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1 OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT - PUBLIC HEARING HOMER

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3 MINERALS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

4

5 January 23, 2003

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7 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

8 FOR COOK INLET PLANNING AREA

9 OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES 191 AND 199

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

2 (Homer, Alaska - 1/23/2003)

3 MR. O'MEARA: I just kind of offered to
4 start off here and welcome you all and ask you to
5 welcome, not Minerals Management Service, because I know
6 a lot of you don't really feel too welcoming about the
7 Service, but the folks who came down from Minerals
8 Management Service. And they're here to let you tell
9 them what you think about their proposal for oil and gas
10 leasing in the Inlet and also to answer your questions
11 and so I'm going to let them do that. I'd like to
12 introduce John Goll to start with, who's the Regional
13 Director of Minerals Management Service.

14 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: That's correct, in
15 Anchorage, yes.

16 MAYOR: In Anchorage. And he's got a
17 staff of folks here and John, why don't you just share
18 with the folks a little bit about yourself and maybe your
19 staff can do the same.

20 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Well, good
21 evening. My name is John Goll and I live in Anchorage
22 and work with the Minerals Management Service. My
23 background, I have degrees in meteorology and
24 oceanography. But of course when one starts going into
25 the management side you start going away from that and

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1 more of what I have to deal with is working with people,
2 such as you. We've had meetings on the North Slope and
3 other places throughout the state.

4 A little bit about myself. I've got two
5 daughters, one who graduated about a year or so ago from
6 Dimond High School in Anchorage. We moved up here about
7 seven years ago. And for her it was the best thing, I
8 think, again, about coming to Alaska and she did things
9 here that she never would have done back in Virginia. So
10 we really have enjoyed living here.

11 When I am able, usually, well, career-
12 wise, in commuting to work, I have often commuted by
13 bicycle, which also our chief engineer back in Reston,
14 Virginia walks to work about six miles every day back and
15 forth. I also have always driven cars that get 30 miles
16 a gallon rather than other ones in commuting. So I guess
17 I'm sympathetic to.....

18 (Applause)

19 and yes, some day I would like to
20 see, you know, some of the alterative energy that you all
21 have been talking about.

22 But, of course, I do work for the
23 Minerals Management Service and what we're here for
24 tonight is to hear what you have to say. And depending
25 on how many comments we have and how many commenters, we

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1 might also be able to go into, you know, more discussion,
2 but I'll get to that in a minute.

3 Let me introduce Renee Orr, who is from
4 our Washington, D.C. office.

5 MS. ORR: As John said, I'm Renee Orr.
6 And I am from our Washington, D.C., office. I am Chief
7 of the Leasing Division in the Headquarters in MMS. I've
8 had that job since this past July. And I'm really happy
9 to be able to be up here. Because one of the roles of my
10 division is when the Secretary needs to make a decision
11 about whether to go forward with a lease sale or not, one
12 of the roles of my division is to pull together all of
13 that information, all the comments that we've received,
14 all the consultation that we've done and pull it together
15 in a package and provide the information to her so that
16 she can make a decision. So it's incredibly helpful for
17 me to be here and actually hear from you all face to face
18 and see where you live as opposed to reading about it in
19 a document that's that big back at my desk in Herndon.

20 So I'm very glad to be here.

21 I guess a little bit about me. I have a
22 10 year old daughter. I do have to commute to work,
23 about 45 miles each way, unfortunately, the public
24 transportation in Northern Virginia is not what it should
25 be and urban sprawl has hit that area but if I could bike

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1 45 miles I would be incredible shape, but I'm not quite
2 there yet.

3 But again, I'm really happy to be here
4 and hear what you all have to say.

5 (Applause)

6 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Salena Hile here
7 who does not work for MMS but she is the recorder, so she
8 will be an important person. You have to obey her,
9 especially if you want to make sure that your comments,
10 you know, get into the record.

11 And Jim Lima, who was the person who
12 helped put together the Environmental Impact Statement,
13 coordinating that document.

14 MR. LIMA: Thank you, John. My name's
15 Jim Lima. My background. I've been in Alaska.....

16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Speak up, please.

17 MR. LIMA: Oh, okay. Gee, I've never had
18 anyone have to ask that of me before. My name is Jim
19 Lima. I've been in Alaska about a year now. My
20 background is in aeronautics social science and
21 environmental studies.

22 I live in Anchorage. I'm a diver. I
23 head the dive team for this region -- oh, thank you. My
24 background is in aeronautics social science and
25 environmental studies.

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1 (Applause)

2 I've taught college. I've worked as a
3 maritime thesorian and marine archeologist. And I'm the
4 EIS coordinator on this project. I'm responsible for
5 pulling together the document from the various analysts
6 and kind of gluing everything together.

7 When I'm not at work in Anchorage, I help
8 coach an amateur boxing team, amateur youth boxing team.
9 I like to swim, play volleyball, avid bicycle rider, and
10 I'm learning to snowshoe now that I'm up here. So
11 getting to know the area.

12 (Applause)

13 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: The other two
14 people who are here, Robyn Casey, who was helping sign
15 in. Maybe the introduction, if you want to know more
16 about Robyn, go back and say hello during some of the
17 parts. And then Albert Barros, who is our community
18 liaison, he was the Federal employee of the year two
19 years ago within the state of Alaska, which we were very
20 proud of that. He received that honor for putting
21 together the Department of the Interior Tribal
22 Government-to-Government Policy and getting that
23 energized within, not just MMS, but within all the
24 Interior Departments and is really a well respected
25 person within the Federal establishment. So Albert

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1 Barros.

2 (Applause)

3 One thing we always do, we try to do at
4 MMS and maybe most of you are familiar with this, but if
5 there's people that are not familiar with this building
6 we just like to go through a real quick safety minute.
7 If there's an earthquake or other emergency in the
8 building, the prime exit is out, of course, the doors you
9 came in but as I understand, there's also exits through
10 the gymnasium, and out this way. Hopefully, again, we
11 don't have to worry about that but then I guess I would
12 also get away from the whales on the ceiling.

13 What I would first like to do is to go
14 over a little bit of background, and maybe if we're able
15 later to get into discussion and I'll talk about that in
16 a minute, but just give you a brief background of the way
17 we put this document together, some of the issues that we
18 saw and why we're doing what we're doing, which I think
19 probably is on a lot of your minds.

20 The purpose of this meeting, of course,
21 is to collect comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
22 Statement through testimony. Of course, you can also do
23 that in writing and we would encourage, if you do not
24 want to testify tonight or others, you know to supply
25 that. And we have information on how to do that that

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1 Albert is holding up in back.

2 What are we proposing? We're proposing
3 to hold two sales within the Cook Inlet area. The area
4 from roughly Kalgin Island down to the northern part of
5 Kodiak, the Shuyak Island. One sale would be in 2004 and
6 the second sale in 2006.

7 Why are we doing this? And I know we've
8 been asked that a lot. With Sale 149 a couple years ago,
9 there was a lot of comment, of course, from this area,
10 and the area was cut back. Essentially Congress tells us
11 that within the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, that
12 we have to go through a process to offer areas around the
13 country. And the area of Cook Inlet was looked at again
14 in this five year plan, which was signed this past
15 summer. And we were seeing comments about Southcentral
16 Alaska needing energy, primarily there was a concern with
17 regard to natural gas in the area. The state of Alaska,
18 of course, has been looking for natural gas onshore and
19 in State waters and whether they're successful or not,
20 there has been some found but not in the quantities that
21 people were hoping that would be able to provide energy
22 for this area and Southcentral Alaska in general. And so
23 we see these sales, if they do occur, to be more for
24 local sales and not the traditional exporting everything
25 away for the industries that are in this borough and for

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1 the use in this area.

2 The issues we heard when we came about a
3 year ago with what we called scoping, and that we saw and
4 evaluated ourselves, for example, were issues connected
5 with water quality and discharges. The subsistence, the
6 importance of subsistence to some of the Native
7 communities around, disturbance of habitat, accidental
8 oil spills, the issue of interference with commercial and
9 recreational fishing, the social and economic effects
10 including the visual impact that some people perceive
11 that platforms would have. Likewise, the three boroughs
12 in the area with Sale 149 and we received the same
13 information as we began this sale, had the tri-borough
14 agreement where they looked at possible sales in this
15 areas and if they occurred they wanted to make sure that
16 there would not be tankering, that fishing gear conflicts
17 would be taken care of, that there be adequate spill
18 planning and response, that we would identify critical
19 habitat and that there would be a system of revenue
20 sharing with some of the local communities.

21 What did we do with these comments?

22 Well, of course, this EIS is several inches big, I'm not
23 sure how many of you have been able to read it. Probably
24 nobody has read the whole thing. But there might be
25 parts, again, that you might want to concentrate on.

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1 What we tried to do is to evaluate all of
2 these issues and what, especially, we tried to do for
3 example on the discharge issue, which we knew was a major
4 thing from the past and the present and the health
5 effects with regard to subsistence, is to summarize the
6 research that has been done over the last decade and
7 more. Now, that is our summary of it. If you have
8 information, for example, on those topics, that you think
9 we missed something or agree with it or disagree with it,
10 we would like to know what that is and why and especially
11 if you have other information that we should be
12 evaluating.

13 We also have a number of what we call
14 stipulations attached to these proposals. These are,
15 again, requirements that would be put on the lease that
16 companies would have to follow. And that included
17 stipulations to address the conflict with fisheries; one
18 for protection of biological resources; to make sure that
19 surveys would be done so that we know if there's areas
20 that are new, that have not had a lot of research, that
21 we would be able to find those, if needed; an orientation
22 program for all workers to make sure that they're aware
23 of what is important to the communities, to the
24 subsistence, to the tribes, and others with regards to
25 subsistence, fishing and the hydrocarbon transportation

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1 stipulation that would encourage strong use of pipelines
2 rather than tankering.

3 We also had a number of what we call
4 information to lessees in this document, which pretty
5 much are a reminder to companies and to others about all
6 the regulations that companies would have to follow,
7 again, if there were a sale. This includes the Marine
8 Mammal Protection Act. The Endangered Species Act, which
9 people would have work with the Fish and Wildlife
10 Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service. Oil
11 spill contingency plans, which we have a role in, the
12 state of Alaska does, to identify key areas and
13 requirements. The drilling discharge issue, which is the
14 responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency.
15 They are beginning a review of the NPDS program for Cook
16 Inlet and, of course, one of the things they will be
17 looking at would be zero discharge.

18 And of course we, at MMS, have a very
19 extensive regulatory program which I'll say we're very
20 proud of and I'll explain that, you know, to anybody that
21 would, you know, have questions with regard to that, that
22 there is extensive requirements with regard to any
23 activity, be it oil, be it gas, pipelines, safety
24 equipment and such.

25 We also are looking at taking out certain

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1 areas that, again, we heard from the communities when we
2 came around last year. The deferrals are on the maps.
3 One is centered on, again, the southern part of the
4 borough here in response to what we heard with regard to
5 subsistence and coastal habitat and some of the visual
6 issues, that there's an evaluation of whether we should
7 be taking that out of a proposed sale. And then there's
8 a second deferral to take out the area around the Barren
9 Islands because of seabirds, marine mammals, some
10 endangered species, whales. Of course we heard a lot
11 about the entrances there, how difficult the seas are and
12 things of that nature. Those were the two, again, areas
13 that we heard specifically about. If you have comments
14 on those, of course, we would like to hear that. We
15 also, of course evaluate not having the sale. And the
16 other alternative is to include the full area in and, of
17 course, the Secretary could also decide to take those two
18 areas out, you know, it's not just one or the other, it
19 could be both. We also have included the Shelikof
20 Strait, that was taken out within the five year program.

21 What do we foresee happening if there is
22 a sale and if there were leasing? Our view, again, based
23 on what we see in the industry and the use and what's
24 going on onshore in this area, that there would only be a
25 small amount of activity down here. One would need a

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1 drill ship to do any exploration work and right now there
2 is no exploration, there is no drill ship in Cook Inlet.
3 And if one did bring up a drill ship it would only, of
4 course, be in one location at a time and it takes several
5 months to do a well, so at most you would see two or
6 three wells in State/Federal waters at a vast maximum.
7 And our estimate was as a result of these two sales,
8 maybe one platform would go in. In the past, if you look
9 at our past EIS's, we pretty much overestimated what was
10 real to do, and this time we tried to look at it a little
11 bit more realistically. Thus, the reason for less oil
12 spills, less impact, things of that nature, but it's
13 really more of what's happening, you know, the economics
14 and such are expensive in the offshore so this probably
15 would be industry's third choice. But there does seem to
16 be some interest because, if, as I said earlier, things
17 are not found onshore or in the upper part of the Inlet,
18 there's the concern again for the energy outlook down
19 here, especially for natural gas. I cannot say though
20 that this sale would only be natural gas. The leases
21 that we offer are both for oil and gas. It would be much
22 simpler, perhaps if it was one or the other, but
23 companies may still look for oil, again, because of the
24 refinery in the northern part of the borough which might
25 supplant some of the tankers that go by here that, you

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1 know, import oil from Valdez for that refinery. But what
2 we're here is maybe there'll be more of an emphasis on
3 natural gas and the search for that, for probably the 10
4 to 20 year time frame. Well, that's quite a ways a way,
5 why do we have to start now? The reason being it takes
6 that long to go through the process that we have to go
7 through for exploration to see if they find anything and
8 to figure out how they would develop, you know, a natural
9 gas field for example.

10 If there is a discovery -- well, pardon
11 me, if there's a sale, a company has to provide a full
12 plan when they come to us for exploration, that includes
13 an environmental review and a coastal consistency review.
14 If a company explores and actually finds something that's
15 economic and big enough to develop, then, again, they
16 have to go through a full review, not just with us, but
17 with the Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and
18 Wildlife Service would be involved, National Marine
19 Fisheries Service, the State of Alaska Coastal
20 Consistency, likely there would be an Environmental
21 Impact Statement.

22 I wanted to say a side note with regard
23 to alternative energy, there is another side to MMS that
24 we've been getting into and maybe again might occur in
25 the future and, that is, if there is alternative energy,

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1 we have started to receive some proposals on the Outer
2 Continental Shelf and we also would be involved. And I
3 just bring that up to show in one sense that we're not
4 just oil and gas but in the future. Actually part of
5 Renee's program also includes sand and gravel and other
6 minerals, which is a big issue on the East Coast, but
7 also there is alternatives that are being proposed on the
8 East Coast with regard to wind farms and other things,
9 not always popular also, but we would have to give a
10 right-of-way and review of what's going on.

11 What happens next? Who makes the
12 decisions on this? We're, again, right now in the Draft
13 Environmental Impact stage and want to hear comments
14 which can be provided in person here or in writing or by
15 e-mail. After we get all the comments, we'll have also a
16 hearing on Saturday in Kenai and telephone comments next
17 week. We will then evaluate the comments and by next, I
18 think, it's next November would release the final
19 Environmental Impact Statement. And also at that time
20 the Secretary would release what's known as the Proposed
21 Notice of Sale if the decision is to go forward. That,
22 again, is the description of what she really thinks she
23 wants to do. And we also have to supply a Coastal
24 Consistency Determination to the State of Alaska. The
25 proposed notice of sale goes to the Governor for a 60 day

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1 comment review, which I think you're familiar with the
2 process that went through with Sale 149. Then in about a
3 year from now the final notice of sale, the final
4 decisions would be done. And potentially again if we go
5 forward, the sale is proposed for May of 2004.

6 That was the background I wanted to give.
7 I know we have a lot of people here and we've got a lot
8 of people signed up to comment. What we've done in other
9 places is sort of open things up to a question and
10 answer, what, I want to make sure though is we get
11 comments from people that want to testify. If a lot of
12 people want to testify we may not be able to do questions
13 and answers but if there's a smaller number, you know, we
14 are here to answer questions and more go into a
15 discussion if you have things of that nature.

16 Because of the size, we would ask that
17 you try to limit your comments to about five minutes or
18 so, again, in respect for everybody that's here. If you
19 are not able to testify or decide you do not want to in
20 person, definitely, again, we have several methods for
21 commenting in writing, you know, by letter or by e-mail.
22 We receive many e-mails on these projects and we do look
23 at those comments and evaluate those things.

24 Let me ask first if there is any general
25 questions otherwise again I would like to go into, you

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1 know, starting the testimony.

2 (Question and answer session)

3 MS. ORR: I'm going to read off these
4 names in the order that you signed up. And I think to
5 try and get through, because we have over a 100 people
6 here that have signed up, if you could try and limit your
7 testimony to five minutes, I think that would help us get
8 through. I'll go ahead and call the first three so
9 you'll know who's up and who you're behind. I've got
10 Keith Iverson, Joanne Collins and Rachel Livingston.

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Use a microphone.

12 MS. ORR: Unfortunately we only have one
13 microphone that's hooked up to the PA system and that's
14 it, so you'll be able to hear the testimony and we
15 probably won't be talking anymore much anyway, we'll just
16 be listening.

17 MR. IVERSON: Testing. Can you hear me?

18 (Applause)

19 MR. IVERSON: These new fangled things.
20 They only let me out of Sadie Cove once a year here. As
21 stated my name is Keith Iverson. I am a 29 year resident
22 of Sadie Cove across the bay from Homer. Boat access
23 only. Presently my wife Randi and I, own and operate
24 Sadie Cove Wilderness Lodge at which guests from all over
25 the world come to enjoy this beautiful area we live in.

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1 On this first level, as a long-time resident of the State
2 park across the bay and a wilderness lodge operator, my
3 wife and I are totally against any drilling in the Lower
4 Inlet.

5 I'd like to speak also though on a second
6 level. I think in looking at this drilling proposal for
7 the Lower Inlet. I think we have to look at the past.
8 And I think we can learn something about the future by
9 looking at the past. 1989 was a good example. 1989 was
10 the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. I happen to be in Homer and
11 I drove to Valdez so I got there the third day of the
12 spill. In the beginning volunteers helped set up the
13 bird center, the otter center. I, with others, helped
14 clean the first otters, they died. Two weeks after that
15 they sent me out as the foreman in charge of protecting
16 180-million fry in Lake Bay at the Esther Island fish
17 hatchery. Even though we set up six different booms to
18 protect that bay, we didn't do anything. The wind
19 changed and blew the oil out of Prince William Sound.
20 From there I became a field supervisor on the Exxon
21 Valdez Oil Spill, one of the very few that was from
22 Alaska. They sent me out to the Gulf of Alaska which is
23 the beaches just east of where these, the Lower Inlet
24 sites are proposed. Windy Bay, Rocky Bay, Picnic Harbor,
25 Port Dick, there, I was the boss on the beach, I had

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1 three task forces in which I oversaw 150 oil cleanup
2 people and 70 boats. I also, because of that and my life
3 in Sadie, wrote and published a book of which the last
4 chapters were on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. What I was
5 able to research and find out is for the spill only about
6 five percent of the oil was cleaned up.

7 A lot of people say that, and I'm looking
8 at the economic situation with that that the Exxon
9 Corporation paid a lot of money for the cleanup, and that
10 they did but there's still other phases that aren't
11 completed yet. As a lot of people here know and I know,
12 personally, several people, I won't use their names, but
13 they were fishermen that went bankrupt during the Exxon
14 Valdez Oil Spill, those proceedings are still happening.
15 They probably will not see this because it's wound up in
16 the court, they'll probably die before any settlement is
17 made.

18 Therefore, as a field supervisor and the
19 experience I had on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, I am
20 totally against, again, drilling. For me, with the
21 spill, trying to compare cleaning up any spill in the
22 Lower Inlet compared to Prince William Sound is like
23 comparing a duck pond to a tsunami, it can't be done.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause)

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1 MS. IVERSON: I'm sneaking in here. I'm
2 Keith's wife, Randi, we timed his speech at two minutes
3 so I got 30 seconds of something for myself to say. As
4 Keith had said, we see our future by looking at the past.
5 I suggest that we all look up at the skeleton hanging on
6 the ceiling to see our future of Kachemak Bay and Cook
7 Inlet. If we keep exploiting oil this is the future of
8 our marine system.

9 Please abandon oil and gas and look to
10 alternative earth friendly energy. I'm not interested in
11 profits which originate from the abuse of the land. If
12 you drill, there will be a spill.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. COLLINS: I am Joanne Collins. I
16 work for Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce. And as their
17 employee, they asked me to speak on their behalf tonight.
18 Anchor Point Chamber takes a little different view, we
19 look at the economy. Our school in Anchor Point, 52
20 percent of the kids live below the poverty level. This
21 is unacceptable. We need jobs. We need good paying jobs
22 in this area.

23 When Phillips did their exploratory
24 platform at Stariski Creek, which is about 100 yards from
25 my house, it was very heartening to see the young adults

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1 in Anchor Point that we know that have school children
2 working on that job. Several young men that we normally
3 see sitting around the coffee table in the morning were
4 actually out working and bringing in income for their
5 families.

6 We are all users of petroleum products.
7 Nobody wants it in their backyard but the honest
8 evaluation is we have to drill somewhere. Unless we can,
9 tomorrow, find an alternate energy source, and that is
10 not possible, not tomorrow. Someday hopefully. But in
11 the meantime, we use the petroleum products.

12 Now, we are concerned with the
13 environment. That is our front yard in the Cook Inlet.
14 Reading the EIS, they have looked at the air quality and
15 said that the effect would be short-term in very
16 localized areas, I am assuming right around the rig. The
17 water quality, they saw no measurable degradation.
18 Commercial and sportsfishing, no measurable impact was
19 expected. And as a side note, we also have a charter
20 that goes out of Homer, so that does affect me.

21 We think that with the regulations that
22 are in place with the citizen organizations that keep
23 their eye on what the industry is doing, that this can be
24 done environmentally safe.

25 Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MS. ORR: The next three speakers after
3 this will be Mitchell Hrachiar, Alana Greear, and R.W.
4 Tyler.

5 MS. LIVINGSTON: Hi. My name is Rachel
6 Livingston. I live in Anchor Point. I was here in 1995
7 for Lease Sale 149, and I am grateful that that sale was
8 reduced from 1.98 million acres to approximately 2,000
9 acres although zero acres would have been nice.

