Commissions, two days of hearings in D.C., the causes of the
- 4 Deepwater Horizon tragedy. Director Bromwich from the Bureau
- 5 today noted the extreme sensitivity of the Arctic environment
- 6 and its marine resources and their importance to subsistence, as
- 7 well as the region's spill clean-up challenges.
- On a technical level, the two days of hearings may clear
- 9 how well-financed drilling companies nevertheless could,
- One, misinterpret data from a key integrity test.
- Two, decide not to utilize potentially critical well
- 12 components known as centralizers, because they would take too
- long to arrive. And imagine that kind of situation occurring in
- 14 the Arctic where it'd be much worse in terms of timing.
- Three, the companies decided not to take actions that
- would have mitigated much of the tragedy, possibly because it
- 17 all occurred so quickly. For example, using the platform's
- 18 divert-a-system (ph) to mitigate some of the damage.
- 19 What the hearings, these past two days, demonstrate is
- that no matter how good the regulatory oversight, and everyone
- 21 acknowledges that the Bureau needs regulatory improvements,
- there will be infrequent but highly tragic spill events. This
- information, combined with a clear need for collection analysis
- of scientific data on the Arctic's natural resources which was
- 25 recognized by the Court, demonstrates that the Bureau is not

- 1 ready, at this time, to proceed with offshore drilling in the
- 2 Chukchi. The Bureau should not rush through the EIS process
- 3 like a student rushing to complete a term paper, as quickly as
- 4 possible. Thank you for this opportunity.
- 5 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. So tomorrow morning I have a press
- 6 interview that I have to give. And here's what I'm going to
- 7 say.
- 8 That at 10:00 p.m. we had to close this hearing. I
- 9 apologize to those that we didn't get to hear from. Here's what
- 10 I'm going to tell them. They didn't come because Ted Danson was
- 11 here. They didn't come because they wanted get some movie
- 12 star's autograph or get on TV. They came because they care
- about Alaska, about the economy, about the environment.
- Whatever your passion and position is, I appreciate the
- 15 fact that everyone of you left in this room is, sat here and
- 16 listened to this testimony. And I apologize to those that we
- 17 didn't get to hear from tonight. We will take your written
- 18 comments and we will, by law, respond to those in the final
- 19 document.
- Thank you and good night.
- 21 (off record at 10:00 p.m.)

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1	TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE
2	I, Judy Bradshaw, hereby certify that the foregoing pages
3	numbered 4 through 100 are a true, accurate and complete
4	transcript of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation
5	and Enforcement Public Hearing regarding the Environmental
6	Impact Supplemental Statement Relating to Chukchi Sea Sale 193
7	held in Anchorage, Alaska on November 9, 2010, created by me
8	from log notes plus typed presentations, as well as a copy of
9	the electronic sound recording, to the best of my knowledge and
10	ability.
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13	Date Judy Bradshaw
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