10 I'm confused as to why I'm here again
11 with Lease Sale 191 and 199. My position has not
12 changed, and I'm happy to read that same position as I
13 did seven years ago.

14 I want to thank you for coming this
15 evening to hear us out. I hope you had a chance to see
16 the beautiful sunset over the Inlet tonight. Lease Sale
17 191 and 199 is a mistake we cannot afford to make. Lease
18 Sale 191 and 199 borders on five National Wildlife
19 Refuges and four National Parks and Preserves. We have
20 one of the most valuable ecosystems in the world here on
21 the Lower Kenai Peninsula. Before we stick oil platforms
22 in the lower Cook Inlet we need to examine and focus on
23 the 827 incidents of dumping sewage in the upper Cook
24 Inlet. Let us learn from our mistakes, please.

25 Now, on Monday there is a tsunami

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1 ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce at 1:00 o'clock. I'd
2 like to give you an invitation to attend. In this
3 community, we live precariously. At any time we could
4 have a major earthquake, tsunami or volcanic eruption,
5 it's going to happen one of these days. Please keep this
6 in mind.

7 And in closing, Brother Isaiah passed
8 away awhile ago but I can guarantee you he is here with
9 us this evening and I pulled out his public testimony
10 from Lease Sale 149 and.....

11 (Applause)

12 I'm just going to read a small
13 excerpt from it. And I quote, "Welcome you brothers and
14 sisters to our cosmic hammock by the sea. I have been
15 living here in Homer since 1959 and when the oil leases
16 were sold out here into the bay, I believe it was by Egan,
17 we campaigned for Brother Hammond to buy the oil leases
18 back and he did and procedures were taken that the oil
19 leases were bought back. So I believe that we have a
20 cosmic obligation to Mother Nature, to ourselves and to
21 the love of our fellow man here in this community, to
22 brothers and sisters and I think we ought to evolve into
23 a higher cosmic view of life and the care of Mother
24 Nature and let this oil lease go by the wayside at this
25 time. So we love you, brothers and sisters, for all the

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1 good work you've done, but I think the oil lease should
2 go by the wayside at this time. So thank you very much
3 and a lot of love to all the brothers and sisters that
4 have come to give their testimony, and to give perfect,
5 beautiful information relating to this ongoing process,
6 so thank you very much." And that is Brother Isaiah.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. HRACHIAR: That one is going to be
9 hard to follow. First of all, I'd like to thank you all
10 for coming down. My name is Mitchell Hrachiar. I have a
11 degree in geology and geography. And I was reviewing the
12 geophysical hazards today and preparing for this talk.
13 Three conceive of earthquakes and Alaska is very high, as
14 you know, I was looking over the data, magnitude 9.2 in
15 1964, 8.0 on the Aleutian Chain in '86; there's going to
16 be a chance of a major earthquake in the next 30 years.
17 Magnitude of 7.-8., on the richter scale every 13 years,
18 so hopefully, if this goes through that technology is
19 there to adequately address these stresses.

20 I recently read a book from some
21 eyewitness' account of the '64 earthquake and it's still
22 hard for me to imagine that treetops were close to the
23 ground. So hopefully the Impact Statement adequately
24 addresses the stresses that would be caused by an
25 earthquake.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. GREEAR: Good evening. My name is
4 Alana Greear, Marina won't be with me tonight. I am a
5 new mother, and a mother of a three year old, and I
6 didn't have time to prepare something, as many of you
7 know how that is. But I do have strong feelings and I
8 just want to share them with you and I just want you to
9 take them back with you in your heart.

10 I understand that there's a one in five
11 chance that there could be a spill. And I think about
12 that as a role of a mother, like okay, I know that when I
13 let my kid out the door, people drive fast, there's a
14 chance something could happen but I'm not going to keep
15 them inside my house just to drive me nuts, you know, you
16 got to let them out, you got to let things happen. So
17 what are the risks that we take then with that one in
18 five chance? Do we say, well, you know, what am I going
19 to do if a disaster happens, where's my car keys, where's
20 this, how far do I live from the hospital.

21 So what is our history in oil lease
22 sales, a loyal industry in Alaska? We have the Exxon
23 Valdez who had a spill. What happened there? Was Exxon
24 a good partner with us, as a neighbor? Did they help us
25 really? You know I was looking over data today and I was

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1 finding that really they weren't a very good corporate
2 neighbor. It took a long time for them to respond the
3 way we want, we had a huge devastation in the Sound, and
4 I mean there's people here tonight that are knowledgeable
5 and that's not me, I'm tired. I know a lot about
6 mothering right now.

7 But what I know about that is that they
8 still haven't settled and that people are bankrupt. And
9 that's our neighbors. And I have right here, Exxon, and
10 maybe people don't realize this but in the year 2000,
11 Exxon made the most corporate profit of any corporation
12 in the history and they still will not settle with us.
13 They have made more money on the interest that they have
14 saved by not having to pay people back in the state of
15 Alaska.

16 Now, just to kind of wrap it up, you
17 know, we have an economy, an oil-driven economy, it's not
18 great, whatever, it is what it is. But we have to take
19 these risks. And I'm not willing to let that kind of
20 neighbor move into my neighborhood. I want my kids to
21 look out at the ocean and see a horizon that has not been
22 touched by man. I want them to see a horizon that still
23 is pure as when, in my spiritual belief God put it there
24 on this earth. And I really hope that you'll take that
25 back with you.

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1 Thank you for having me tonight. Thank
2 you for coming.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. ORR: The next three speakers will be
5 Dave Lyon, Louise Seguela and Sandy Johns.

6 MR. TYLER: Well, I'm Richard or Toby
7 Tyler and I've been here quite a number of years and I'm
8 just going to read this through because things could get
9 overlong otherwise.

10 Insofar as I can see it, there are three
11 basic things wrong with the latest Cook Inlet planning
12 area. First of all there's one major flaw which should
13 be corrected before anything else takes place. According
14 to my information this is the only offshore area in the
15 whole nation where it is legal to inject drilling oils
16 back into the earth. This is one of the richest fishing
17 regions in the world and -- I keep losing my place -- in
18 the nation and the most subject to serious damage from
19 spillage or leakage. Therefore, prohibition of this is
20 the first thing that should be done before any further
21 planning is done along these lines.

22 Then secondly, the area being opened up
23 for leasing all at one time is far, far too large. There
24 is basically no infrastructure in place anywhere within
25 this enormous area to begin with so that it is very

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1 unlikely that there will be any interest in the lower
2 portion at this time. Why not open the upper section
3 first, and see what can be developed in this smaller but
4 more accessible area first. This could be an area
5 roughly from Anchor Point diagonally down almost to the
6 Augustine Island area perhaps. Any gas or oil
7 development is going to have to come ashore somewhere
8 north of Anchor Point anyway. Nothing else can be very
9 practical.

10 Finally, the two alternative areas off
11 the mouth of Kachemak Bay and the Native holdings off
12 Seldovia and on down to the Barren Islands should be
13 pulled from any offering as far too risky. Indeed, the
14 area off south of -- off the mouth of Kachemak Bay should
15 continue on up to near Anchor Point. None of this area
16 should be leased as it is far too valuable as habitat and
17 for fishing.

18 My advice is to go back to the drawing
19 board, folks. That little oil may be out -- what little
20 oil may be out in this vast region is in no great frantic
21 need to be developed at this time. If anything, it grows
22 more valuable left in place for the future when our means
23 for extracting it become more proficient and possibly
24 less polluting.

25 Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MR. LYON: My name's Dave Lyon. I see by
3 my statement, reading what I said in '95 that I'd been
4 here five years, so I guess I've been here 12 years now.

5 What I have to tell you is I've thought a
6 lot about this and actually -- no, I thought a lot about
7 it a while ago and my opinion hasn't changed. But I do
8 have something you should think about why this is not
9 just a bad idea for our area, but this is a bad idea for
10 commercial fishing in the state of Alaska. We are losing
11 our market share to farm salmon and it's one of the
12 biggest things affecting our salmon industry. We're
13 beginning to gain a little more respect and we're getting
14 some share back through a lot of hard work by a lot of
15 agencies, some State agencies, some fishermen doing it
16 themselves. Alaska salmon branded as such, is now
17 recognized as a green seafood. It's sustainable, it's
18 well managed and it's clean.

19 We can count on the fact that if there is
20 an oil spill here that affects our fishery and this says
21 that, could result in a large spill -- could result in a
22 loss to commercial fisheries of 22 to 37 percent per year
23 for two years and it's possible that a fishery could be
24 closed for a whole season. That's not just us. You know
25 how accurate the outside media is when they portray

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1 Alaska. I'm sure that -- you should seen some holiday
2 movies that just left you'd see our head spinning.
3 They're going to say, hey, Alaska salmon is oiled and
4 that's what's going to happen. People aren't going to
5 look for more information. It's hard enough to convince
6 them that Alaska salmon is healthy and explain that,
7 yeah, well, maybe a stock is falling some place but this
8 state's so huge that we have stocks that are flourishing
9 and it goes back and forth. If we spill oil on our
10 salmon they're going to think it's all our salmon. And
11 we'll lose.

12 I talked to a friend of mine tonight, he
13 said after Exxon Valdez, we lost our entire pink salmon
14 market to Japan. We never got it back. Now, I don't
15 know that personally but he used to be a commercial
16 fisherman, now he's a charter fisherman. It's just not a
17 good idea. The effects are too broad. It's not just us.

18 You know, five years ago I said that the
19 only economic benefit this will bring to me or mine or my
20 friends is the dubious benefit of getting paid a whole
21 lot of money to go clean up the beaches, and when you say
22 you're hoping this oil will be kept in this area, that
23 kind of scares me because I know just where we're going
24 to find it, eventually it will be real close and we'll be
25 out there cleaning it up. And I'm perfectly willing to

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1 come back down here again in seven years if we can put
2 this off now and do it again in seven years and again in
3 seven years, eventually we're going to look back on this
4 time and go, why were you even thinking about that, you
5 know?

6 Historically huge wars used to be fought
7 over salt. You know, now we look back and say, salt, why
8 that's goofy. If we can put this off long enough, we'll
9 look back and say, drilling in the lower Cook Inlet, what
10 were they thinking?

11 Thanks.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. SEGUELA: Hello. I'm Louise Seguela.

14

15 MS. ORR: Sorry.

16 MS. SEGUELA: That's okay. I just want
17 to say that I oppose this sale straight out. There's
18 nothing in it that I find tempting at all. And money
19 does not equate with quality of life. Quality of life
20 has to do with the quality of the environment that you
21 live in. And money is important, I do admit that, and
22 I'm not saying that you can live without it. But most of
23 the people that I know, myself included, have lived with
24 very little money. I'm not bragging. But money, you
25 know, money, you can go anywhere and get money, any place

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1 in the world, any place in this country, you cannot get
2 what we have here any place else.

3 We have, all this stuff on the ceiling
4 here, these are all at risk. I'm a fish eater. The fish
5 will not be worth eating if there are more pollutants put
6 into the water. The coastline is really vulnerable,
7 there's a lot of subsistence food that comes off the
8 rocks. Comes out of the gravel. If you have even a
9 little bit of oil get in there, those things aren't worth
10 eating, you can't eat them. A lot of people around here
11 depend on food from the sea, and that is the most
12 important thing. You can't buy that. You can't buy
13 that fish. You buy it in Seattle for \$20 a pound, and
14 here we go out and catch it, people can go out and catch
15 it here and eat it and that is worth more than money, in
16 my book.

17 Anyway, that's really about all I have to
18 say.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. JOHNS: My name is Sandy Johns. I'm
22 a Homer resident and small business owner. I just want
23 to say I'm adamantly opposed to any oil and gas
24 exploration in the lower Cook Inlet or in Kachemak Bay.

25 I hate having to come here and do this

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1 over and over again. But it is heartening to come here
2 and see my friends and family and the people that I know
3 stand for what I stand for here. I grew up in Southern
4 California and watched all of the ugliness come there
5 from development, unchecked, and as long as I have breath
6 in my body I'm perfectly willing to come here over and
7 over again to say no.

8 And that's pretty much all I have to say.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. ORR: The next three speakers, Steve
12 Hughes, David Stutzer, and Mike O'Meara.

13 MR. HUGHES: Hi. My name is Steve Hughes
14 and I'm a resident who loves living here.

15 Natural resources are public resources
16 and belong to all people. Whether these resources be oil
17 beneath the Continental Shelf, fish in our seas, the rich
18 tidal life or birds in the air, no one group has an
19 exclusive right to these resources. When the extraction
20 of one resource jeopardizes the health and existence of
21 associated resources, as oil exploration would do in the
22 Cook Inlet, where some of the strongest and most erratic
23 tides exist on the planet, then common sense tells us we
24 must not do it, the risk is too great.

25 The scope of Lease Sales 191 and 199, and

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1 the fact that the possibility even exists that platforms
2 could be erected in view of our communities and adjacent
3 to National Wildlife Refuges and Parks shows a blatant
4 disregard for wildlife and disrespect to our communities.
5 Even by your own estimates in the EIS of the 20 percent
6 likelihood of an oil spill, I don't understand why these
7 waters continue to be under consideration. The sea
8 teaches us that the web of life is interdependent and the
9 loss of even the tiniest organism may have huge
10 collateral effects. All of us have an obligation to
11 respect each other and the world around us.

12 Perhaps it's appropriate to quote John
13 Dunn, an English poet, who once said in one of his
14 sermons, no man is an island entire of itself, every man
15 is a piece of the continent, a part of the main, if a
16 clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less as
17 well as if a promitory were -- as well as if a manner of
18 thy friends or if thy own were. Any man's death
19 diminishes me because I am involved in mankind and,
20 therefore, never sin to know for whom the bell tolls, it
21 tolls for thee.

22 Withdraw the waters of lower Cook Inlet
23 from all future lease sales. It's the right thing to do.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. STUTZER: Good evening. I'm David

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1 Stutzer. And as usual I don't have anything prepared,
2 but I don't think I need to -- I didn't need to prepare
3 anything, everybody before me and everybody after me is
4 going to have a similar point of view.

5 We all live here and we love this place,
6 but it's a pretty treacherous place to drill for oil.
7 It's got, as already pointed out, it's got some of the
8 most strongest tides in the world, it's an earthquake
9 zone, an active volcano, and, you know, to me it just
10 seems like it boils down to money. The question was
11 asked why? Well, we want to get natural gas. We don't
12 have natural gas here so we don't really care. I mean a
13 lot of us would like it but we don't have it and we get
14 by without it. The people in Anchorage would like more
15 natural gas because their supplies are diminishing. But
16 you know it just boils down to money. Money and jobs.
17 As the lady from Anchor Point said, yeah, we would like
18 some but, you know, there are a lot of jobs here already
19 that would be lost if we have an oil spill. Well pointed
20 out, commercial fisheries would be severely impacted. We
21 have a large charter fleet here that would be severely
22 impacted, as well as the people that eat fish and
23 shellfish out of the oceans.

24 It's been commented or the number has
25 been thrown out, 20 percent chance of an oil spill

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1 happening. You know, if it was one percent it would be
2 too high. It just terrifies me that there's going to be
3 a spill. Because if there is we're going to have this
4 severe economic impact for what, for cheap fuel, cheap
5 oil, cheap natural gas. Quite frankly, I'll do without.
6 Because all my friends are -- or a large part of my
7 friends are going to be out of a job, I'm going to be out
8 of a job because the people that I work for as a building
9 contractor aren't going to have any money to hire me. So
10 I think it's a really poor idea. And to throw out that
11 somebody needs fuel somewhere, I drive here, you know, I
12 heat my house with oil, but it's not coming from Cook
13 Inlet and I'm thankful for that because, you know, sooner
14 or later there's going to be a spill and then the
15 economy's going to crash. It's just not a good idea.
16 And yes, somewhere down on the horizon we're going to
17 have alternative energy sources and I'm waiting for that
18 and I'm looking forward to that, but right now we have to
19 deal with oil but not here.

20 And I will also come down in five years
21 or seven years or whenever you guys come again and say
22 no. You know, the oil companies have not demonstrated
23 that they can operate their industry cleanly and throwing
24 money at a problem doesn't make the environment turn
25 clean, which has been illustrated very well in Prince

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1 William Sound. The oil is still there and the impact is
2 still felt and it's been over 10 years and it's going to
3 be a long time before it's back to normal, if ever.

4 No thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. ORR: After Mike, we'll have Val
7 McLay, Sallie Doddbutters and David Raskin.

8 MR. O'MEARA: Good evening. My name is
9 Mike O'Meara. I live about 14 miles out of town on a
10 homestead. I've been there full-time since 1976. I've
11 been in Alaska longer than that, long enough to have seen
12 the whole evolution of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline issue
13 and the establishment of the tanker point at Valdez and
14 everything that subsequently happened. I brought a cheat
15 sheet here. I'm going to try to just cut short and not
16 use most of it because I want all you folks out there to
17 have a chance to say something and I've certainly had
18 more than my chance already during the last week or so.

19 But, you know, I listened to John earlier
20 when he was doing his intro and he was explaining his own
21 feeling about the potential safety of this and it
22 reminded me of another gentleman's statement some time
23 ago and I guess rather than quote somebody who's famous,
24 I'd like to quote this gentleman tonight, and his name
25 was L.R. Bain (ph), he worked for British Petroleum

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1 Environmental Studies. This was something he said back
2 in 1971 at the TAPS hearings up in Anchorage.

3 I am satisfied that tanker traffic to and
4 from Port Valdez, and operation of an oil port there will
5 not cause any significant damage to the marine
6 environment or to fisheries interests. He reflected the
7 sentiments of the oil and gas industries, State and
8 Federal officials at the time.

9 I'd like to quote somebody else who's
10 equally less known, some of you may know her however.
11 This is from a Seward resident, Chris Sheehan, who was a
12 civil air patrol pilot at the time of the spill, and this
13 is from her 1998 recollections of that period of time
14 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground. As we approached
15 Prince William Sound, a sight met my eyes that I will
16 never forget. Flowing from the mouth of the Sound was a
17 river of oil nearly two miles wide that widened as it
18 entered the sea and disappeared over the horizon 100
19 miles distant. A year after the spill, as I flew along
20 the coast I was struck by the paucity of living
21 creatures. Where two years before flocks of birds
22 numbering in the thousands had covered the oceans, I now
23 have to look for even a few groups.

24 John, I know damn well you don't want an
25 oil spill and I know my friends in the oil patch don't

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1 want one either, the fact is shit happens. And those of
2 us that have been around here awhile have seen a lot of
3 it. The Glacier Bay, all the leaky pipelines onshore and
4 offshore, leaky storage tanks, cracked tank vessels,
5 mystery spills; it goes on and on. Nobody wants to spill
6 oil. We get a lot of promises, but reality has given us
7 pollution and disaster. That's why we don't trust you.

8 Now, I'm going to shut up. I have a lot
9 of specific comments regarding the Draft Environmental
10 Impact Statement and I'll address those to you before the
11 11th in writing. I want my brothers and sisters here to
12 have a chance.

13 I want to thank you all for coming, and
14 before I get up I just want to remind you all that right
15 now we have a lot of brothers and sisters on the coast of
16 Spain who are dealing with oil from the Prestige, the
17 tanker that broke in half and sank off their coast. I've
18 been in touch with a gentleman over there who's in the
19 thick of it and they're looking at possibly dealing with
20 that until 2006.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. MCLAY: I'm Val McLay. I'm kind of a
24 newcomer here, I've only been here since '46 but I'm
25 going to stick around a few years and see if I like it.

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1 And I'm going to be one of the few tonight that's going
2 to say that I'm not against oil in Cook Inlet. And to
3 respond to, you know, one young lady said that seven
4 years ago everybody said no to Lease Sale 149, well,
5 that's not true, everybody didn't say no.

6 And it's disheartening to me, reading the
7 article in the Homer News today about your meeting in
8 Seldovia. That whole article was no from Seldovia, but
9 there was only 20 or 25 people there, that's not all of
10 Seldovia that said no. And this has been the problem,
11 even seven years ago, the people that were in favor
12 didn't speak up as much as the people that were opposed.

13 We've learned by mistakes that we've made
14 in the past. There is a lot of new rules that are in
15 effect today as a result of mistakes made in the past. I
16 would like to say I'm a commercial fisherman. I guess I
17 could be if I wanted to be, I still have the boats and
18 the equipment, permits, and I started commercial fishing
19 in 1956 but I haven't been able to afford to continue to
20 do this anymore because the way the fishing has gone, and
21 part of it is because of oil. But it took oil for me to
22 go fishing too. And it will continue to take oil for all
23 of us to continue to operate as we do today, the way we
24 know how.

25 I am the president of two corporations,

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1 each running in a business here in Homer, and oil is a
2 large part of keeping my businesses operating. And to
3 say that we do not want oil here is different than saying
4 we do not want oil. I don't think anybody here can say
5 they do not want oil, everybody needs it, but they just
6 want it in somebody else's backyard.....

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I want no oil.

8 MR. MCLAY:and I don't think that's
9 fair.

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sorry.

11 MR. MCLAY: Please, thank you. And this
12 sheet that was passed out, there was a comment about the
13 Chesapeake Trader that leaked oil and split a seam out
14 here and I was working on the docks to help with that
15 operation, trying to rescue that operation and that oil
16 was not recovered because of the seas. The problem there
17 was that vessel could have been boomed and moved into
18 protected waters so that oil could have been contained
19 and it would not have been lost into the ocean and gone
20 away. But because of rules, it could not be moved into
21 safer waters and that oil as a result broke up and
22 dissipated and it's still in the water system today. And
23 we do have to have rules, when we have to have more
24 control and is -- we're getting more control all the time
25 on oil industry and this is necessary. But until we do

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1 not need oil, we need to have more rules and we need to
2 continue to produce oil in the safest manner as possible
3 and keep our eyes on it and everybody needs to be
4 involved.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. DODD: Well, I guess if all those
8 people out there do want oil out there they better get
9 their buns down here like we have year after year. I'm
10 Sally Dodd and look at all these new faces. The ones
11 behind me are kind of comforting but it's kind of scary
12 coming here and seeing new faces to talk to every time.
13 By the way that sign over there, over your right shoulder
14 is older than a third of the people in this room, and it
15 could be as old as 1978 done by Cook Inlet Vigil and Jim
16 Roderick who was one of the guys that came up with the
17 fact that 600,000 tons of toxic ooze was being redumped
18 in here under an exemption, it's the only one in America.
19 Anyway, let me get back to my notes.

20 Dear Mr. Goll, Minerals Management, et
21 al., I've lived here for 30 years, I am not paranoid,
22 selfish, or ignorant. Although there have been great
23 many improvements recently and your words here were very
24 soothing, the oil industry is still both greedy and
25 polluting. A while back during Lease Sale 149 more than

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1 400 of us pleaded and fought to preserve the many fragile
2 treasures of lower Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay, which is
3 now critical habitat as well as a National estuary,
4 research reserve. And, yeah, there were people here that
5 wanted oil, of course we all need oil, you know, we all
6 need toilet paper too.

7 But I suppose it was naive to think that
8 we were listened to that night so maybe if we all speak a
9 little slower and a little louder tonight, you will hear
10 what we're trying to say. We will not trade our fish,
11 our wildlife, our tourism, or our relatively clean water
12 for any pay off. Neither a poor economy coupled with the
13 pit-bull politics the present administration, nor even
14 the horror of 911 justify this reckless onslaught for the
15 health and safety of our entire local ecosystem.
16 Dangerous tides and weather, coupled with earthquakes and
17 a rumbling crackling old volcano that's aimed directly up
18 the Inlet, plus old leaky unmaintained pipes on the ocean
19 floor, they all add up to an unacceptable probability for
20 an ecological tragedy.

21 None of us are going away, we know that.
22 But, please, couldn't you insist that the industry stay
23 way up the Inlet where any unfortunate accidents wouldn't
24 create quite such devastating death and destruction. And
25 by the way, in leaving, where's our oil response boat,

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1 the spill response boat that was promised to be parked in
2 Seldovia? And where are the tug boats that are supposed
3 to guide the Inlet tankers through some of the most
4 dangerous waters in Alaska? And, again, why is Cook
5 Inlet the only place in America with an exception for the
6 industry to dump over 600,000 tons of toxic ooze back
7 into the water and ground?

8 Thank you for your time. Please listen
9 to us.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. ORR: After Mr. Raskin it will be
12 Dale Banks, Tom Evans and Roberta Highland.

13 MR. RASKIN: My name is David Raskin and
14 I reside in Homer on land we purchased here in 1975. For
15 32 years I served on the faculties of UCLA, Michigan
16 State University, the University of Utah, and the
17 University of British Columbia. And I established and
18 organized the environmental studies curriculum at the
19 University of Utah and taught courses in the energy
20 crises and the water development issues as far back as
21 1972.

22 I have served on many local and national
23 organizations, including president of the Center for
24 Alaska Coastal studies, a member of the Homer Advisory
25 Committee, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and a

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1 public member of the Environmental Monitoring Committee
2 of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council,
3 CIRCAC, which was established under the Oil Pollution Act
4 of 1990 to monitor and assess the impacts of oil industry
5 activity in Cook Inlet. I've also traveled extensively
6 on my own boat in all of the areas of the proposed
7 leases.

8 You propose to develop oil and gas in the
9 Cook Inlet by bringing in huge drilling building massive
10 offshore platforms and piping oil through many miles of
11 ocean bottom pipelines to onshore facilities near
12 important salmon streams. Based on decades of
13 experience, we know that there are more oil spills in the
14 upper Cook Inlet than anywhere else in the United States.
15 For the last three years I've received an unending string
16 of e-mail oil spill notifications from CIRCAC. These
17 spills occur regularly in the waters of the Upper Inlet
18 and on the land areas associated with oil operations and
19 pipelines. The worst spills have caused serious problems
20 in salmon streams yet industry has done little to
21 ameliorate the problems or take responsibility for the
22 aging and abandoned under sea and land based pipelines.
23 We can expect even more of the same if offshore
24 facilities are developed in the Lower Inlet, especially
25 in light of the extreme tides, seas up to 32 feet and

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1 freezing spray and wind conditions characteristic of the
2 Lower Inlet that make oil operations in the Upper Inlet
3 seem like child's play. The impacts on fish, wildlife
4 and marine sources of food will be severe and your
5 proposed plan provides no mechanism that will guarantee
6 that even graver oil spill problems will not occur if oil
7 is developed in the Lower Inlet. The ugly offshore
8 facilities will substantially degrade the pristine
9 natural environment that annually draws throngs of
10 tourists to the Lower Kenai Peninsula. This will
11 severely damage the local economy. Even worse, we can
12 count on massive pollution from the unrestricted dumping
13 of the by-products and wastewater from oil drilling
14 operations already ongoing in an essentially unrestricted
15 manner in the upper Cook Inlet.

16 The few small scale scientific studies
17 to-date in the upper Cook Inlet have failed to indicate
18 that the permitted oil industry discharges have produced
19 serious contamination of the organisms in the food chain.
20 However, they do not provide any manner of scientific
21 proof that there are no effects or that oil and gas
22 development in the Lower Inlet will yield a similar lack
23 of demonstrable impacts. On the contrary, we can expect
24 much greater impacts and effects on the food chain in the
25 Lower Inlet. The geographic areas and organisms sampled

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1 have been extremely limited and mainly confined to the
2 Upper Inlet and the currents and substrata in the Upper
3 Inlet are dramatically different from the Lower Inlet.
4 Furthermore, the populations and variety of organisms in
5 the Upper Inlet are impoverished when compared to the
6 profusion of species found in the areas of the proposed
7 lease sale in the Lower Inlet. It's an unusual
8 combination of geology, topography, ocean currents and
9 nutrients provides a magnificent nursery for a vast array
10 of marine plants and animals almost without parallel.
11 These organisms are part of the vital food chain that
12 makes Kachemak Bay and the lower Cook Inlet one of the
13 most biologically productive and unique marine
14 environments in the Northern Hemisphere.

15 The lower Cook Inlet provides sustenance
16 and support for the traditional lifestyles of the Native
17 communities that have occupied and subsisted in this area
18 for many millennia. EPA research has already shown that
19 unacceptable concentrations of heavy metals and organic
20 toxins from industrial activities threaten the health and
21 lifestyle of those who depend on the local marine
22 resources.

23 If the proposed oil and gas activities
24 are prevented in areas much closer to these resources, it
25 is inevitable that serious contamination and reduced

00048

1 marine productivity will occur. Major damage and
2 contamination from oil spills are highly likely even
3 according to the estimates contained in your Draft-EIS.

4 Just last week scientific studies
5 revealed that the persistence presence of oil spilled by
6 the Exxon Valdez is still causing serious impacts on fish
7 and wildlife in our locality.

8 Some claim that the proposed oil
9 production will lower the risk of oil spills by reducing
10 the amount of tanker transportation in the Cook Inlet.
11 This argument is specious. The vast majority of oil
12 spills in the Cook Inlet had been from pipelines and
13 offshore and onshore operations in the Upper Inlet.
14 These problems would be greatly exacerbated if
15 development is allowed to occur in the Lower Inlet and
16 the impacts may be disastrous. The only way to
17 effectively prevent the horrendous and persistent damage
18 from oil spills is never to allow the oil to get into the
19 water. The best and most obvious way to accomplish that
20 is not to develop new oil operations in the waters of
21 Cook Inlet.

22 After two highly visible failures you
23 have invented a new cover story claiming that the
24 development will mainly benefit the communities of the
25 Kenai Peninsula by providing long sought after supplies

00049

1 of natural gas. We've heard that song before and it
2 sounds just as flat now. Promise of natural gas in the
3 lower Cook Inlet -- to the Lower Kenai Peninsula has been
4 made repeatedly, yet all the gas developed on the Kenai
5 Peninsula has been sent north and the same will happen
6 with any new gas that may be produced here. Your claim
7 is as good as the now bankrupt promise that all oil from
8 the Alaska Pipeline would be used for domestic
9 consumption and none would be sold to foreign countries.
10 That is a bald-faced lie.

11 Take a careful look around you today. In
12 the words of Yogi Berra it's Dejavu all over again. We
13 are committed to preserve the natural resources of beauty
14 that are the life blood of our Native and non-Native
15 communities alike. We are united in our opposition. And
16 it should be clear that after 30 years that we must
17 simply not tolerate the havoc that would be visited on
18 our environment and lifestyles that your proposed oil and
19 gas development would inevitably bring.

20 Why don't you take your proposal out of
21 here and move it to Florida where President Bush and
22 Secretary Norton have exempted the west coast of Florida
23 because the President's brother is the Governor of
24 Florida. We also have a Bush Governor and we don't want
25 our waters oiled here either.

00050

1 Thank you very much.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. BANKS: Hi. My name is Dale Banks.
4 Thanks for coming down to hear us. Sitting here I think
5 I realized why we're here again to speak on another lease
6 sale and it's possibly because our Federal governmental
7 agencies are adopting a policy put forward by President
8 Bush in his 2000 campaign for President. He said and I
9 quote, the past is over. Sad, but true.

10 (Applause)

11 First I'd like to comment on some
12 economic impacts that I saw in this little book that I
13 was reading last night. It states that the Borough would
14 receive economic impacts of 2.7 million per year and the
15 State would receive about 2 million. If you calculate
16 that out by population here on the Borough that's \$4.53 a
17 month per person per year. I'd pay it, okay. I just
18 wanted to let you know that.

19 (Applause)

20 And I looked in there for profits to oil
21 companies, oil corporations but I couldn't find that. It
22 seemed to be conspicuously absent. Is that in there or
23 did I miss it? You don't have to answer, I guess. But I
24 couldn't find it.

25 And I looked at your spill rate

00051

1 calculations and they seem to be pretty straightforward
2 except that I caught a math error, or at least I think I
3 did. They were based on amounts of spills per billion
4 gallons produced, is that right, Jim, and then I
5 converted that to a percentage, if there was 140 million
6 barrels and I came up with .19 and you had .18. Anyways,
7 a small error there that you might want to check. So I
8 thought I'd point that out.

9 I have a lot of other things but maybe I
10 ought to skip some. Oh, I thought that the premise of
11 only one single discovery was not realistic, you had said
12 earlier that it was, I don't think it is. I think that
13 if there is one discovery then there will probably be
14 more companies that are interested and that, in turn,
15 would increase the likelihood of a spill.

16 Lastly, I want you to indulge me in a
17 little experiment in risk and probability analysis as it
18 applies to the public.

19 The first question I had and I'd like
20 people to participate if they're interested, is to
21 consider an example, consider this pen, let's say
22 everyone uses this pen, it's a good pen, everyone buys
23 them all the time, locally here at a local vendor they're
24 on sale right now for five cents each but there's a one
25 in five chance that the pen might spill, would you go

00052

1 ahead and take a risk and buy one, you know, it might
2 spill it may spill on your paper -- a show of hands, who
3 would buy a pen that one in five chance that it might
4 leak? Some people. I would. It's cheap. Let's say it
5 normally costs \$5 and now it's on sale for five cents,
6 there's only one in five chance that it might leak, would
7 you buy one?

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, I'd buy five.

9 MR. BANKS: Okay, you'd buy five, good.
10 How about apples. There's apples for sale really cheap,
11 everybody eats them, everybody likes them, they're
12 normally, I don't know \$2 a pound, they're on sale for
13 five cents a pound but there's a one in five chance that
14 these apples that you're buying spilled on the way to the
15 grocery store. Would you pay that cheap price and buy
16 the apples? Yeah, I would, even if they're bruised,
17 right, you could probably use them for something.

18 Prophylactics.

19 (Applause)

20 Let's say that prophylactics are
21 available extremely cheaply at a local vendor. A penny
22 for a hundred. But there's a one in five chance that,
23 well, something might spill. Can I see a show of hands
24 of who would buy those?

25 I think that a one in five chance is a

00053

1 serious risk in oil development and oil spills are a
2 serious thing and one in five is way too high. I support
3 Alternative 4 -- I think it's 4 -- 2 -- 2 -- strike that
4 -- 2.

5 Thanks.

6 (Applause)

7 MR. EVANS: My name is Tom Evans from
8 Nanwalek. Which is located at the entrance of Cook
9 Inlet.

10 I know MMS has been trying to make the
11 effort to get ahold of my council and people. They've
12 been trying to do this during the times that we hold as
13 being sacred. Our holidays are as important as you see
14 yours. So let it be known that next December 25th and
15 January 1st we'll return those calls.

16 (Applause)

17 The EIS document to us is written in a
18 fashion which is unfair to my people. We are not smart
19 enough to clearly understand what is being said. This
20 language, to us, is intimidating and how do we really
21 know if you are being honest and fair with us.

22 In reference to your conclusion on
23 subsistence harvest patterns, tainting concerns in
24 communities nearest the spill could pivotal practices of
25 traditional Native cultural practices only now recovering

00054

1 from the impacts and aftermath of the EVOS oil spill in
2 1989. Harvesting, sharing and process of subsistence
3 resources could continue but could be hampered to the
4 degree these resources were contaminated. In the case of
5 contamination harvest would cease until such time as the
6 local subsistence hunters perceived resources as safe.

7 That, to us, is unacceptable because
8 today our resources have not recovered. (Pause) Excuse
9 me. And we continue to take risks without knowing the
10 final outcomes. How would you like it if your stores
11 were to be completely destroyed and not to have access to
12 food you need?

13 The subsistence harvest data by Fish and
14 Game as stated in the EIS is not accurate because it is
15 too conservative. The villages know that the amounts are
16 about three times higher than what is stated. I would
17 also like to state that it was requested during the
18 scoping process that this data not be used because of its
19 inaccuracy of the information.

20 I'm not really here to help change your
21 behaviors. I guess we'll leave that to everybody else.
22 What I want to do is to share with you some of our
23 beliefs.

24 When a decision is being made how it will
25 effect or affect our next seven generations. Basically

00055

1 when we decide something we look to the future and we
2 also look to the past of all those people before us. I
3 would invite you to use this in your decision-making
4 meetings, it might help to shape a better world. We have
5 recently been working on reclaiming what has been lost or
6 taken away, meaning our culture and language. Like I
7 have stated before, all this scares the hell out of us.
8 It hinders or can destroy our efforts of reclaiming what
9 is rightfully ours.

10 Nanwalek Tribe is reluctant to hold a
11 meaningful government-to-government meeting due to lack
12 of trust with agencies such as MMS. How much of what we
13 would like to see be done really carries any weight.
14 Like it has been said before, how much of these good
15 words are going to help my people? How much of these
16 good words are really going to feed my people? All I
17 ever hear is good words. Good words cannot -- good words
18 cannot bring back my dead people.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. HIGHLAND: My name is Roberta
22 Highland. And I just got reminded here, and I don't know
23 why I needed to be but the area we're talking about
24 between volcanos, earthquakes, tides and incredible
25 weather, it's just -- I'd like that to be written down to

00056

1 remind us one more time. Let me get this straight, you
2 represent the Federal government and you, in the Federal
3 government has decided we need to have oil and gas
4 development in lower Cook Inlet in waters that make upper
5 Cook Inlet look like child's play. And even though this
6 community has consistently opposed oil and gas
7 development here, even though it is a known fact that
8 toxic pollutants are a by-product of oil use, even though
9 our government, auto-corporations and oil companies
10 refuse to admit there is any problems with these
11 pollutants, even though a 13-year old is aware these
12 pollutants are doing damage to the earth of their future,
13 even though you want us to accept your reams of facts and
14 figures as the gospel truth, even though there is an oil
15 spill disaster occurring off the coast of Spain and France
16 right now, even though right now there are millions of
17 people sitting in cars in a traffic jam spewing carbon
18 by-products, even though our government refuses to take
19 even the simplest action such as lowering the speed limit
20 or mpgs, even though oil and gas development would
21 completely change our town as we know, I am supposed to
22 think this is a rationale and reasonable idea.

23 Some day we have to face up to the fact
24 the old ways are not working and we need to change. This
25 public hearing seems as good of time as any to talk about

00058

1 who's going to be doing the last decision, she has the
2 last word -- well, I am going to send her this article.
3 Because maybe she will listen to the head of BP who is
4 positioning themselves as a producer of alternative and
5 renewable energy, hydrogen, wind and solar. Let's get
6 moving, all of our futures depends on it. And you are in
7 a position to do something about it, let's work together.
8 In my opinion, Alternative 2, no action is the only
9 probable choice to make.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. ORR: The next three speakers, Devony
12 Lehner, Marla McPherson, and Michael Hensfield.

13 MR. ARCHIBALD: My wife was supposed to
14 sign me up right behind her.

15 MS. HIGHLAND: And I guess I forgot, so I
16 guess if that's okay.

17 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: It's fine.

18 MR. ARCHIBALD: I'll make this fast. My
19 name is Robert Archibald, and I first came up to work in
20 Cook Inlet in 1965, the year after the earthquake. I've
21 lived in Homer here over 20 years, and it seems like we
22 sure have an attitude here and it hasn't changed, good,
23 bad or indifferent.

24 I don't believe that oil production in
25 the lower Cook Inlet would be beneficial to tourism,

00059

1 subsistence way of life or fishing. The history of
2 drilling in lower Cook Inlet has been plagued with
3 problems. I have witnessed this myself having worked
4 down there. The last drill ship that I saw which was the
5 Dimond-M-Dragon was blown off its position twice. The
6 semi-submersible Ocean Bounty had to abandon several
7 wells when they were drilling in the area. The weather
8 down here is not conducive to drilling. The geology of
9 this area, with active volcanos, active faults is hardly
10 a good safe area.

11 The mention of using lake production
12 facilities or floating production facilities is fool-
13 hearted, that should not even be in the plan. There's no
14 mention of best available technology which is in
15 everything that we see around Alaska. Maybe George
16 Ferris, which you folks probably don't remember, was the
17 best technology they had at one time but it's a lot
18 better now and it should be put in words. And Prince
19 William Sound there are six world class tug boats over
20 10,000 horsepower and here, we can't get an oil company
21 to even put one in Cook Inlet, and we're talking the same
22 oil companies.

23 The lease areas are surrounded by
24 wildlife preserves, refuges and critical habitats. Many
25 people use these areas for subsistence food harvest. I'd

00060

1 also like to know what is the status of the Alaska Wild
2 and Traditional Food Safety Program as is stated in
3 Section IV, Page 163 of your EIS, I'll probably have a
4 chat about that when -- the economy of lower Cook Inlet
5 have become more tourists dependent, refuges and parks
6 are a vital commercial -- and commercial fishing is at a
7 critical point. The fish and crab stocks cannot sustain
8 another hit of toxic substance.

9 The economic benefit seems to me is small
10 from this sale. The projected amount of recoverable oil,
11 which mentioned was 140 million barrels seems very
12 insignificant. I feel that the best alternative is just
13 to pull this off the sale list and let it be.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. LEHNER: Hello. My name is Devony
17 Lehner. I'd like to welcome you here. I don't know if
18 you're going to get to spend any time sort of checking
19 out the area, but I hope you do. And I know as each of
20 us comes up here we're struggling to figure out what we
21 can say that matters and I really appreciate the variety
22 and depth of caring that's going on here. A lot of
23 people are addressing environmental issues and I'm sort
24 of deferring to them on those concerns so I'm going to
25 focus a little bit more on some local economic issues.

00061

1 But first I do want to say I'm here to
2 speak up against these leases and I think that it's
3 inappropriate at this time to have the leases at all.

4 To just skim over environmental issues,
5 to leave that to others, I have serious concerns about
6 leasing areas that are so critical to marine resources,
7 especially the regional fisheries, both commercial and
8 charter. And as you know we have plenty of justification
9 for distrusting oil industry reassurances about
10 environmental safeguards. So when the proposed lease
11 areas are regularly subject to rough seas, to various
12 storms, some of the strongest tides in North America and
13 circulation gyers that concentrate pollutants, your own
14 estimate of a 20 percent chance of an oil -- of a large
15 oil spill is anything but reassuring.

16 As I said, you'll hear many comments
17 about environmental impacts so let me just keep it to
18 that any biological concerns raised during Lease Sale 149
19 seven years ago are obviously still relevant. In
20 particular areas omitted from the earlier sales should be
21 removed from proposed sales. I know that you know any
22 rationale human being knows that ecological conditions
23 and biological processes don't change just because people
24 in charge want them to. I want to -- as I said, I'll
25 focus the rest of my comments on some of the key -- one

00062

1 of the key engines that's driving the Homer/Anchor Point
2 economy. When I was in Tampa, Florida in 1990, I was
3 pleasantly surprised to see a front page story in the
4 Sunday travel section of the Tampa Tribune Times called
5 Alaskan Escape at the End of the Road. The two page
6 Universal Press Article touted Homer's beauty and
7 recreational offerings. It was the first time that I
8 realized how much national attention Homer's' unique
9 qualities could attract. In May 1999, Outside Magazine
10 included Homer as one of the 10 best of the best,
11 extolling our recreational and lifestyle offerings
12 alongside those of Boulder, Colorado, St. Martin in the
13 Caribbean, Santa Cruz, California, Portland, Oregon, Hana
14 on the Island of Maui among others. Wow. The April 2002
15 issue of Outside Magazine listed the Kachemak Wilderness
16 Lodge as one of the 10 perfect wilderness lodges in North
17 America. Another wow. Outside Magazine is read by
18 millions of people you can't buy this kind of
19 independent-minded national recognition, you have to
20 actually have to deserve it.

21 Reasons to visit the Homer/Anchor Point
22 area keep growing. New shops, galleries, restaurants
23 have opened in recent years to join those already
24 established. Charter fishing services keep diversifying.
25 We've cold point now, flash freezing charter caught

00063

1 salmon and halibut for thousands of tourists every
2 summer. There's the beach, the beach launch, charter
3 fisheries developing in Anchor Point to Homer. The
4 Federally -- Federally funded island and ocean marine
5 center will open this fall. I don't really see how
6 Federal money going into that is consistent with Federal
7 money working towards these oil and gas lease sales. The
8 two seem contradictory. Expansions of the library and
9 the local branch of the University of Alaska are in the
10 works. As reasons to visit Homer and this area increase
11 so do reasons to move here. In October in 2002, Homer
12 was among 120 small towns included in the book Making
13 Your Move to One of America's Best Small Towns. It's
14 aesthetic appeal and relatively healthy economy were
15 cited among other factors. As the book's author pointed
16 out, people are more likely to move to a small town now
17 than in the past because with the increase in
18 telecommuting opportunities, many professionals can
19 choose to work from anywhere with a phone line and FedEx
20 service. The Homer/Anchor Point population keeps
21 growing. New homes, including upscale retirement and
22 vacation houses are spreading up the bluffs and out along
23 our roads. Homer's first co-housing group has been
24 formed and is looking for families to share its vision.

25 In other words, the area has been

00064

1 discovered and people are coming. Although we may have
2 mixed feelings about Homer growing, we know it will, and
3 that people coming to Homer help drive our economy. They
4 are not coming to see oil rigs and other trappings of the
5 oil industry.

6 Lease Sale 191 and 199 can do nothing but
7 undermine the hard earned economic momentum this area has
8 generated by recognizing and marketing itself as a unique
9 and beautiful place to live and visit. Now is not the
10 time to threaten this momentum. The oil and gas buried
11 beneath the Inlet isn't going anywhere. It will be there
12 in the future if we're too stupid and short-sighted to
13 develop adequate sources of renewable energy to free
14 ourselves from our self-destructive reliance on fossil
15 fuels, especially foreign oil, but at this time it makes
16 absolutely no sense whatsoever to threaten the beauty and
17 recreation that's currently driving us economically here
18 in the Homer/Anchor Point area.

19 And I want to add to that, to these
20 comments, a concept I've been wrestling with lately,
21 fiduciaries, because we hear a lot about fiduciaries now
22 as our elderly parents need someone to help take care of
23 their resources for them, and a fiduciary has a position
24 of profound trust. And I feel like everybody who lives
25 in this area is a fiduciary of this area for the rest of

00065

1 the country. I've traveled all over the country and all
2 over the world and there is no other Homer, and I know
3 everybody can say that about their local area but some
4 areas are nationally recognized as being special and the
5 articles in Outside Magazine are just an example of that.
6 This area deserves us to treat it with all fiduciary
7 respect for the environmental -- the environmental
8 conditions here and the beauty it offers and the
9 recreational opportunities it offers and the lifestyle it
10 offers and the combination of features that aren't --
11 that don't exist anywhere else in the world.

12 Thanks very much.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. MCPHERSON. My name is Marla
15 McPherson and I have a couple announcements before I
16 share my comments with you. The first comment -- the
17 first announcement is that I think we can all agree it's
18 pretty difficult to have a meaningful conversation about
19 the four-inch thick Environmental Impact Statement within
20 five minutes this evening. So I am going to submit
21 written comments and I invite everyone here to join me on
22 Wednesday, February 5th, I believe it is, at Cook Inlet
23 Keeper, there'll be a letter-writing gathering from 5:00
24 to 8:00. We'll have the EIS's available and folks can
25 come to the office and write meaningful comments with the

00066

1 EIS's available and with folks to help you pick through
2 the EIS and understand it. So I invite folks to join for
3 that.

4 And this wasn't originally part of my
5 presentation but I wanted to go ahead and give folks the
6 opportunity to see this before the crowd begins to thin
7 out. And this is an oil spill projectory [sic] model
8 that was developed by CIRCAC that shows a really good
9 example of what would happen in the even that an oil
10 spill occurred from offshore oil and gas. And I'll go
11 ahead and let Bob begin running that now.

12 MR. SHAVELSON: Yeah, we just wanted to
13 give an example of the general spill scenario that has
14 been documented in the Environmental Impact Statement,
15 this is the spill volume that has the one in five risk
16 and this is one of the areas, and as you can see that the
17 spill moves with the tides there's a number of
18 assumptions that are built in here. There's a westerly
19 wind about 15 knots. But when it hits the shore you'll
20 be able to see red lines that start to move out and those
21 red lines, every approximately one inch equals 5,000
22 gallons of oiled that shoreline. So you can put this
23 anywhere, but I thought it was a useful tool just to
24 understand how the oil moves and where it would come
25 ashore under these conditions.

00067

1 The little white things, if you could
2 see, I know it's difficult to see, but they're just to
3 show the surface currents and you can see oil coming
4 ashore approximately right at the Anchor River.

5 This software is downloadable from the
6 CIRCAC web page and if anybody would like more
7 information about it I'd be glad to provide it.

8 So that's really about it, but I just
9 wanted to demonstrate that and I thank Marla for letting
10 me horn in there.

11 Thanks.

12 MS. MCPHERSON: No problem. I think that
13 that oil spill model is a really good example of why this
14 community has traditionally, very vocally opposed oil and
15 gas leasing in lower Cook Inlet, and that boils down to
16 one basic simple fact and that's because we realize we
17 have nothing to gain from oil and gas development in
18 lower Cook Inlet and we have everything to lose. That
19 oil spill example, you can see the oil going up the
20 Anchor River, you can see it going up the other salmon
21 streams and now turning down into Kachemak Bay which is
22 our sustenance. It is our economy, it's our lifestyle,
23 it's our livelihood.

24 And I think our community has opposed
25 this because we're a smart, well-educated and

00068

1 independent thinking community that sees beyond the myths
2 that our government and that the industry tells us about
3 oil and gas. And I'm just like to touch on a couple of
4 those myths right now.

5 Myth No. 1, is that oil and gas will
6 provide us with jobs. The Draft Environmental Impact
7 Statement for Lease Sale 191 and 199 says there will be
8 no increase in Kenai Peninsula Borough employment, which
9 means no new jobs. The jobs that will be created from
10 this development will go to people who are already
11 employed in the industry that live in the Kenai Borough
12 or Anchorage or the North Slope, and will not go to local
13 residents simply because many of us are not trained in
14 this type of technical labor and also because there are
15 people that already employed in this that are more
16 competitive that would get these jobs. So in terms of
17 local community, we would not get these jobs. Also the
18 jobs that might be open would possibly be filled from
19 folks down in the Gulf of Mexico which has very
20 historically been the case in Alaska, that any jobs that
21 come open are filled by people from Houston and people
22 from Oklahoma and the fact is, is that oil and gas is
23 labor poor and capital intensive. So we're not going to
24 see a lot of employment from this.

25 Myth No. 2, is that the State and the

00069

1 Borough need oil and gas for revenues. If we look at the
2 Draft-EIS, we see that the Borough gets a six percent
3 increase in revenues and the State gets a .01 percent
4 increase in revenues. I feel like this is a pretty small
5 amount. As Dale Banks pointed out, we could pay this
6 through a very small increase in taxes. A lot of folks
7 aren't in favor of taxes but I would even suggest that we
8 replace those revenues by a more sustainable long-term
9 industries that we can facilitate in the Kenai Peninsula
10 Borough and in the state of Alaska. For example, the
11 Kenai Borough could put a lot of energy into marketing
12 Kenai Wild. Kenai Wild salmon need clean water, they
13 need the public perception that there is not contaminants
14 in Cook Inlet, and I feel that the lease sale is in
15 direct opposition to that type of marketing. We could
16 reduce the revenues through our commercial fish if we did
17 that type of marketing and also by better marketing our
18 tourism, and these are sustainable long-term revenue
19 sources for our local governments and they would help us
20 and our perpetuation, our dependence on non-renewable
21 resource.

22 Myth No. 3, is that we need oil and gas
23 for national energy consumption. I think we've already
24 heard that the amount of oil that the EIS is talking
25 about is approximately nine days of oil for our country's

00070

1 energy demands.

2 So that leads us to Myth No. 4, that this
3 oil and gas will be for local consumption and help meet
4 our local energy needs, but we've already heard that more
5 than half of the energy developed from this lease sale
6 will go to industry. It will go to Agrium, it will go to
7 the L&G Plant, it will not go to residents. If it does
8 come to residents it won't be until 2022 when this is
9 available and I've heard that 80 percent of our energy
10 consumption on the Kenai Peninsula, residential
11 electricity comes from oil and gas, and I feel this is
12 unfair that the way we structured our energy system in
13 the state has made us dependent on oil and gas when we
14 have a renewable high powered energy source right out our
15 back door in the form of Bradley Lake Dam which produces
16 plenty of electricity and we're even exporting that
17 electricity as far north as Fairbanks and it could be
18 providing our local energy needs but instead we're
19 reliant on non-renewable energy sources which I think
20 should change. And also, I think the whole natural gas
21 argument is just diluting the issue by trying to make
22 people think that it will benefit the local people when
23 the fact is that industry would come first for oil and
24 only develop natural gas as a by-product, so all the oil
25 risks are still there.

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1 So here we can see that all of these
2 myths are false, that we have nothing to gain in terms of
3 our economy and we have everything to lose. We would
4 lose our commercial fisheries, our sportfishing tourism,
5 our subsistence cultures and lifestyles, our scenery, our
6 wildlife and the sustainable economy that we've worked so
7 hard to maintain. We have worked over the last 20 years
8 to build one of the most successful economies in all of
9 coastal Alaska and really one of the strongest economies
10 in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and to bring oil into the
11 Lower Peninsula would create this whole new social,
12 political and economic infrastructure that's dependent on
13 a non-renewable resource that will be gone in 20, 30, 40
14 years. And at that point when that resource is gone, we
15 will be worse off than we are today.

16 So I would like to stay on this track
17 we're on, work towards a sustainable economy and for
18 those reasons I see no reason for Lease Sale 191 and 199.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. ORR: The next speakers would be Alan
22 Parks, Paul McCollum and Kathy Toms.

23 MR. HAULFIELD: Good evening. I'm
24 Michael Haulfield and I live on the Old Sterling Highway
25 near Anchor Point and I thank you for coming and

00072

1 listening to everyone and there's no way I can match the
2 eloquence of people who have come before me, not least of
3 which is Marla McPherson who summed up my desire that you
4 withdraw this oil and gas lease sale.

5 I beg you to listen to the plea of the
6 folks, the majority of the folks who are speaking here
7 tonight to withdraw this oil and gas lease sale. It's
8 not good for our community. There's nothing in the EIS
9 that's compelling, so compelling as to cause us to chance
10 the disasters that would happen to this community, its
11 economy, its way of life.

12 I'm really here to put in a plug for this
13 process. This is the heart of the way we are and what
14 makes us -- this culture of ours apart, our American
15 culture apart from the rest of the world. We can speak
16 out. We can talk to government. We can tell them what
17 we think. But it only makes a difference if you listen.
18 It only makes a difference if you pay attention. I've
19 been -- I wasn't here for the earlier hearings and I've
20 been deeply impressed with how many people came out here
21 tonight to talk to you. How many people will show up, I
22 know, at the letter-writing campaigns to let government
23 know in other ways than speaking here tonight, I'm deeply
24 impressed with what I've read and hear about those who've
25 come out before to speak about earlier lease sales and

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1 stood against this kind of development in our community,
2 to stand, speak emotionally for their community. What
3 you've heard here tonight are people, families,
4 individuals who believe deeply, emotionally in the well-
5 being of their community, they're defining their
6 community for you tonight. It's their voice that you
7 need to hear.

8 It's common, all too common in government
9 especially, and, I think especially in this
10 Administration, I think someone in this Administration
11 actually said this, that public opinion doesn't make
12 policy, government needs to do the right thing. Well, I
13 think the history of this nation, the history of the
14 evolution of our Democratic way of life shows quite the
15 opposite, that it's public policy that defines what the
16 right thing is.

17 So listen to these people. Listen to
18 this community. Listen to all the communities that speak
19 out, so eloquently, much more than I can do, to preserve
20 them, and make decisions in benefit of community, not for
21 the profit motive of individual corporations.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. PARKS: Hello. My name is Alan Parks
25 and I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to

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1 talk to you this evening. And I also want to thank all
2 the folks that showed up to speak here and voice their
3 opinions and concerns.

4 I've been a resident of the area for
5 close to 30 years and most of that time is -- well,
6 actually all of that time has been spent making my living
7 and my way of life on the ocean, and mainly in Cook
8 Inlet. I've been -- I was fishing for crab in the early
9 -- late '70s, early '80s in lower Cook Inlet off Cape
10 Douglas, the Barren Islands and have experienced the
11 extreme weather conditions in the Lower Inlet and ice
12 movement, tides and winds and it's very extreme. When
13 the Ocean Bounty, I think it was, was drilling off the
14 Barren Islands, we traveled by there in December and
15 January and February and experienced winds in excess of
16 100 miles an hour on many occasion. And so it's really
17 an extreme area to be on a boat trying to make a living,
18 nevertheless trying to extract oil or look for oil, and
19 so the area is fragile, too. It wasn't too many years
20 after the Ocean Bounty left that we discontinued a real
21 productive fishery there. So it's vulnerable and it's
22 fragile and the crab fishery is trying to, hopefully
23 going to rebuild to a point where we might be able to
24 have a viable fishery there.

25 The area that's in the lease sale that's

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1 in Shelikof Straits is closed to any fishing of Pacific
2 Cod, mackerel and polluck, because of the importance of
3 those species for the endangered stellar sea lions, so
4 there's no fishing there. And the fishing industry has
5 taken a lot of measures to help the recovery of the
6 stellar sea lion by closed areas, which include round-
7 rookeries and haul-outs and that whole area of northern
8 Shelikof, which is part of the lease sale. So you know,
9 from a commercial fishermen's perspective, the amount of
10 benefits that we've made by having the clean water and
11 good habitat and opportunity to make a living, and make
12 sacrifices to help species that need to recover for
13 whatever reasons and then have this lease sale take
14 place, is a little bit hard --hard to take. With the
15 potential adverse effects that you spell out in the
16 Environmental Impact Statement of production. And I
17 haven't read the document thoroughly, but I will
18 highlight Table B-5. It says the summary of petroleum
19 production adverse impacts the essential fish habitat,
20 and it really hits on all of them. I mean there are so
21 many that in regards to oil development in lower Cook
22 Inlet that is adverse, that will be detrimental to my way
23 of life and the potential for our fisheries to recover,
24 it's just -- it seems like, you know, it's going to put
25 the nail in the coffin for any chance of any type of

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1 fishery in the future in lower Cook Inlet. And for a lot
2 of the recovery of the crab fishery, you know, it's
3 important that we work in a direction that the
4 traditional fisheries maintain.

5 I also would like to point out that, you
6 know, the morning of the Exxon Valdez spill, I was in the
7 Homer harbor preparing a boat to get ready to go to
8 Prince William Sound to herring fish. And we soon
9 realized that, you know, it just wasn't going to happen
10 and we haven't fished herring in Prince William Sound
11 since. So I'm really, really concerned that this track
12 that you're going down is just a real bad way to go.

13 And so I guess in summary, I definitely
14 oppose these lease sales and hope that you would relay my
15 concerns to Norton and President Bush. So thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. MCCOLLUM: Hello. My name's Paul
18 McCollum. I'm a fisheries biologist here in Homer. And
19 I work with the tribes across the bay, Port Graham,
20 Nanwalek, Seldovia, also in the Chugach Region. I really
21 appreciate the comments I've been hearing here tonight.
22 I'll try not to touch on some of the things that have
23 been pretty well established.

24 I am opposed to this lease sale and I
25 suppose that means I'm supporting Option 2. But just to

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1 make clear that it's the don't do it option.

2 And I have to take exception, I guess, to
3 what I heard as an inference that you had some kind of a
4 congressional mandate to reopen this sore that I see
5 that's continually revisiting on us and I assign total
6 blame to your organization, MMS, to, you know, there was
7 no need to throw this back in our face again. We've been
8 there, done that, but here we have to keep struggling.

9 I'm going to -- oh, I failed to mention
10 also, I'm also the Homer representative for the Prince
11 William Sound Regional Citizen Advisory Council and I
12 deal a lot with oil and gas, particularly oil issues.

13 I am going to be submitting a written,
14 13-page written testimony that primarily species some of
15 the problems that -- I'm most concerned about is that the
16 existing oil and gas production in Cook Inlet is already
17 causing not only measurable effects but massive effects
18 that I consider quite damaging to this area. And it --
19 it delineates some of the comparisons between previous
20 OCS samples and more recent samples and other scientific
21 sampling that, to me, shows quite clearly evidence of
22 contamination from the existing Cook Inlet oil and gas
23 industry. And I also list in there several sources of
24 contaminants and fish tissue studies that have been done,
25 both by EPA and DEC, that show particularly that there is

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1 contamination going on from -- very likely contamination
2 going on from existing oil and gas industry activities.

3 So I'm going to get into just reading
4 some notes and it will help me from getting too irritated
5 here, but you can write down -- you can take my word on
6 this, I am irritated.

7 Basically in regard to your -- and my
8 comments here are from my business Sound Fisheries and
9 there's a reason I picked the name, Sound Fisheries. In
10 regards to the EIS, I will challenge some of the
11 statements, in particular the statement that potential
12 efforts from either both sales would not cause any
13 overall measurable degradation of Cook Inlet water
14 quality. For reasons I just said I think that's already
15 happening and I think that's fairly outrageous to say
16 that. Also it says effects to air quality, blah, blah,
17 blah, would cause only small localized impacts and would
18 not have measurable effects. There's a lot of the word
19 measurable in there that's kind of interesting, and that
20 no measurable effects on fisheries resources would be
21 likely.

22 Some of the comments that I did see that
23 I saw some level of intelligence in here, and I quote,
24 local effects could result to endangered species, sea
25 lions, humpbacks, belugas, et cetera, that's obvious to

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1 there's enough time for other folks, I'd just like to
2 read one of the statements in the written testimony just
3 to wrap things up with. The Cook Inlet oil and gas
4 industry and their partners in crime, the government
5 regulators who are supposed to be protecting us, our
6 children, our environment and associated fish and
7 wildlife from harmful impacts seem to view Cook Inlet as
8 a massive toxic waste dump site. MMS suggests that a
9 leverage point for promoting proposed Lease Sales 191 and
10 199, that there is no problems with existing oil and gas
11 industry operations, and I beg to differ.

12 I believe that the information presented
13 in my testimony, and my written testimony and much other
14 available information together with the endangered status
15 of sea lions, the threatened status of beluga whales,
16 serious declines of harbor seals and the current minimal
17 or depleted populations of local herring, crab, shrimp,
18 sea ducks, et cetera, presents a rock solid case that
19 absolutely no more oil and gas lease sales or production
20 should be allowed. I propose, instead, a massive five
21 year state of the Inlet project to be funded by MMS to be
22 conducted by a coalition of local tribes, the Cook Inlet
23 Keeper and mutually selected scientists to better
24 understand, analyze and document detailed existing oil
25 and gas, pollution and other potential impacts. The

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1 the president of the Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce and
2 we've come here in support of the leases with the
3 exception that we would like to see the two areas that
4 have been excluded -- for possible exclusion excluded and
5 we agree that those are sensitive areas and we'd like to
6 see those taken out.

7 We believe it can be developed with
8 responsible development as nobody here believes it can be
9 done responsibly. We also believe the myth of the new
10 jobs, that there is plenty of jobs that would be
11 provided. We know that just from what's happened in
12 Anchor Point in the last year and a half with Unocal and
13 Marathon and the Stariski area being developed. The
14 amount of jobs for the local economy has been phenomenal.
15 They've been very good-paying jobs.

16 The jobs in the Homer area, on the other
17 hand, seem to be mostly service-related jobs at minimum
18 wage or close to that or in the non-profit industries.
19 The support industries, we believe, will create even more
20 local jobs for these people. They're going to be having
21 engineers and just like with the Stariski and the Unocal,
22 the engineers were coming and going and they were staying
23 at the local businesses here, spending their money here,
24 flying in and out in the planes, renting the local cars
25 from everybody, eating in the restaurants. They did have

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1 a significant impact in Anchor Point while they were
2 there. They're still having a significant impact.
3 Starting next week they're going to start their rigs up
4 again.

5 I'd like to say something about talking
6 about the Exxon Valdez and how a lot of the fishermen
7 were bankrupt. I personally know a lot of people that
8 made a lot of money on that Exxon Valdez cleanup and a
9 lot of them were fishermen and it saved several people,
10 one in particular that I will not name, from going
11 bankrupt. Which is a sad way to make a lot of money, but
12 that's what happens.

13 I live on the bluff and I watch the
14 lights going up and down the inlet all the time with all
15 the boats and if I know that there's something going on
16 out there that's creating jobs for the economy, helping
17 the local area, around Anchor Point in particular, I
18 wouldn't -- you know, it would make me proud to know that
19 those lights out there are creating jobs, sustaining the
20 economy, helping the people around here and possibly
21 turning into a good spot for the bait fish to congregate
22 so we can hang around there and know where to go get some
23 big halibut.

24 I believe whole-heartedly in the
25 alternative energy, but until we develop something, we're

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1 still depending on oil, we need to keep depending on oil
2 and the natural gas. I'd love to see them get the
3 natural gas and bring it down here. It's cheaper, it's
4 cleaner. We won't have our 500-gallon diesel sitting
5 next to our house so that when the next earthquake comes
6 it falls over and then we've got contamination on our own
7 property because of the diesel. If we get the natural
8 gas down, that would be really cool, plus it's cheaper.

9 Lastly, I'd like to say this beautiful
10 state of Alaska that we all cherish is funded by oil
11 royalty taxes. We all know that. The school that we're
12 sitting in here now was all built with oil money. But if
13 we keep making it impossible for these people to come
14 down here and want to try to develop anything, they will
15 quit coming down here, they will quit developing, they
16 will leave.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. TOMS: Good. Then we can use our
19 Permanent Fund money and give it back to the government
20 to fund everything because we won't have that anymore.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. TOMS: Good. Then I would like to
23 see you all propose that. Make it real. The school is
24 built with oil money, yeah. Anyway, that's all I have to
25 say.

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1 MR. WHITTEBERRY: My name is Joe
2 Whitteberry. I am an electrician in this area. I've
3 been here around 10 years. I think everybody before me
4 has pretty well explained why not. One of my questions
5 is -- first of all, these are public lands that we are
6 talking about, Cook Inlet lands, and we are the public.
7 Are our interests being served? Are the interests of the
8 future being served by this proposition?

9 In the course of making a living, I have
10 been installing solar and wind powered generators in the
11 Homer and in the statewide area. I know this technology
12 works. I would like to propose that the public interest
13 would be served more greatly by investing time and energy
14 and resources into developing alternative energy. For
15 those of you who say that alternative energy is not in
16 our future, I would agree with that because it's here
17 now. Maybe not in the United States, but if you go to
18 the Shetland Islands and United Kingdom, you go to
19 Denmark, you go to the Netherlands, you go to Germany,
20 you go to Japan. These are lands that have very little
21 oil, so they have to produce energy and they're doing it.

22

23 Energy is the crux of the matter and I
24 would like to propose that our national interest,
25 national security and the public interest are better

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1 served by not progressing with the lease sale and with
2 the funding and progressive research and implementation,
3 key word, implementation of existing technologies, the
4 wind, tidal power, solar power, geothermal and biomass in
5 the prohibition on alternative energies.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. PHILLIPS: My name is Craig Phillips
9 and I had the good fortune to be born in Kenai 43 years
10 ago. So I got to watch what the big oil boom during the
11 late '70s and '80s did to the town of Kenai and in a lot
12 of people and in my opinions it turned it into a dirty
13 little white trash town. It grew up way too fast in a
14 big boom economy.

15 I look at the size of the lease sale that
16 you're offering up here and it just seems way too large.
17 It's been shown again and again that booms are ultimately
18 bad for towns and it's great that Anchor Point is having
19 a little mini boom now in some small way with their oil
20 development they've been doing there, but I watched how
21 it turned the town of Kenai from more of a diverse
22 community of Air Force people and loggers and oilfield
23 people and fishermen and tourist people and miners into a
24 big oilfield town and there was lots of money and lots of
25 industrial jobs and it really changed the character of

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1 the community.

2 I would suggest that it would be much
3 more reasonable to offer up much smaller sections of
4 lease sales to limit the development to a reasonable,
5 long-term gross strategy. You're from the Federal
6 government. I mean our Federal government has been here
7 now for 200 years. It's reasonable to expect we'll be
8 here for another 200 years. When you're offering up such
9 huge lease sales at this time, you know, what's going to
10 be left for the people that are going to be here 200
11 years from now.

12 A number of people have expressed their
13 concerns about the environmental impacts and I agree that
14 there are environmental concerns stated in your own
15 impact study. You're asking us to accept the probability
16 of a 20 percent spill greater than 1,000 barrels, and yet
17 it states in your document that 1,000 barrels is
18 considered normal operating procedures. A 1,000-barrel
19 spill is considered part of the normal operating
20 procedures for drilling for oil and it just seems
21 unreasonable to me that they can regularly spill 1,000
22 barrels of oil as part of their operating procedure for
23 drilling for oil. So another quiet but insistent voice,
24 please withdraw this oil sale. Thanks.

25 (Applause)

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1 MS. ORR: The next speaker would be Lela
2 Ryterski, Craig Matkin and Sharon Whytal.

3 MS. WEISS: My name is Miranda Weiss and
4 I wanted to read a short, prepared statement. Last May
5 Homer was lucky to host Dr. Sandra Steinberger as part of
6 her Alaska tour. Sandra is a toxicologist and a
7 researcher at Cornell and has written several books about
8 the impacts of environmental toxins on human health.
9 Last spring she talked about her most recent book, which
10 followed the nine months of her pregnancy and discussed
11 how substances in the environment can affect the fetus
12 during the various stages of its development.

13 At Bunnell Street Gallery on the other
14 side of town, Sandra was speaking to us and said she got
15 the idea for this book while she was in Homer a couple of
16 years ago. She was at the hospital here getting a
17 prenatal exam when she looked out the window and realized
18 that this place, Homer, Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet, was
19 literally becoming part of her and her developing fetus.
20 She repeated what I think is one of the simplest, yet
21 most profound truths.

22 What is out there becomes part of us. We
23 are made up of atoms and molecules that have been around
24 for ages and will exist long after us. The calcium from
25 the shell of a long-extinct clam, the carbon from a

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1 dinosaur's exhalation, iron from bits of rock washed out
2 to sea. We are made up of stuff from the past and stuff
3 from the present and, combined, this will be what makes
4 up what comes after us.

5 What Sandra reminded us when she came to
6 visit is that we are also made up of what we put out
7 there. Since moving to Alaska, I've regarded -- and
8 since I've started dipnetting across the bay and on the
9 Kenai River, I've regarded Cook Inlet salmon as the best
10 food in the world. My parents told me over and over
11 again when I was little fish is so good for you and now
12 I've come to realize that I can't imagine a better food
13 than wild Alaskan salmon. It encourages me to know that
14 those amazing animals are literally becoming part of me
15 when I eat them. And some day, if I have kids, which I'd
16 like to do, I'd like to be able to feed them clean, wild
17 Alaskan salmon.

18 Lease Sales 191 and 199 threaten what I
19 consider the best food in the world. The draft
20 environmental impact statement finds a 19 percent chance
21 of a large spill if oil and gas development occurs in
22 these areas. I'm skeptical about this number because
23 previous estimates for similar development in Cook Inlet
24 found the risk of a large spill at 27 percent chance and
25 for higher production at a 72 percent chance. But even

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1 with the current estimate of 19 percent, that's roughly
2 -- as other people have mentioned, that's roughly a one
3 in five chance of a large spill into Cook Inlet, into
4 Kachemak Bay, into Shelikof Strait, into the Gulf of
5 Alaska. That's an unacceptable risk to fish, to water
6 quality and to human health.

7 Lately I've been reading articles about
8 how researchers are finding the chemical remains of
9 Tylenol and coffee and toilet bowl cleaner and Prozac in
10 wild streams and they've found Scotch Guard in mothers'
11 milk and researchers have found plastic in people's
12 bodies. We don't know what effect these chemicals will
13 have on our environment and our own health and we're not
14 100 percent sure what effect a large oil spill would have
15 on fish populations and ecosystem processes and human
16 health. Just what does spilling thousands of barrels of
17 oil into Cook Inlet do to the best food in the world?

18 What we do know with 100 percent
19 certainty that we are made up of what we put out there.
20 I eat this place, its clams, its mussels, its salmon,
21 halibut and crab, its raspberries and blueberries and
22 garden peas. Don't put these resources at risk. Sandra
23 Steinberger's mantra, as it should be our own, is what
24 gets released out there through leaks and spills, through
25 muds and cuttings, will end up in us and will be around

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1 long after we are. I urge you to choose Alternative 2
2 and cancel Lease Sales 191 and 199.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. MATKIN: Good evening. My name is
6 Craig Matkin. I'm a marine mammal biologist and I had
7 the unfortunate opportunity to work on the Exxon Valdez
8 oil spill, several different studies. In looking at your
9 environmental impact statement, there's a lot left out
10 and there's a lot of not digging into areas that could be
11 explored a little more thoroughly.

12 Just a few for instances. I'm not going
13 to sit up here for long, but you'll get a written
14 statement later. You talk a lot about pin whale and
15 humpback whale distribution in the north Pacific, but you
16 don't get into the specifics of the feeding areas that
17 are right here within the lease sales and just sound the
18 lease sales. Now you will say that's because there's not
19 enough published material there and you're right. There
20 hasn't been enough published research. But if you guys
21 would dig a little deeper, talk to the people who are
22 doing bird work, they have a lot of information that they
23 can give you and there's substantial numbers of both pin
24 whales and humpback whales that use that lower Cook Inlet
25 area, but it really isn't made clear at all in the impact

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1 statement this occurs. Let's dig a little deeper.

2 You also write out the effects of
3 inhalation and citation(ph) in marine mammals. You
4 mention the extreme toxicity of the oil vapors, but you
5 sort of write out the fact that this appeared to be a
6 major cause of mortality in killer whales in Prince
7 William Sound. I get this feeling all the way through
8 this that it's basically trying to look on the rosy side.
9 Yeah, it's only one in five, but I think one in five is
10 probably too many. I think all of you need to do a trip
11 down here to the Barren Islands area when these animals
12 are feeding and get a good idea for yourselves of what
13 exactly we're talking about.

14 Here's another example of how things are
15 sort of glossed over. The humpback whale situation in
16 Prince William Sound fall in this, well, you're right, we
17 probably didn't lose any humpback whales. What you fail
18 to mention is it was a time when there are no feeding
19 humpback whales to speak of within the western Prince
20 William Sound. I just kind of think that you have a
21 misleading idea that there's not a danger to humpback
22 whales. Well, there isn't one there in the winter, but
23 there certainly is in the summer time. It's really put a
24 slant on things. It looks better than what may be, but I
25 think you need to be very, very careful to make a worse

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1 case scenario because for some mammals in Prince William
2 Sound, that's exactly what we had and we want to see that
3 in your impact statement.

4 At any rate, I don't think a one in five
5 chance makes it any more attractive than the one in two
6 chance or whatever you put out last time. I think that
7 we have to look at what the worst case scenario is
8 because for many species that's exactly what the scenario
9 was in Prince William Sound. Actually, a lot of things
10 have happened we didn't expect that were worse than a
11 worst case scenario, so I'd appreciate it if you'd go
12 into some of those items in a little more detail. I'll
13 send you some written comments.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. ORR: Sharon Whytal.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's gone.

18 MS. ORR: Michael LeMay, Mako Haggerty
19 and Dave Seaman.

20 MR. LeMAY: I don't see Sharon, so I
21 guess I'm next. My name is Michael LeMay and I live in
22 Fritz Creek. I'm the owner/operator of the Good Karma
23 Inn. I have invested a good deal of money here and
24 consider myself very fortunate to participate in the
25 ecotourism movement here in our community.

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1 Our tourism is predicated on a pristine
2 environment, including clean water and healthy fisheries.
3 Now, when Lease Sale 149 was on the block, MMS predicted
4 a 27 percent chance of a large oil spill with a worst
5 case scenario of a 72 percent chance, our community
6 deserves an explanation of why this lease sale pegs the
7 risk of a spill at 19 percent.

8 My recommendation is, of course, to
9 cancel this lease sale, but if Washington insists on
10 cramming this down our throats, I believe that we need to
11 designate some no rig zones. This should include
12 deleting tracks around Kachemak Bay, Kennedy Entrance,
13 Stevenson Entrance, the Barren Islands, Kamishak Bay,
14 Tuxedni Bay and the coast of Katmai and Lake Clark
15 National Parks.

16 In addition, these two lease sales should
17 be subject to and contingent upon zero discharge. It is
18 absolutely unconscionable that drilling muds introduced
19 to waters are now being discharged in upper Cook Inlet on
20 our state leases. We know that the oil industry claims
21 that that pollution is not measurable, but this flies in
22 the face of common sense. By the time it is measurable,
23 our community will be rife with cancer and our fish will
24 be inedible.

25 In the current issue of Time magazine, it

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1 is noted that while omega 3 fatty acids are good for the
2 heart, the level of mercury currently being found in fish
3 can increase the risk of heart disease. Indeed, pregnant
4 women and nursing moms are now advised by the Department
5 of Agriculture to avoid swordfish and shark to protect
6 their babies from mercury exposure.

7 Now, I know that MMS says that zero
8 discharge is the purview of the EPA, but I whole-
9 heartedly agree with Bob Shavelson on this, that the EPA
10 is not to be trusted and that time and time again the
11 agency has bowed to the oil industry.

12 I have more to say, but because of the
13 late hour I will cut my comments short for now and intend
14 to submit more written comments shortly. Thank you for
15 coming to our community and listening.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. HAGGERTY: My name is Mako Haggerty.
18 A couple years ago I wrote to the MMS regarding this
19 lease sale in the capacity of chairman of the Kachemak
20 Bay Citizen Advisory Board, Kachemak Bay State Park
21 Citizen Advisory Board. The board voted against this
22 lease sale and we've been on it for two years. I showed
23 up at the scoping meeting last year and talked to you
24 about it, but apparently you're back again. Anyway, we
25 are opposed to Lease Sale 191 and 199. We are opposed

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1 for a number of reasons that I've already gone through
2 and you have it in the record, so I won't go into it now.

3 I'd like to change hats and just say as a
4 citizen who's been around for a while, and you've heard
5 it again over and over tonight, that this is a
6 meteorologically and seismically and tidally unstable
7 area and it's just kind of foolish to be drilling for oil
8 out there. You know, I kind of feel like you guys know
9 that. Part of me wants to think this is just a scam you
10 guys are pulling over on the oil companies. A way to get
11 money out of them because you're selling something that
12 you know they can't even access. I'm in favor of that
13 because I don't -- you know, if you can get something out
14 of those guys, that's -- you know, right on. But for
15 anybody to actually think that there's going to be some
16 drilling going on out there, I think it's foolish.

17 I've got a number of disjointed thoughts
18 here, but one of them is how did Shelikof Strait get
19 removed from these lease sales and what is the process of
20 getting removed from these lease sales because I'd like
21 to know how that chain of events works. Maybe you could
22 let some of us know. It's not like we haven't been here
23 before, you know. I forget what year it was when it was
24 Lease Sale 49, I think it was. I'm losing track of all
25 of the numbers. I came here in the capacity of the

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1 president North Pacific Fisherman's Association and we
2 opposed it then and you guys are back. I mean, you know,
3 that's okay. It's kind of like the price of a sound
4 environment is constant vigilance.

5 I just got back from a trip Outside and I
6 went down to visit my brother in San Diego and had to
7 drive through Los Angeles and there's freeways everywhere
8 and they're always jammed. There doesn't seem to be like
9 a rush hour anymore. It's like 24 hours of rush hour.
10 But there's this thing they call the car pool lane and to
11 qualify -- these are like freeways that -- you know, 10-
12 lane freeways, you know, five going one way and five
13 going the other. In order to qualify for the car pool
14 lane, two people in a car. So that illustrates how
15 responsible we are with this resource. You know, it's
16 time to cut off the candy to the kids. Nobody seems to
17 be appreciating what this resource is all about.

18 Part of me thinks that one of these days
19 we're going to discover that oil is really good for
20 something and by then it's going to be gone. You know,
21 it's going to cure cancer or something. I also don't
22 have a problem with this NMBI thing and I don't think
23 anybody should have problems. They're not in my back
24 yard. We're kind of responsible for this area and it's
25 our job to kind of keep, you know, at least one area

00098

1 untouched, so I don't have a problem with that and all
2 politics is local and this is my back yard, so that whole
3 thing is just hollow as far as I'm concerned.

4 I haven't heard -- all night tonight I
5 haven't heard any good arguments in favor of drilling out
6 there. The only one I've heard and it was a weak
7 argument is about the jobs, but I've got to tell you I
8 have a job and what's the matter with my job. Why would
9 you displace me for another job. I don't understand
10 that. My job would definitely be impacted by this lease
11 sale, so you'd basically be putting a bunch of people
12 like me out of work and then in favor of worse jobs for
13 fewer people. I don't understand the jobs thing. And
14 that's the only argument I've heard in favor of this.
15 Anyway, I am opposed to the oil lease and sale 191, 199.

16 MR. SEAMAN: Hi, I'm Dave Seaman. First,
17 thanks for the pizza. I'm against the leasing of the
18 tracks for oil sale or exploration. I've fished in the
19 Barren Island area, I've cleaned up oil down that way
20 from the Exxon Valdez spill and I own a piece of property
21 down on the tip of the peninsula at Chrome Bay, which is
22 right at the mouth of Port Chatham. We actually got to
23 clean up our own beaches after the last spill. I was
24 lucky enough to see some of those whales down there that
25 Craig was talking about south of the Barren Islands.

00099

1 Hundreds of humpback whales all around my boat. You
2 could see them on the depth sounder, spotting. It was
3 incredible. Probably one of the coolest things I've
4 seen, I think. It's been said before about the tide,
5 wind and wildlife situation down there. I whole-
6 heartedly agree it's not a very safe place to drill for
7 oil.

8 The oil rig at Anchor Point, like the oil
9 rigs on the North Slope have these -- once they're
10 operating, they have this nice gravel berm around them.
11 If something spills, it's all right there. That's not
12 such a big problem.

13 The second point I had was that I'm a
14 little embarrassed by the United States energy policy,
15 how we go about getting oil resources around the world.
16 I'm a little embarrassed by the riches of the United
17 States compared to some of the other countries that we
18 deal with or we say we deal with, but a lot of times can
19 be more like thievery. It bothers me that some of our
20 most powerful politicians are oil people and I'd rather
21 not have those kind of problems played out here.

22 One more thing that bothered me was that
23 our borough politicians were pressuring for more oil
24 development for financial reasons. As you can see from
25 what I've already said, I'm not into it for financial

00100

1 reasons. That's all I had.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. ORR: We had a request for three high
5 schoolers to speak now because they need to get up for
6 school in the morning and unless I hear some opposition
7 to that, it would be Whitney Cushing, Nate Riedel
8 and.....

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear at
10 all. We can't hear anything.

11 MS. ORR: I had a request for three high
12 schoolers that need to get to school in the morning to
13 speak now and unless there's a strong objection to that,
14 I'd like to go ahead and let them do that. So it's
15 Whitney Cushing, Nate Riedel and Katie Gavenus.

16 MR. CUSHING: Thanks. My name is Whitney
17 Cushing. I'm on the Homer High School's student council
18 and I'm in Homer Alaska Youth for Environmental Action.
19 There are many other youth who are or were in the room
20 who are also from this group. I have come to voice my
21 opposition to these lease sales from the perspective of a
22 student who has grown up here. Homer is a thriving and
23 vibrant community in its own character, industries and
24 spirit. I believe that oil development in this area
25 would be an unnecessary and irresponsible intrusion.

00102

1 risk that accommodates petrol exploration. Everyone else
2 has done that. But what I can tell you is that oil
3 development clashes with the character of this town.
4 Please don't force it down our throats. Please don't put
5 enormous risk to our environment, sustenance, economy and
6 quality of life. Please don't.

7 I know that all of you guys who are going
8 to make the recommendations to people in Washington are
9 good and virtuous people, so I beg you, please, please
10 don't let anyone redefine my home town from thousands of
11 miles away.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. RIEDEL: Well, one way or another, I
15 guess I'll follow up that. My name is Nathan Riedel and
16 I'm also a member of Alaska Youth for Environmental
17 Action. I'd like to thank the community for showing up.
18 This is tremendous and it's great that everybody really
19 values the future of this region. I had a lot to say,
20 but I guess everyone else kind of covered most of it.

21 Real quick, I'd like to point out that
22 these really are horrendous and devastating ideas that
23 you want to force upon our community and, you know, my
24 generation really doesn't want to deal with the brunt of
25 these developments. Controversial reports, rushed ideas

00103

1 and careless design raises suspicion of subterfuge on
2 account of MMS, an organization that really should be
3 having an interest for my future. I'm extremely
4 skeptical of these ideas and I hope that you will
5 reconsider, but thank you at least for showing up and
6 listening to the ideas of the people who your decisions
7 will affect the most.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. GAVENUS: Hello, everyone. I'm Katie
10 Gavenus and I am also a member of Homer Alaska Youth for
11 Environmental Action, but that's not why I'm here. I'm
12 here because I've lived in Homer for 16 years, my whole
13 life, I was born here and I'm going to continue to live
14 here until I graduate and Homer will always be a part of
15 me. I'm not about to let what Homer means to me and
16 everyone else who lives here change just for money.

17 Now, I know money is important to our way
18 of life and how our country runs, but it's not as
19 important as other things. It's not as important as our
20 environment, it's not as important as how we live here in
21 Homer, it's not as important as Homer in general.

22 I really didn't prepare anything to say,
23 so I'm just kind of going with the flow here, so excuse
24 me if I repeat anything. There's not much else to say.
25 Everyone has spoken before me and everyone has brought up

00104

1 good points and I just hope that you listen to them and
2 consider what we have to say because this is our town and
3 this is our lives. You may think you know what it's
4 like, but no one can know what it's like to have how
5 you've been living for 16 years just maybe be taken away.
6

7 I know that it's not going to be the end
8 of the world if oil is found in Cook Inlet, but it's
9 going to change the world here in Homer a whole lot. I
10 hope you take that into consideration and everyone else
11 that has a say in this decision. Before you make this
12 decision, please just consider what everyone has said
13 tonight and the people who haven't spoken but are here
14 voicing their support for those of us who have spoken.
15 Please just consider what we are saying.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. ORR: Joel Cooper, Eric Clarke and
19 Emily Ward.

20 MR. COOPER: Hi, my name is Joel Cooper.
21 First, I want to say right up front that I support
22 Alternative 2, the no sale alternative. I don't think we
23 should have a sale on lower Cook Inlet. There's been
24 many good things said tonight and I'm going to just try
25 to touch on a couple things and maybe enhance upon them.

00105

1 I truly do think this is an economic
2 issue. As of late, with many things happening to our
3 town with a potential for a large corporation store
4 coming in and displacing other local businesses that way
5 and now the potential for this oil sale. Quite frankly,
6 what I'm getting fed up with is the economy itself and
7 the way it's structured and the way we have to work with
8 each based on this current economy.

9 If I were to quote some words of one of
10 my favorite writers, whose name is Wendall Berry, he's a
11 poet and farmer from Kentucky, he begins one of his
12 essays on economics like this. It goes: To those who
13 still uphold the traditions of religious and political
14 thought that influence the shaping of our society and the
15 founding of our government, it is astonishing and, of
16 course, discouraging to see economics elevated to the
17 position of ultimate justifier and explainer of all the
18 affairs of our daily life. In competition enshrined is
19 the sovereign principle in the ideal of economics.

20 I feel that's what's going on here with
21 this lease sale and many other things in our life. It's
22 that we've taken economics and put it above everything
23 else. We've put it above our people, we've put it above
24 our necessities, such as clean water, clear air and clean
25 food. We compete against ourselves, which I think is

00106

1 ludicrous. Why are we competing against ourselves for
2 livelihoods? Why do we have a system that has created
3 the unemployment category? Why isn't there employment
4 for everybody? Yet the oil industries, who can lay off
5 people at a drop of a hat and you'll still have the
6 hierarchy of the industry making millions and billions of
7 dollars, literally. Nobody needs that much money to
8 live. Nobody does. It's ridiculous.

9 Our current economy system has destroyed
10 or is destroying our basic necessities, our quality, our
11 democracy and our local sovereignty and I think that's
12 ridiculous. So I want all of you to consider, you know,
13 if we're displacing one or another, why. Why do we have
14 to do this? Why are we letting proprietary information
15 slow down our advancement of technology. I know MMS is
16 helping in this slow-down by this drawn-out process of
17 lease sales when we could be advancing alternative
18 energy. For an example of an advancement of a
19 technology, let's look to the atomic bomb. They threw
20 Oppenheimer and a group of scientists in the desert and
21 they said make the bomb in a couple years and they did it
22 and look what that got us.

23 So why aren't we doing that with
24 alternative energy? Why aren't we all doing that? Why
25 isn't MMS looking at themselves as part of the community

00107

1 wherever they may be? That we need to advance things,
2 that we are in a dilemma and we need to move on. Why are
3 we even making economics an issue in the advancement of
4 technology. I think MMS can help in this. They have to.
5 You're going to become an employee when there's no more
6 oil and gas. You're going to need a job at some point.
7 Maybe it's your predecessors or maybe it will be you, but
8 you're going to have to be involved in the advancement of
9 some kind of technology to move us out of this, so we
10 need to do that and I think we should do that now.

11 They said -- Bill Potts, if I've got that
12 name right, said we'd probably run out of some of these
13 supplies for natural gas in 15 years and this lease sale
14 could match up perfectly to bring you reserves on line.
15 Well, I say in 15 years let's have alternative
16 technology. Why don't you guys throw all the money
17 you're throwing into this lease sale towards advancing
18 the technology. Give it to us. We'll do it.

19 (Applause)

20 One of the other things I think is
21 extremely unfortunate about our current economy is the
22 absenteeism that is involved with it. The absenteeism of
23 land ownership, the absenteeism of governments and the
24 absenteeism of business operation and ownership. Why
25 can't just people where they live operate businesses and

00108

1 maintain their lifestyles and extracting utilized
2 resources accordingly and determine what can be utilized
3 for the rest of the country, the state and the world. We
4 don't need to be over-extrapolating things just for the
5 sake of an economy just so we can make money. Our
6 systems are not going to last that way. It's just not
7 realistic.

8 In closing, I just want to say that I
9 think we all should be a part of this advancement of
10 technology into a new source of energy and that we should
11 quit withholding these barriers that the current economic
12 system has put before us. We're all in this together.
13 We can make it happen. So just pull the lease sale and
14 let's start advancing technology and let's protect this
15 incredible pristine area of lower Cook Inlet. Thanks.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. CLARKE: Hi, I'm Eric Clarke. I'd
18 first like to say that I oppose the Lease Sale 191 and
19 199. And just like Joel said, I'd like to reiterate that
20 I think all the money and energy that's put into these
21 lease sales could be put into alternative energy and I
22 think that's where the MMS needs to go and that's what
23 they need to tell the Secretary of the Interior. I think
24 everybody should read, if you haven't read, Small is
25 Beautiful, dealing with economics.

00109

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. WARD: Hi. My name is Emily Ward.

4 First of all, I'd like to also thank whoever was

5 responsible for the pizza. That was really well-timed.

6 I have lived in the Homer area for eight years and I was

7 here when Lease Sale 149 threatened our waters. I was

8 here when hundreds of community members told you we

9 didn't want oil in lower Cook Inlet. What makes you

10 think anything has changed?

11 You're trying to make this oil spill

12 scenario sound better in this draft EIS. In Lease Sale

13 149, your base case had 27 percent chance of a large

14 spill, which I guess is 4,600 barrels or something, but

15 you also included a high-case scenario with a 72 percent

16 chance of a large spill. Where is your high-case

17 scenario in this EIS? You're only estimating the lower

18 case of production this time around, so you predict there

19 will be a 19 percent chance of a large spill. Where do

20 you come up with these numbers? Nineteen percent.

21 That's basically a one in five chance of a spill of 4,600

22 barrels of oil. That still sounds horrible to me. Is

23 that risk worth the 140 million barrels of oil you think

24 might be down there?

25 We have economies that are dependant on a

00110

1 healthy Cook Inlet. We have commercial fishing, sports
2 fishing, tourism. We have members of the community who
3 subsist off of lower Cook Inlet. We have belugas,
4 stellar sea lions, seals, otters and a whole bunch of sea
5 birds that depend on a healthy lower Cook Inlet. We have
6 a number of sensitive habitat areas that border the 2.5
7 million acres you want to lease to oil companies.

8 A spill of 4,600 barrels doesn't stay in
9 the water and get flushed out of the inlet like down a
10 toilet to be dispersed in the septic system in the Gulf
11 of Alaska. That oil spill is at the will of the extreme
12 tides we have and the violent weather that blows through
13 here. That oil could land anywhere. Marine mammals and
14 birds are not made of Teflon where the oil just slides
15 right off. Your EIS doesn't even mention cumulative
16 effects this oil spill would have on an area which is
17 still suffering the effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill
18 from almost 15 years ago. A one in five chance of a
19 spill wreaking havoc on all we have here is not
20 acceptable.

21 I could go on and on as to why you need
22 to drop this whole thing. The ugly drilling platforms
23 being incompatible with the natural beauty most of us
24 benefit from economically and emotionally. Or the fact
25 that the government needs to stop catering to the oil

00111

1 industry and encourage the development of alternative
2 energy sources, et cetera, that's already been talked
3 about. It's time to drop lower Cook Inlet from your
4 sights. Make those 2.5 million acres a no rig zone and
5 leave us alone.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Elizabeth
9 Brenvard, Dora Coen, Lee Martin.

10 MS. ORR: Is Elizabeth here?

11 MS. COEN: Hi. My name is Dora Coen.

12 I've been driving trucks for the last few years. The
13 last three on the Slope in winter. I've been working for
14 contractors for the oil industry I'm not proud to say.
15 What I've seen up there is pretty disgusting. I've
16 worked at North Star where they drill under -- where they
17 have a well thing for oil. When I see spills go into
18 oil, I don't see anybody cleaning them up. I see the
19 excavators breaking up the water, to disperse it, to hide
20 it basically. I don't know what you're talking about
21 that you have safety plans in place because I think
22 that's all propaganda for the public, who doesn't really
23 see what's going on. I don't think offshore oil drilling
24 is a good thing anywhere, in any waters, especially down
25 here. Please cancel this whole thing and don't come

00112

1 back. We don't want you. Thanks.

2 (Applause)

3 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Lee Martin? If
4 there are any school kids, why don't we take care of them
5 now with regard to school tomorrow so everybody can get
6 there on time. If there was somebody who had signed up
7 to testify, a high school student or grade school, why
8 don't you come up and maybe sit here in the front and we
9 can make sure we get you.

10 MS. BERAN-MARYOTT: Hello. I'm Gillian
11 Beran-Maryott and I've lived in Homer all my life, so
12 over 13 years of it. I've always loved Kachemak Bay
13 because we have boats so we go out on the water, but it
14 does use oil, so we pollute it, but we also get to enjoy
15 it. So I don't have greed and corruption to have to make
16 our bay turn into something that it isn't and that it
17 doesn't want to be. A lot of people have said how -- a
18 lot of people said -- like brought up percentages and
19 stuff, but I haven't read anything because I'm going to
20 school. So I just want my bay to stay the way it's
21 always been, unharmed and untouched. So thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MS. HIRSCH: My name is Aviva Hirsch and
24 I'm nine years old. I think the bay is really beautiful
25 right now just the way it is and I want it always to stay

00113

1 that way. I don't want it to be like L.A. and
2 California. The Native people back then, they could live
3 without it. I wonder if maybe we could do that, too. I
4 don't know. I think it would be cool if we don't -- if
5 we would be able to not use as much oil as we do today.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 BERET: Hi. My name is Beret (ph). We
9 want to fight the big oil monster.

10 (Applause)

11 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Is there any other
12 school children, young adults? Maybe we could go by age.
13 Next we had Lee Martin, George Overpeck, then Phil
14 Warren, Jeanne Parker.

15 MR. OVERPECK: I'm George Overpeck and
16 first I'd like to say I appreciate all you guys' time for
17 coming down here and catching flack from everybody in
18 town. I just wish that we could get all your colleagues
19 at MMS to sit in one place for five hours while we talk
20 to them also. At any rate, I'm sure that you guys are
21 going to go back and say that the people of Homer
22 earnestly told you that they really didn't want these
23 leases to be sold in the bay.

24 I've been working in the seafood industry
25 and the fisheries here in town for about eight years and

00114

1 I'm lucky enough to be involved in this industry now,
2 which is growing instead of declining, which is shellfish
3 here in the bay. I work for Kachemak Shellfish Growers
4 Cooperative and we're a pretty small group. It's 12
5 family-run farms and myself. I'm the coordinator. I
6 send out all the product, I talk to the markets, I send
7 feedback from the markets to the farmers. We're small.
8 We're not going to break a quarter million dollars this
9 year. So you can see that there's a couple of farms
10 where people are making a living at it. There's a couple
11 of farms where people expect to make a living at it. And
12 there's some farms that are just going to supplement
13 income for people.

14 We ship everywhere. We have a great
15 oyster. We go all over the U.S. One place that we go is
16 McCormick and Schmick Seafood Grill and Rest in Virginia.
17 You might have had lunch there. It's right around the
18 corner from you. So you can see kind of where we are in
19 the market.

20 We're one of the most expensive oysters
21 that you could possibly get. We can't grow an oyster
22 cheaply. We can't ship an oyster cheaply. Our price is
23 based on the ecosystem here. It's unparalleled for
24 producing an oyster that buyers want. It's so clean.
25 Any buyer that we've ever brought up here to look at

00115

1 where we're growing this oyster continues to buy because
2 no place else in the U.S. can grow an oyster like what's
3 coming out of here. Some people say it's the best in the
4 world. I've never disagreed with that.

5 An oyster, of course, is a filter feeder.
6 One oyster can filter 14 gallons of sea water per hour.
7 The quality of an oyster -- what makes our oyster
8 different from other oysters is the nutrient content of
9 the water that it's being grown in. The diatoms, the
10 flagellates, the planktons, which it's picking up, and
11 that gives it the taste that it has. It also gives it
12 the taste that it doesn't have. Oysters in other areas
13 taste metallic or they taste like pulp and that's because
14 they've picked up those tastes from the environment. When
15 you eat an oyster from the bay here, you can actually
16 taste piny tastes from the woods, you can taste kelp
17 beds. It tastes like the bay smells. So it's a really
18 nice product coming out of here.

19 Effluents, even aside from oil, if there
20 are effluents being pumped into the water, those
21 effluents are going to be filtered by the oysters, of
22 course, and they're going to change the taste, they're
23 going to change the nature of the ecosystem that these
24 nutrients and planktons are growing in and it's going to
25 change the appearance.

00116

1 Then, of course, a spill, if there's a
2 spill, I mean it's pretty much shot. But if there's a
3 small spill and you say, oh, we spilled 100 gallons and
4 it dispersed, it's going to disperse into the water, it's
5 going to disburse into the food chain of the oysters and
6 it's going to go into this 14 gallons an hour that the
7 oysters are filtering. What can I say? It's important
8 to me that there not be anything going into the water.

9 When I talk to buyers, I send them
10 scientific analyses of the bacterial counts in the water,
11 of the counts of different toxins in the water. It's
12 very competitive based on the water quality and this is
13 an industry that really has a chance to go a long way and
14 make jobs in Homer.

15 Because of the nature of what we're
16 doing, because it's a cooperative farming effort, which
17 is spread all the way from Bear Cove up there to Jakalof
18 Bay, further up by Seldovia, if a farm in Jakalof Bay is
19 affected, then the entire co-op is affected and it hurts
20 our ability to market if we have one oyster which is
21 going out and not tasting as good as the rest.

22 You said at the beginning that there
23 would be a chance for questions and answers. I don't
24 really have any questions. I've already seen that if
25 there's a problem, if the oil companies cause a problem,

00117

1 they do whatever they can to not pay back fisheries that
2 are affected. That would have been my question. What
3 would happen if there's a spill? How are you going to
4 make this up? But I already know that the oil companies,
5 whoever this lease would go to, is going to sit on the
6 lawsuit and sit on the settlement for as long as they
7 possibly can. So, if there is a spill, if there is a
8 problem, I won't count on it any more than I count on the
9 money that I'm owed from the Valdez spill. That's it.
10 Again, thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. WARREN: Hello. My name is Phil
13 Warren and I'm afraid of the oil monster, too. I came up
14 here in the early '80s on vacation, went on a couple
15 fishing trips, saw the sights, went back home for another
16 year at a well-paying job down in California, quit that
17 and came back here because it's so cool. Got a job
18 sliming fish for minimum wage, enough money to live in a
19 little one-room cabin, no water, no electricity, no
20 sewer, because it was just so cool to be in this area
21 because of the view, the fish, the whole thing.

22 Since then I lost my job in the oil spill
23 and moved on to other things in tourism. Since then I've
24 created my own business, which last year generated over
25 \$50,000. This money all goes right back into Homer and I

00118

1 spend most of my time during the summer months when the
2 business is operating, right in the center of that map.

3 One of the big things that people do when
4 they go out and I just pitch anchor out there and sit all
5 day waiting for a fish to bite is these people just sigh
6 and say it doesn't matter if we caught a fish, it's just
7 so beautiful that I've made their entire vacation, if not
8 the vacation of their lifetime. You could look 50 miles
9 in any direction and not see a man-made thing besides an
10 occasional airplane or boat. It's just beautiful out
11 there, so I wanted to say the aesthetics of the whole
12 area on your map there are a big part of my business and
13 the tourism business of Homer, which Homer is very
14 dependant upon.

15 For anybody who is going to make a
16 decision, I would really like them to go out into the
17 middle of that map and look around and then go up to
18 Kenai and Nikiski and look around and you will see the
19 oil monsters. I've seen them. I've been up there in the
20 inlet and it's not a pretty sight. To me it's not. It's
21 like the giant power grid going through the middle of a
22 beautiful valley. It just hurts me to see things like
23 that. I know they're necessary to have them there and I
24 think you've done a good job of controlling the situation
25 with them, but I know it would definitely hurt my

00119

1 business to have oil platforms in the middle of your map
2 there where I'm trying to conduct my business. I know
3 that I couldn't catch enough fish or take enough pictures
4 to disrupt the oil well in Kenai, but I know that an oil
5 well here could greatly disrupt my business. So thank you
6 for your time.

7 (Applause)

8 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Jeanne Parker,
9 Lindsay Winkler, then Lilly Lane.

10 MS. PARKER: Hi. My name is Jeanne
11 Parker and I teach children kindergarten through third
12 grade, so I'm more used to talking to kids than adults.
13 I feel like I speak for kids a lot and lately I am very
14 concerned for our future for kids, deeply concerned, not
15 just in Homer. It's kind of ironic to spend time
16 teaching kids honesty, to teach them to clean up their
17 messes, to teach them to listen to people and to treat
18 other people well, and then have industry and government
19 not follow these same rules, these same moral guidelines
20 I really believe it.

21 I've also raised a family here. I have
22 two kids off in college who really appreciated Homer
23 while they were here and now they really, really
24 appreciate Homer when they come home. They take
25 pictures, they just say it's the greatest place on earth.

00120

1 They also realize they may not be able to live here
2 because the work they've chosen to do is not here, but
3 they definitely wouldn't come back to work a job in the
4 oil industry that's going to be destructive to what they
5 have always enjoyed.

6 Many people have spoken about the dangers
7 of Cook Inlet. I just want to repeat those. Many people
8 have spoken about all the environmental reasons not to
9 drill for oil and I just want to speak more to my
10 convictions as far as -- someone out there said something
11 close to this. If we don't turn from the path where
12 we're headed, we will get there. What this means to me
13 is our addiction to oil and the economy, the economics
14 guidelines that Joel Cooper touched on, which I think are
15 totally based wrong, that growth is good instead of
16 sustainability, that we produce and produce and produce
17 and consume and consume and consume.

18 If I had a cocaine addiction and I could
19 work more hours and I had done it for a long time, would
20 you tell me that I should still go get cocaine or would
21 you tell me that I need to quit using it? I feel like
22 that's where we are with oil and people are not going to
23 listen until it hurts their pocketbook. So I want to see
24 oil cost what it costs to the environment, to the people
25 and I don't want to just give it away. I wouldn't mind --

00121

1 I mean the best way to change, to really make change is
2 to make it cost. So people are going to carpool with
3 more than two people in a freeway lane.

4 As far as our local energy source, again
5 I just want to reiterate why not pursue alternative
6 energy. Again, you know, yes, we use oil right now
7 because it's cheap. It doesn't cost what it's supposed
8 to cost. So I just think the economy needs to change.

9 I really appreciate that man that came
10 and spoke for Nanwalek. I think it's pretty overwhelming
11 to speak to people that you don't think are going to
12 listen, so I really hope you listened. They've been here
13 a lot longer than us and they really do live here with
14 subsistence or did until we messed that up.

15 Again, just speaking -- well, I want to
16 speak to already the way -- just reiterate the lousy way
17 we are drilling for oil in the upper Cook Inlet and that
18 there should absolutely be zero discharge. You know, the
19 oil lines are old and that has to be taken care of. You
20 can't go on to something new until that's been taken care
21 of. So, I hope -- I've learned a lot tonight being here
22 and I know it's been a long night. I hope you guys have
23 learned a lot and I hope you can take what you've learned
24 back and really make it count for the people here in
25 Homer.

00122

1 (Applause)

2 MS. WINKLER: Hi. My name is Lindsay
3 Winkler and this is my first oil and gas lease hearing
4 and hopefully it will be my last. Obviously opposed.
5 I've been called two things tonight -- actually today
6 while I've been here. I've been called a fireball and a
7 math geek. What I've been doing here this whole time is
8 calculating how many people have been against this and
9 for this and it hasn't been too tough. I'm the 47th
10 person to stand up here and 44 have been against and
11 three have been for.

12 I work for an organization in Anchor
13 Point that uses the consensus process to make decisions
14 and one of the first things that took me aback about this
15 process was that one voice could block the entire group
16 from going through the decision. I originally thought
17 that this ability to block the entire group was quite a
18 nuisance to things being accomplished in the long run.
19 As I have grown with this organization over the past year
20 and a half, my beliefs have changed as well.

21 Tonight we stand here 44 against and
22 three for, against this lease sale. Along with the
23 people that are for this sale tonight, it seems as though
24 our Federal, State and local borough government are here
25 for this sale as well. I guess that the people tonight

00123

1 are your block. One voice collectively we stand up here
2 blocking this sale, saying no to Lease Sales 191 and 199.
3 I've got to say I am truly proud to be a part of this
4 community and standing up here with all of my beautiful
5 friends, standing against this and I get to leave here
6 tonight in celebration of my friend's birthday and a
7 celebration of this wonderful community and the hope that
8 we don't ever have to come back here to stand up here and
9 say this again. So, thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Lilly Lane. Mossy
12 Kilcher.

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She left.

14 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Donna Beran.

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's here. She
16 just went to the restroom.

17 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: We can come back
18 to her. Mary Clare.

19 MS. FOECKE: Good evening and thanks for
20 being here. My name is Mary Clare Foecke. I've been
21 here for 10 years. I stand or sit rather in staunch
22 opposition to the oil lease sales. I find it ironic that
23 we sit here poised as we all are, still on the edge of
24 our seats, basically staring at -- or hoping in vain hope
25 that we will be listened to, that our testimony will be

00124

1 heard against this monster, as Beret put it, of big oil
2 and our addiction and dependance.

3 The irony, the reason it's replete with
4 irony, for me, is in a sancronistic way. We are also all
5 poised on the edge of our seats as we wait for our
6 government and our president to make a decision about
7 risking the alienation of our country and the alienation
8 of the livelihoods and the families and the lands of
9 people across the nation in the name of oil as well.

10 I'm surprised that this hasn't been
11 mentioned yet tonight, but I think it's heavy on our
12 hearts, every single one of us. I'm not going to appeal
13 to the research and statistics and all the heavy stuff.
14 It's been done well and better than I could. I'm going
15 to appeal to the heart, to your hearts, to the hearts of
16 all of us here, to the heart represented by our people in
17 this land of Kachemak Bay.

18 There are a number of different social
19 theories about social change. There's the hundredth
20 monkey where you just need gobs and gobs of people and
21 finally the tide turns. There's also a very different
22 social theory that just depends on a shift of
23 consciousness and that shift of consciousness can happen
24 behind closed doors in a small place and the ripple
25 effect changes -- can change the lives of an entire

00125

1 planet. I appeal to that hope of that shift in
2 consciousness.

3 Tom Hartman, in a book called The Last
4 Hours of Ancient Sunlight, talks about this in chilling
5 detail. With the introduction of our dependance on
6 fossil fuels, our consciousness as a nation, our
7 consciousness as a globe began to change in such a
8 devastating and destructive way. That's not to say that
9 we didn't, most of us, drive here, but as has been said
10 before, we've driven here and we are so dependant because
11 it is so cheap. I think it's time that we do look to
12 shift back, that we don't go where we're going. If we go
13 where we're going here and in Iraq and the oil rigs,
14 there's not going to be much left of us or anything that
15 we cherish.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. BERAN: Hi. My name is Donna Beran
19 and I've lived in this beautiful place since 1984. In
20 1989, I was pregnant with my daughter when this oil spill
21 took place in Prince William Sound and there were crews
22 of people out on the end of the spit where I worked
23 building boom and every day when I drove out there I
24 cried and we would bring them food. I'd like to invite
25 you all to visit our local museum and downstairs in that

00126

1 facility there's an installation of an oil spill exhibit
2 that you really should see. It should be a requirement,
3 just as getting on a boat and heading out into these
4 waters should be a requirement of Dale and George and all
5 you folks who think drilling for oil out here is a good
6 idea because it's not a good idea. All you have to do is
7 turn on the radio and listen to the weather report. It
8 will scare you to death. So I suggest you do that.

9 I also just want you -- well, certainly,
10 you know I'm against this sale. I was here in '95 with
11 the last one with my -- I guess she was six years old at
12 the time. We need to get behind this alternate energy.
13 We've been talking about it. Everybody keeps saying one
14 day. Well, it's today. It's now. This oil thing has
15 got to stop and I think we all need to say a prayer
16 because we're heading down the wrong road if you guys
17 think this is okay.

18 So I hope it's the last time you have to
19 make the trip, although I think you should come and enjoy
20 the whole area in a different vein, different venue, and
21 you'll know that we don't choose to live down in the
22 Lower 48. We all could live down there, but we want to
23 live here and all you've got to do is look outside to
24 know why.

25 Thank you for your time.

00127

1 (Applause)

2 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Valerie Conner.

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Gone.

4 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Dennis Gann.

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Gone.

6 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: I think I've

7 already mentioned Brien Hirsch and Ann Hirsch.

8 MR. HIRSCH: Brien is here.

9 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Brien Hirsch, Ann

10 Hirsch and Dan Winn.

11 MR. HIRSCH: Good evening. My name is

12 Brien Hirsch and I spent a lot of time in school in the

13 old days and I participated in writing environmental

14 impact statements and have participated in writing

15 Federal legislation for various things and commenting and

16 engaging in the whole process. My knee-jerk reaction is

17 to get into the details and start refuting this and

18 challenging that, 1.9, 1.8, .27, whatever it is, and the

19 reality is that's not how things change. What we're

20 really appealing to you here on is from an emotional,

21 heartfelt, spiritual level.

22 The irony, of course, is that even if

23 this overwhelming majority of people who came to speak to

24 you in their most open and honest and just strikingly

25 eloquent ways really did convince you? Even then it

00128

1 doesn't matter because, as you told us right from the
2 beginning, you're not the ones that make the decision.
3 At best, at very best, we're dependant on that pen in
4 your hand and how that's conveyed to the people above
5 you. But really, in very subtle ways, from the very
6 instant we began this whole process this evening, we were
7 told essentially that no matter what we do, even if we
8 convince you, it kind of doesn't really matter because
9 you're not the ones we need to convince. We appreciate
10 you're here. We welcome you. Please enjoy some fish
11 while you're here, go out on the water, what have you.

12 I'm the proud parent of two of those
13 young ladies who came up here and spoke and what am I
14 supposed to tell them about our government and the
15 leaders who say, oh, we need -- no child left behind and
16 we need participation from the youth. They saw what
17 happened tonight. It was 59 to 3 or whatever you want to
18 call it and the government isn't going to listen to us.
19 At least we sure hope they do, obviously, but if and when
20 they don't, what do I tell my nine year old? Just keep
21 voting. Keep being a good citizen. Do you want to know
22 why there's kind of socially deviant behavior? Because
23 the people at the top don't listen to what's going on
24 from the people at the bottom. So that's kind of a
25 source of frustration, obviously. Personally, I do appeal

00129

1 to you to withdraw the lease.

2 Last week some of you folks were on the
3 local radio station talking. There was a coffee table
4 and it was part of the public process and I called up and
5 I asked a question and I never got an answer to the
6 question. The question was, what is it going to take for
7 you to withdraw the lease sale? What if it is 59 to 3?
8 And I never got an answer and we haven't gotten an answer
9 here tonight and I don't think we're going to necessarily
10 get an answer, but that's a question I really hope that
11 you can think about and convey to the leaders at the top.
12 What do we have to do to demonstrate? Is it a simple
13 vote? I know that you go to Kenai and there's going to
14 be a whole bunch of people saying rah, rah, we want oil.
15 And there's going to be people in other places.

16 The gentleman earlier this evening who
17 spoke in favor of oil development essentially said, oh,
18 it's not fair, you know, we're not being -- we're being
19 ignored. The local paper here today, the headline was
20 that in Seldovia everybody was against oil. There was
21 only 20 people. He was essentially expressing
22 frustration for being ignored, his voice. Well, you know
23 what I have to say to him is welcome to the club. That's
24 how we've been feeling for a long time. I think that's
25 the sense of frustration you've heard people speak of

00130

1 this evening.

2 There's been a lot of focus on the one in
3 five chance of an oil spill and that's certainly odds I
4 wouldn't want to play with. One thing I haven't heard
5 much of in terms of potential impacts is not just the
6 spill, but look around at the winter weather we're having
7 or conspicuous lack thereof. There's something very deep
8 and profound going on out there called climate change
9 that our government and some people have been trying to
10 turn a blind eye to that's increasingly difficult to
11 ignore. Even if you don't have an oil spill, essentially
12 what you're doing is literally fueling an already raging
13 fire. Alaska and polar regions, circumpolar regions,
14 both north and south, are on the front lines of global
15 climate change. We had two 100-year flood events in a
16 month earlier this winter and the reason they were floods
17 is because it wasn't cold enough to snow. And you know
18 all about that and climatologists and meteorologists and
19 all of that. You can tell us more than we can tell you
20 except that we have the experience and are living with
21 it. What we're talking about here is exacerbating an
22 already very, very degrading situation.

23 Finally -- well, I don't know finally,
24 but another comment is in terms of jobs versus the
25 environment. It's really a false dichotomy and that's

00132

1 use it in Afghanistan, they use it everywhere. Fuel
2 cells and solar cells were both developed by the United
3 States military and they're used right now, today, in
4 military applications in the most stressful, difficult
5 conditions on the planet. They work. They work in all
6 kinds of conditions. The primary issues are who's going
7 to benefit from it, who's going to lose from it, which
8 are the oil companies potentially, but not really because
9 they own all the patents and they're just waiting to
10 squeeze all the oil out and then they'll shift us to
11 everything else.

12 We know all that stuff and you know all
13 that, too. So the point is that really we don't need
14 this oil, but, on the other hand, if you don't start now,
15 then in 10 or 15 years we're not going to need it at all,
16 so that's part of the reason for the push right now and
17 that's something that if we could just wait a few more
18 years, there's not going to be any issue or any need for
19 it.

20 Another thing that's been mentioned a
21 little bit but not fully and this is one thing that I
22 want to make very clear is that the state of Alaska and
23 the United States government have both been absolutely
24 horrible stewards of our natural resources, our public
25 resources. The amount of profit that is generated simply

00133

1 from the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, not even from the oil
2 up there, but just from shipping it across the pipeline
3 itself. If those profits were aggregated into a single
4 corporation, it would be the second most profitable
5 company in the world. Just the pipeline, not even the
6 oil. The point being that every resident of the state of
7 Alaska should be essentially millionaires and instead
8 we're fighting for tax dollars for our school because,
9 God forbid, we could put our Permanent Fund dividend into
10 any of that. The point being, and I'm not even
11 advocating that. I don't want to get into that issue,
12 but the point is that if our current resources were
13 managed properly, there would be no fiscal crisis, there
14 would be no need for any of the resource development that
15 we are now put over a barrel and saying, oh, we need this
16 to sustain our tax base. And it's very short term poor
17 thinking. So there's probably other things that I will
18 just put in writing and submit to you.

19 This will be my conclusion here. In my
20 work really all over the world with indigenous peoples,
21 one place that I would just draw your attention to right
22 now is in the Great Lakes region of North America and
23 that was at one time an unbelievably fertile place that
24 currently provides drinking water for other 20 million
25 people. It's the largest open freshwater reservoir in

00134

1 the world and the indigenous people in that area cannot
2 eat the fish. Nobody can eat the fish, but the people
3 who lived there initially were absolutely dependant on
4 the fish and ate as much as they possibly could. That
5 was their primary dietary source. You can't eat the fish
6 there anymore. Not just pregnant mothers, not just four
7 times a week. You can't eat them. People have boils all
8 over their body. I've seen it. They literally almost
9 can't touch the water, both in the Great Lakes and in all
10 of the surface waters feeding the Great Lakes, primarily
11 because of mercury that's from coal burning.

12 You're offering us this lure of natural
13 gas, the primary purpose of natural gas is, A, for
14 profit-making for fertilizer that's shipped overseas from
15 Agrium, and the other purpose is for electricity
16 generation. Electricity in particular is now
17 commercially easily and cheaply done with renewable
18 energy. Chugach Electric, the primary utility in the
19 Anchorage area, is now looking at putting in large scale
20 wind turbines. If you do the trajectory and connect the
21 dotted lines to 15 or 20 years when the natural gas will
22 be available for generating electricity in the Cook Inlet
23 basin, Chugach will already have all the wind it needs
24 and there won't even be a need for the natural gas for
25 local electricity generation. So, in many ways, it's

00135

1 very easily shot down from logic perspectives and, again,
2 I encourage you and stand with many of the people who
3 spoke this evening to withdraw the leasing.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (Applause)

6 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Peggy Ellen
7 Kleinleder, Gregory Seckaniec, Charlie Gibson.

8 MS. KLEINLEDER: Hi. I'm Peggy Ellen
9 Kleinleder. I oppose Lease Sale 191 and 199. The risk
10 of an oil spill is unacceptably high. The lower Cook
11 Inlet area is rich in wildlife, critical habitats and
12 varied local industries. Oil spills and pollution have a
13 much smaller impact on multinational oil companies than
14 they do on the individuals who live in the regions where
15 they occur. The EIS does not place adequate weight on
16 the human suffering which occurs when subsistence foods
17 are contaminated, when industries such as tourism and
18 fishing are damaged or when habitats of threatened
19 species are lost. The report minimizes the impact of the
20 profound tragic and permanent losses to lower Cook Inlet,
21 human and animal communities that oil development
22 promises. Please correct this error in your revised
23 environmental impact statement. It will become obvious
24 that the only legal choice is Alternative 2.

25 Thank you.

00136

1 (Applause)

2 MR. SECKANIEC: Good evening. I'm Greg
3 Seckaniec, refuse manager of Alaska Maritime National
4 Wildlife Refuge and resident of Homer, Alaska. John,
5 first, I'd like to say thank you for bringing your
6 contingent down here to Homer and listening to us as part
7 of the public input process for this draft environmental
8 impact statement.

9 Really, what I wanted to say is I felt
10 you shouldn't be the lone bureaucrat here tonight, so I
11 thought I'd join you. Actually, what I want to talk to
12 you about tonight is a couple of areas that are actually
13 adjacent to the proposed Lease Sale 191 and 199.

14 The Barren and Chisik Islands are
15 administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
16 That's part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife
17 Refuge. The Barren Island group provides important
18 habitat for marine wildlife, including many species of
19 sea birds and endangered stellar sea lion. The islands
20 provide security habitat for breeding, nesting, feeding
21 and raising young. The near shore surrounding Palagik
22 waters of the Barren Islands and the lower Cook Inlet are
23 rich in nutrients and support productive biological
24 communities. Forage fish use these waters and form the
25 basis of a complex final assemblage which sea birds of

00137

1 the Barren Islands and other wildlife depend. Perhaps a
2 simple biological example, yet it is a very complex
3 system deserving utmost respect when considering
4 potential effects of the proposed actions. Public use
5 for the purpose of wildlife viewing is increasing due to
6 this incredible richness.

7 Chisik Island, Tuxedni Bay, we've heard
8 it mentioned earlier. Tuxedni National Wildlife Refuge
9 established in 1909 by then President Theodore Roosevelt,
10 recognized in the early part of this country that these
11 were already important wildlife conservation areas. It
12 is also a congressionally-designated wilderness and one
13 of a handful of sites that is mandated to maintain class
14 I air quality per the Clean Air Act. A designation meant
15 to ensure a high quality air standards lending to
16 wilderness character. Therefore, Chisik Island, I
17 believe, should be provided with an adequate buffer that
18 maintains the standards prescribed in the Clean Air Act
19 and preempted the need for remediation or restoration due
20 to degraded air quality.

21 John, not knowing what alternative will
22 be recommended and/or finally selected, if it is not
23 Alternative 2, I feel strongly that the record of
24 decision for the oil and gas Lease Sale 191 and 199 be
25 appended to include the Barren Island deferral and

00138

1 request further consideration be given to an area
2 proximate Chisik Island in the northwest vicinity of the
3 proposed lease sale. Whereas the executive summary you
4 wrote notes that deferral would reduce potential impacts
5 to endangered and threatened species, including beluga
6 whales, stellar sea lions, sea otters, humpback whales
7 and other whales and the deferral would reduce visual
8 resource effects. You readily acknowledge this can be
9 obtained by a simple one percent reduction in the
10 opportunity index by adopting the Barren Island deferral
11 alone. I do not feel it is too much to ask for
12 additional consideration.

13 Now, for a wrap up, I would like to step
14 away and simply perhaps take a little bit from the
15 perspective of being a resident of Homer. I think I
16 would be remiss if I did not remind you that in probably
17 1978 or '79 during the natural resource hearing, natural
18 resource committee hearings on the Alaska Natural
19 Interest Lands Conservation Act, one of the great women
20 environmentalists of Alaska, Margaret Meary, was speaking
21 to the resource committee when she reminded them all and
22 said, ladies and gentleman, Alaska's greatest economy is
23 her beauty and nowhere is it more evident than the lower
24 Cook Inlet from my perspective and in this room tonight
25 it is being demonstrated. I would request that you help

00139

1 us ensure that her beauty is always just that, our
2 greatest economy.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Charlie Gibson,
6 Eric Knudtson, Sally Oberstein.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They left.

8 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Daisy Lee Bitter.

9 MR. GIBSON: Hi. My name is Charlie
10 Gibson. I've been a resident of Homer for 25, 26 years.
11 Contrary to most of the people here tonight, my
12 livelihood is a longshoreman and I would directly benefit
13 from oil and gas exploration just as being a support
14 facility here in Homer. There are so many things to talk
15 about, especially with the late hour, I'll just say even
16 though it would be sweet to double my income, I would
17 just say ditto to everything else everybody said tonight.
18 The whole concept of jeopardizing what we have here for
19 dollars or for expediency is just beyond my
20 comprehension.

21 I think that, you know, we appreciate you
22 guys coming up here and I hope you don't feel that we're
23 too rowdy or hostile. It's an unusual crowd in the sense
24 that a great percentage of us have seen oil on the
25 beaches and picked up dead birds, sea otters. That, in

00140

1 itself, is part of the price of doing business and it's a
2 part that, obviously, we're not willing to go for. I
3 think the part that really hurts and that comes out as
4 anger is that we were so clearly lied to in so many
5 different way over such a long period of time and we
6 would read the little news releases that Exxon would put
7 out and we would know the truth. It's real hard to
8 reconcile that. So I hope you can understand a little
9 bit why it's really hard to deal with any measure of
10 trust at all. Just everything everybody said, ditto.
11 Thanks for coming.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. BITTER: My name is Daisy Lee Bitter
14 and you've proved your patience because you've been
15 sitting here over four hours just like we have. And I
16 would like to say I hope you listened carefully to a wide
17 variety of comments and those comments are from friends
18 of mine and, believe me, they spoke from their heart, so
19 you got their real feelings.

20 For 49 years -- I've lived in Alaska for
21 49 years and all of those 49 years I spent part of that
22 time in Homer and all of the past 20 years, so in that
23 perspective, I've seen many of our successes, but I've
24 also seen some of our mistakes. I think I can predict
25 with a great deal of certainty if those leases go

00141

1 through, this will rank among the big mistakes.

2 I think what we would like to ask you to
3 do is to think positive. Alternative energy is being
4 developed and being improvised and improved and it's
5 coming. In fact, it made me feel so good the other day
6 when I heard there was a fellow in one of the other
7 states that instead of using diesel he made his whole
8 trip on Canola oil and that's very encouraging.

9 The beaches of lower Cook Inlet, I've
10 lived on them for those 49 years. I have lived, hiked on
11 those beaches and taught many classes and taken hundreds
12 or thousands of students along those beaches. When you
13 talk about oil spills and you talk about 19 percent, even
14 one percent, one spill is too much. We were out
15 gathering the coal and were probably some of the first
16 that saw those pancakes of oil out here when they first
17 came in and it's very shuttering to think what could
18 happen if that spill was right here.

19 I know it's a political game and I have
20 faith that you would pass on our comments as we intended
21 it and know how sincerely we delivered them to you and,
22 hopefully, there's some way that you can convince those
23 that make those political decisions above you to listen
24 to you.

25 Thank you.

00142

1 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Jim Levine, Sue
2 Post, Eva Saulitis.

3 MR. STRYDOM: My name is Mel Strydom and
4 I have an accounting service business here in town. I
5 represent the -- I see a wide variety of businesses that
6 I work for and all of the businesses that are -- that I
7 work for in this town I think would be adversely affected
8 by the potential of an oil spill that would be brought to
9 our community by these two lease sales and the
10 development they would bring along with it.

11 Many people before me tonight have spoken
12 quite eloquently and with great passion and with a great
13 deal of insight as to the various problems that this
14 lease sale would present for our community. I am here to
15 support them and to whole-heartedly agree with what they
16 say and I'm also here to ask you what we, as a community,
17 need to do to assure that these two lease sales that are
18 in question tonight don't happen. From being here all
19 night and listening, it is my understanding that you will
20 be passing on your findings to Secretary Norton and other
21 people who will be making this decision.

22 After hearing what you pass on to them
23 they still feel that the right thing to do for our
24 community and for our nation is to develop these two
25 lease sales out here, I would hope you also pass on to

00143

1 them that at the very least, as a courtesy to this
2 community, they come down here themselves rather than
3 sending you and explain to us why this lease sale is a
4 good idea because everybody in this room tonight, or at
5 least a vast majority of people in this room tonight,
6 feel very strongly that this is a very poor idea, it's a
7 very poor time for this type of development of our
8 natural resources and I just hope that it doesn't come to
9 the point where they still feel, Secretary Norton and the
10 people making this decision, that they want to go ahead
11 with the lease sale. I hope they agree with us and
12 listen to what we have to say. If they don't, I hope
13 they can come down here and explain to us and listen to
14 us firsthand, so maybe we can have one more chance to
15 convince them that this is the wrong thing to do for our
16 community.

17 I also want to thank you for your time.
18 It's been a long evening. It's been a long evening for
19 me and we appreciate you listening to us and we certainly
20 -- we do want to know what else we can do besides being
21 here voicing our opinions that can sway the powers that
22 be that we love our community the way it is and we don't
23 want oil to become a part of it.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause)

00144

1 MR. LEVINE: Hi. I'm Jim Levine. I
2 guess, first, I wanted to mention that I was opposed to
3 this sale, so you can check off that box or whatever. I
4 guess everybody that's talked up till now has been really
5 great. I want to thank everybody for coming out and
6 doing that. Anyway, I wanted to kind of discuss a few of
7 the items that had come up, one of them being jobs,
8 because I don't know really anybody that's unemployed in
9 this area. I must be lucky in that respect. In fact,
10 some of the people I work with were here tonight
11 speaking. I never asked them, but I don't think any of
12 them would want to change their particular job to work
13 for the -- an oil job. I did have the unfortunate
14 experience of getting to work on the oil spill. I know
15 for a fact that none of them want to trade their jobs to
16 do that particular job. That was a really horrible one.

17 I guess one of the other items that often
18 comes up is I drove here in order to get here, so
19 obviously I'm in favor of oil. Yeah, I did drive here to
20 get here and I needed some oil. I also went to the
21 bathroom today, but I didn't do it in the living room.
22 In the case of the fellow from Nanwalek, I didn't do it
23 in his kitchen either. So I guess there's proper places
24 to do everything. It just doesn't seem like this
25 particular part of Cook Inlet is a proper place to put in

00145

1 oil platforms and whatnot.

2 I guess from a technical standpoint, I
3 don't really get that involved with oil stuff anymore.
4 After the oil spill I did -- I volunteered with RCAC as
5 well. One of the things I learned there as a for
6 instance, having nothing to do with the oil spill, in the
7 Alyeska plant they have a ballast water treatment plant,
8 which is all perfectly legal. It probably -- what I
9 remember of the numbers anyways, they had as much
10 hydrocarbons that go into Port Valdez from this ballast
11 water treatment plant legally as what was spilled during
12 the oil spill. So even if you have a benign facility,
13 there's always things that are going to be polluting the
14 water anyway. You had mentioned at the beginning about
15 regulations and how you had strong regulations and I'm
16 sure there are a lot of items that were put up for the
17 regulatory process.

18 Again, in Valdez, the most amazing part,
19 I thought, they had a mixing zone allowed for their
20 ballast water treatment plant discharge. They couldn't
21 quite meet the requirements of the mixing zone, so,
22 naturally, what else would you do but enlarge the mixing
23 zone so that you can meet the requirements. That worked
24 pretty well. I'm not sure if the fish in the area
25 actually know they're supposed to stay out of either one

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1 of the mixing zones, so I don't know quite how that
2 works.

3 Clearly, all they had to do was convince
4 the regulators that the regulation was too tough and they
5 needed to have some relief. So I'd hate to see that
6 happening here as well. Actually, it was really fun to
7 be here and listen to all these people with all these
8 great comments. I was sort of dreading coming here,
9 spending the evening doing this, but, in reality, I was
10 like, wow, this is really interesting. So thanks for
11 coming. I guess one thing everybody seems to want to
12 know, what can we do to convince you to stop it and I
13 guess my suggestion would be to explain to whoever it is
14 that the folks at home are really rabid and opposed to
15 this kind of thing and are just crazy and nuts. It would
16 be so ridiculously difficult, that they could go so many
17 places and it would be so simple, that why would they
18 want to have to mess with this hardship of trying to deal
19 with us.

20 (Applause)

21 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: We have Sue Post,
22 Eva Saulitis, Gale Parsons, Patrick Houlihan. We're
23 getting close to the end of the list.

24 MS. POST: Hi. My name is Sue Post. I'd
25 like to thank you all for coming tonight. I've been here

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1 at some of these other lease sale hearings. I've been in
2 Alaska my whole life, born and raised here. I was in
3 Homer the day the oil hit the beaches from Exxon Valdez,
4 I've worked with birds that have been oiled, I've seen it
5 firsthand. I'm opposed to Lease Sale 191 and 199 and
6 would like to see it withdrawn.

7 I guess my dream is some day we won't be
8 so dependant on this oil and we won't be going to war
9 over this black stuff, we won't be leaking it all over
10 the ground and into the water, nor will I have to live in
11 fear that my drinking water is being polluted because my
12 neighbor's diesel tank might be leaking or that the
13 salmon I've eaten here for years might be becoming too
14 polluted. I remember as a child learning that you are
15 what you eat and if this is true, I truly worry about
16 what I am becoming by eating the wild Alaska salmon. Am
17 I just becoming a toxic wasteland because these salmon
18 grow in the waters that are already being polluted
19 because Cook Inlet does not have the discharge permit
20 that other place do? I question why are we exempt from
21 all these other rules that other places have and that
22 worries me.

23 I'm strongly in favor of seeing renewable
24 resources. I know they're out there. People are so
25 worried about jobs and think that there are jobs from the

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1 oil. I bet those same jobs would be there for renewable
2 resources. I don't think we need oil jobs here. As a
3 local business owner, I am quite worried that our
4 business and all of the businesses in Homer right now
5 will be impacted severely in the event oil does come to
6 Cook Inlet and in the event of an oil spill. I just see
7 so many neighbors and friends of mine being without work.
8 Anyway, you've heard it all already tonight. I'm not
9 going to go on. But thank you again for coming down and,
10 again, I'm in favor of seeing these leases withdrawn.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: Gale Parsons,
14 Patrick Houlihan, Bob Shavelson, Frank Griswold and
15 Michael McGuire. That was the list that we have.

16 MS. PARSONS: I very much appreciate the
17 chance to do this tonight and thank you for offering
18 that. Gale Parsons is my name. I'd like to thank Donna
19 Beran for her plug for the Pratt Museum. That's where I
20 work and I would like to invite you to come by. We are
21 closed presently, but I would certainly answer the
22 doorbell and let you folks in and give you a tour, so I
23 hope you can spare some time in the morning.

24 As I spoke with my fellow workers this
25 morning and talked about coming tonight, I said that my

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1 comment was going to be eek, no, and I still feel that
2 way, so I just wanted to make sure you knew that. I am
3 very much opposed to these Lease Sales 191 and 199. I
4 just spent two days across the bay and I can assure you
5 that everyone I spoke to felt the same way that Tom Evans
6 does. It's a very, very deep feeling and those folks are
7 extremely frightened that there could be rigs close by.

8 I would like to also say that Joel Cooper
9 had said a lot of what I totally agree with and would
10 reiterate, but I'm not going to put you through that.
11 Why would my government want to risk thousands of jobs
12 that sustain us? Why would my government want to risk a
13 growing tourism industry? Why would my government want
14 to risk fisheries that sustain us and many people around
15 the world for a few weeks of oil? That's my question to
16 you. I just don't understand it. It doesn't make any
17 sense to me.

18 As Jay Hammond, ex-governor of Alaska
19 said, and I don't quote him directly, I wish I had his
20 quote but I'm paraphrasing, some places are just too
21 valuable to risk them to big oil and Kachemak Bay is one
22 of those places and so is lower Cook Inlet.

23 Thank you very much.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. HOULIHAN: My name is Patrick

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1 Houlihan. Thank you also for coming down tonight. I
2 find the one in five risk unacceptably high. I believe
3 there should be a zero discharge policy for the current
4 rigs in the inlet. I believe that there should be tug
5 boat tanker escorts on all the tankers in the inlet at
6 this time. I feel there is a big risk for the
7 development that we already have now and I would oppose
8 the lease sales. At the very least, I think we should
9 withdraw all the critical habitat areas. There's been a
10 lot of talk about why would the government do this. I
11 find it particularly upsetting that Mr. Bush campaigned
12 in complete denial of global, climate change and how he
13 has turned tail and admitted that it exists but that
14 there's little we can do. Well, we can certainly
15 recommend that we don't exacerbate the problem in such a
16 pristine, beautiful place by drilling for additional oil
17 here.

18 I am also most disappointed that Dick
19 Cheney will not comply with the general accounting office
20 request to release the names of who were present at
21 national energy policy meetings and I hope there is some
22 integrity in Gale Norton that would explain to us why
23 this is a good decision because it sounds to me and to
24 many of the people in this area like a very bad decision.
25 I found it most upsetting recently in the news that we

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1 don't even know who was at our national energy policy
2 meetings. I find that unconscionable in a democratic
3 society. If he's proud of who was there, he should tell
4 us. If he's ashamed of who was there, I'd like to know
5 that too. But the fact that we will not know is most
6 upsetting to me. That's enough.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MR. SHAVELSON: Thank you for coming here
10 tonight. My name is Bob Shavelson. I'm the executive
11 director of Cook Inlet Keeper. The Keeper is a non-
12 profit organization with members throughout this
13 watershed and in various parts of the United States and
14 our purpose is protecting this area and the life it
15 sustains.

16 I guess I'd first like to touch on
17 something that really hasn't come up tonight but it's
18 been in my mind and I think a lot of people's mind and
19 that's our imminent war with Iraq. This is a war that's
20 not supported by a majority of Americans even though many
21 Americans will die. It is a war that's being waged by a
22 president who was not elected by a majority of Americans
23 but instead seated by a special, one-time only ruling
24 from our U.S. Supreme Court. The word is we have to go
25 in quickly because it's going to get too hot in the Iraq

00153

1 away from them because I was in the bathroom talking to
2 one of our volunteers and I was so impressed with the
3 testimony of the high school kids and I said to him, gee,
4 when I was in high school, I'd be happy if I could cram a
5 couple sentences into a paragraph and I heard someone say
6 you still can, I read your comments from the last lease
7 sale. And I looked over and it was the representative
8 from the Minerals Management Service.

9 You know, I like a good joke, but at the
10 same time it got me thinking. As I came out here, I
11 thought, gee, I spent four years on a biology degree and
12 I spent three years on a law degree and I may not be the
13 sharpest tool in the shed, but I put some time into this
14 stuff and probably more time than most people had the
15 luxury of having in this area, so I probably know it
16 better than most people. When I read the EIS, I find it
17 dense and confusing and convoluted and vague and biased
18 and if I had a problem with that, I wonder what the
19 general public had. Then I remember the words of Tom
20 Evans from Nanwalek and he said that his people were not
21 smart enough to understand the EIS.

22 I know Tom very well and I know the
23 people from Nanwalek and I know they're very intelligent
24 people, but they cannot digest the technical prose that
25 you find in this EIS and I think a number of people,

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1 including Mr. Mackin, pointed out scientific deficiencies
2 there. I think unless there are marked improvements to
3 the EIS it is legally a fraud and I think there will be a
4 challenge to it.

5 I do want to touch real quick on -- you
6 know, we've heard so much about industry practices in
7 Cook Inlet and why, but when we're talking about the
8 industry dumping toxins in Cook Inlet, we know they
9 have the technology not to, but they make a choice, an
10 economic choice not to because it's cheaper to spread
11 that cost across the public throughout our resources,
12 including our fisheries.

13 The same has to do with tug escorts.
14 We've heard about the tractor tugs in Prince William
15 Sound and state of the art navigational systems, but we
16 don't see those in Cook Inlet because it would add a cost
17 to corporations and that cost would cut into CEO
18 compensation and shareholder returns.

19 Probably the most dramatic example I've
20 seen recently was Unocal, who, for several years, has had
21 one foot out the door in Cook Inlet and continues to
22 exact concessions from the state government, essentially
23 economic bribery. Several months ago Unocal laid off or
24 relocated over 70 employees. And it wasn't so much that
25 they did that because we see corporations do that all the

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1 time, but the fact was in a press release they came out
2 and flatly declared the reason they were doing it and
3 that was to increase their profits. That is such an
4 immense outrage, yet not one local politician stood up
5 and said, hey, what is your commitment to our local
6 community. The answer there is not because the corporate
7 duty, the private interest, is only to the corporation.
8 There is no interest in the local community and that is
9 why we look to you as our trustees and steward of our
10 publicly-owned resources to make the best decisions that
11 are going to benefit all of us in the long run.

12 I could go on, but I won't, but I do have
13 one final quote I'd like to read and it's one of my
14 favorite quotes. I have to put it into context because
15 it occurred in the later years of the Civil War when the
16 Union had issued millions of dollars in bonds for
17 ammunitions and food and clothing. As a result of all
18 this confusion, we started to see some of the earliest
19 accumulations of wealth in this country. Possibly our
20 greatest president, Abraham Lincoln, went and he looked
21 at the battlefield and he didn't see the rebel army, he
22 didn't see soldiers, but what he saw I'll describe here.

23 He writes: I see in the near future a
24 crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to
25 tremble for the safety of my country. Corporations have

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1 been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places
2 will follow. The money power of the country will
3 endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon prejudices
4 of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few
5 hands and the republic is destroyed.

6 Thank you again for coming.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. GRISWOLD: My name is Frank Griswold.
9 I'm a 26-year resident of Homer. I'm a commercial
10 fisherman and mechanic. I, too, participated in the 1990
11 or 1989 oil spill cleanup. I was stationed in Chrome
12 Bay. I hope I don't have to go back there. I'm really
13 glad to see all the youngsters participating tonight. It
14 gives me great hope for the future.

15 I think this is a very cleverly crafted
16 proposal. It repackages a formerly rejected oil lease
17 sale and presents it as a gas lease sale designed to meet
18 some fictional local demand for energy. But, in
19 addition to gas, it remains an oil lease sale. Now, this
20 may be a small community, but we're not stupid. We can
21 tell that the EIS is biased for oil. The EIS anticipates
22 a best case scenario and not a worst case scenario. This
23 is not only invalid, but it's irresponsible.

24 In response to the not-in-my-back-yard
25 argument, I feel we all have a duty to take care of our

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1 back yards. Some back yards may be suitable for oil and
2 gas exploration and some are not. Our spectacular back
3 yard is not. I am willing to suffer and enjoy the
4 consequences of losing oil and gas business.

5 Many years ago country singer Eddie
6 Rabbit had a hit song. In this song he questioned how
7 other things of worldly value compared to love. He
8 asked, what about money, can't hold it, gold, it's cold
9 and don't keep you warm at night, what about power, it's
10 lonely, mink, it only shines in the spotlight. Okay,
11 I've dated myself here, but Eddie Rabbit's conclusion
12 became the title of his song There's Nothing Like Love.
13 This proposed lease sale is all about money and power.
14 Most of the testimony you've heard tonight represents the
15 love that many of us feel for Cook Inlet and the
16 lifestyles that its robust ecosystem has allowed us all
17 to enjoy. If Eddie Rabbit were here tonight, I think he
18 too would oppose Lease Sales 191 and 199. Thanks.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. MCGUIRE: My name is Mike McGuire and
21 I'm sure everybody is glad that we're on the last name on
22 the list, but the work is not done, I'm sure. Thank you
23 all for coming and I'm really glad that he sang because I
24 wanted a true representation of Homer and without the
25 arts, I was thinking I had to come up with some rap song

00158

1 or something like that. I'm glad I don't have to do
2 that.

3 I've listened from the beginning when you
4 started talking about riding your bike to work. I ride
5 my bike to work. I open a coffee shop at 5:00 in the
6 morning, so I'm one of the first people on the road and I
7 ride down East End Road, so thank you for riding your
8 bike. Let's hope that we provide more of a framework for
9 future generations to ride their bikes or use some
10 alternative way of transportation.

11 I know we're alternative energy and dah,
12 dah, dah. I don't know if you guys -- MMS, Minerals
13 Management. I'm not sure -- like I know in
14 pharmaceuticals they can't control some natural
15 substances, so they don't make them legal or available.
16 So I wonder if we haven't learned how to -- what's the
17 word, exploit, no, control, oh, geez. Sun, wind, water.
18 Hard to really get a handle on. But we want to think of
19 some solutions here, right? That's your job, to manage
20 our mineral resources.

21 Keep them intact. That's the best
22 management of them currently. Why don't we put -- what's
23 your budget. I don't know. Well, California energy
24 crisis. Let's see. They made it available for people to
25 install alternative energy in their homes. And, let's

00159

1 see, if your electric bill was \$70, they gave you a loan
2 that you had to pay back. You guys could make interest.
3 This is in your best interest and you are our
4 representatives. You're our human element. Thank you so
5 much for coming. This is our chance. You are our human
6 element. You're going to go back, just like we get to
7 talk to you face to face, not e-mail. We get to talk to
8 you and you can bring this passion, this love, this life,
9 seven genera -- seven generations. That's three previous
10 -- live with respect to the three previous, the current
11 and the three future generations. That's a duty as
12 humans on this planet. That's your duty and you need to
13 convey that to those that are going to make decisions
14 about our resources. That's your job.

15 Okay, back to your job. Do you want to
16 keep your job? Do you want to make money? Well, give us
17 loans, charge us interest. All the money that you spend
18 on oil/gas exploration, make the framework happen. It's
19 easy. It's profitable. You want to create jobs? All
20 right. So oil industry creates -- let's see, how many
21 people in this room paid the oil industry in the last
22 week? How many got a check from them? And the few who
23 do get checks from the oil company, they make almost as
24 much as professional athletes. It's ridiculous. So they
25 make a lot of money. No, let's have a million people

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1 installing alternative energy frames. How many jobs does
2 that -- let's say they only make 150,000 a year instead
3 of 1.5 million or whatever they want to be able to live
4 simply and sustainably so that their children have the
5 opportunity to do the same and their children have the
6 opportunity to do the same.

7 You are our connection. You're it.
8 You're going to go back to Washington. Yeah, none of
9 this all matters. But, you know what, it does matter
10 because this is why this all happened. This is why this
11 came to be, so that you guys could come here, experience
12 this. You all love your experience out there. This has
13 been hard for us all. You know, I was up at 5:00 and I
14 have to get up at 5:00 and ride my bike again to work
15 tomorrow morning. But you guys had a good experience.
16 Every one of you said it in your opening statement. You
17 enjoyed the view here. Think short term, long term.
18 Like I run a business. You have to take those into
19 account.

20 You have to take logic into account, but
21 you have to do what's right. You have to listen.
22 Please, you are our connection to the people that are
23 making the decision. If you can convey the passion, love
24 and intensity that we have conveyed here to the people
25 that are making the decisions, something positive might

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1 happen and then you, your children's children, their
2 children, everyone on this planet will be rewarded.
3 Thank you for being here. Come back any time. I'm sorry
4 I couldn't get you all fresh salmon. I've been working
5 since 5:00. I love you all.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: That was the end
9 of the list. We'll ask if we missed anybody or if
10 anybody had any final comments.

11 MS. ESPENSHADE: Do we have to be on the
12 list.

13 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: No, but you have
14 to give us your name and spelling.

15 MS. ESPENSHADE: My name is Ginny
16 Espenshade. I first came to Homer in 1982. There's just
17 two things I wanted to say. I haven't been here all
18 night. I had two other meetings. What struck me first is
19 any issue in Homer that you have 96 percent agreement is
20 amazing. In the middle of January, it's damn near
21 impossible. So when you take that back, you may not know
22 that about this town, but any of us who live here know
23 and sometimes we like it, but sometimes it gets old.

24 The other point I wanted to tell you
25 about, that table of young people over there, those kids

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1 walk their talk. They started recycling papers in this
2 school, they physically collect the paper, they got the
3 borough to bring plastic recycling to the school, they
4 walk their talk. They give their own time. They meet on
5 Sunday afternoons and they schedule it around all their
6 other commitments. They're the hope for all of our
7 dreams for alternative energy. If you don't listen to
8 anybody in this room, please listen to what they said and
9 understand that they are the stewards of these resources.
10 It's not my back yard, it's theirs.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: It's just about
14 midnight. We told the school that we would probably try
15 to close by this time, but any others in five minutes?

16 MR. TENHOFF: Hi. My name is Zeke
17 Tenhoff and I'm a high school student here in Homer and I
18 think that me, along with most of the people in Homer and
19 my peers, I'm against corporate oil development, but I
20 also think that in moving our oil development up to
21 places like northern Alaska and ANWR and the North Slope
22 and northern Saudi Arabia, we're just pushing it away and
23 hiding it and in doing that we're not instigating any
24 kind of change because it's not in our faces.

25 For instance, after Exxon Valdez, there

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1 was just a rush of people against oil development and
2 against oil, but I kind of see that slowing down, even
3 though I haven't really -- it just isn't that passionate
4 anymore. I think that I am actually at this point in
5 favor of putting oil rigs in the bay because I think if
6 we put it in front of our faces, then it's going to give
7 us motivation, initiative to change it. I don't think
8 that there can be any change, any instigation of any
9 change if it's just hidden away in the back corner. Even
10 though Homer is a really beautiful place and it would be
11 nice to preserve it for future generations, I think if we
12 move oil development right in here and crash tankers and
13 anialated it that it would alert the world that this
14 actually really is a problem because, obviously, there's
15 so much corporate influence on government and the media
16 that they're telling people that things like global
17 warming and emissions are not significant even when
18 there's farmers -- you know, herd animals down in South
19 America are getting tumors and cancers on their backs
20 because of the radiation coming through the ozone.

21 I think that, yeah, we just -- even
22 though it really is degrading to the environment, maybe
23 it would be a good idea to take one for the team and just
24 show the world that it really is bad, another disaster.
25 Maybe catastrophe and strife is really necessary to see

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1 any change at all. Thanks.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. FORBES: I'll try and be quick. My
4 name is Cameron Forbes. I've lived in Homer for about
5 nine years now. I had an interesting experience this
6 summer. This is apropos of the statement and belief that
7 our resources could be developed safely here in the
8 inlet.

9 I was a deckhand on a vessel during a
10 CISPRI -- that's Cook Inlet Spill Response -- drill out
11 here in the bay and we had a really good time. We got to
12 meet some folks who came down from Kenai whose salaries
13 were paid by the oil industry. They were dedicated,
14 interested, very friendly people, enthusiastic and really
15 fun to work with. They brought down most of the
16 equipment that they'd been provided by the industry to
17 combat an oil spill as it approaches beaches here and we
18 got to practice working with it and applying it. It was
19 an interesting experience. We got to exercise
20 creativity, ingenuity, trying to figure out how to
21 account for missing parts, how to make mismatched
22 components match each other and work despite the fact
23 that they had been designed in ways that wouldn't work
24 and we ended up being able to deploy the equipment
25 finally and make it functional the way it was supposed

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1 to. This was on a summer day with no wind, glass-smooth
2 waters and moderate tides.

3 So, if it was the equipment and the
4 infrastructure that I worked with this summer that
5 informs your belief that development and response to
6 potential spills can be conducted safely in the bay, then
7 I'd like to offer this experience as a little anecdote to
8 show that maybe some of the provisions that have been
9 made to protect Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay from the
10 effects of the spill are not sufficient. If the industry
11 that wants to come in here to Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay
12 can do no better than to provide some of the equipment
13 that they provided us, which was fun stuff to work with,
14 but if that's the best they can do, then I think they
15 better go back to the drawing board.

16 I wanted to say that, additionally, you
17 also said one of the mandates of the Minerals Management
18 Service is to investigate and potentially develop
19 alternative energy sources. Some of the qualities of
20 Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet that make it particularly
21 unsuited for oil and gas development, that is it's
22 weather, wind, wave action, tidal range, make it ideally
23 suited to exploring some of these alternative energy
24 sources. We do have fantastic tides, currents, wind. If
25 Minerals Management would like to come back in its

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1 capacity as developer and explorer of alternative
2 energies and hold a comment period in Homer and see if
3 there's any support for that kind of activity under your
4 mandate, I think you might find quite a few willing
5 participants and the same kind of turnout in support of
6 your mission. So that's all I'd like to say. I'd like
7 to see both of your faces, not only your oil industry
8 hat. And I do not support the proposed oil and gas Lease
9 Sales for 191 and 199 in lower Cook Inlet. Thanks.

10 HEARING OFFICER GOLL: I think since it
11 is midnight and everybody has -- the final survivors. We
12 very much appreciate you all being here. We did enjoy
13 it. I don't know if you believe that, but, yes, we did.
14 We were over in Seldovia earlier this week and had toured
15 around a bit and, yes, we'll be heading up the peninsula
16 later in the week, but our job is to relay this
17 information and what we heard and the sense we got to our
18 managers, the people above us. Again, Renee is from
19 Washington, so she will be seeing people face to face. I
20 still have to deal by e-mail and the phone. Thank you
21 again for all coming and your hospitality. We did enjoy
22 it and appreciate it.

23 Thank you.

24 (Off record)

25 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
3)ss.
4 STATE OF ALASKA)

5 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
6 the state of Alaska, and reporter for Computer Matrix
7 Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

8 THAT the foregoing Mineral Management Service
9 Hearing was electronically recorded by Salena Hile on the
10 23rd day of January 2003, at Homer, Alaska;

11 That this hearing was recorded electronically and
12 thereafter transcribed under my direction and reduced to
13 print;

14 That the foregoing is a full, complete, and true
15 record of said testimony.

16 I further certify that I am not a relative, nor
17 employee, nor attorney, nor of counsel of any of the
18 parties to the foregoing matter, nor in any way
19 interested in the outcome of the matter therein named.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
21 affixed my seal this 17th day of February 2003.

22 _____
23 Joseph P. Kolasinski
24 Notary Public in and for Alaska
25 My Commission Expires: 4/17/04 _