

Statement of Valerie Brown
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Senate Energy & Natural Resource Committee
Hearing to receive testimony on implementation of the Alaska National Interest Lands
Conservation Act of 1980, including perspectives on the Act's impacts in Alaska and
suggestions for improvements to the Act.
December 3, 2015

Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the importance of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (“ANILCA”) of 1980, today, 35 years after its passage. Trustees for Alaska is a non-profit public interest environmental law firm. We represent conservation and tribal interests on environmental and natural resource issues facing Alaskans. Trustees for Alaska has a long history of involvement in protecting the national conservation goals of ANILCA on behalf of Alaskans, Alaska Natives, and national conservation interests.

My comments primarily address ANILCA’s central purpose — conservation — and highlight some specific examples and remaining challenges. I also briefly address the other important components of ANILCA — ensuring the continuation of subsistence rights for Alaska’s rural residents and the access provisions that balance the need to ensure conservation with the continuing use of the public lands and the rights of landowners.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

Considering it “one of the most important pieces of conservation legislation ever passed,” President Jimmy Carter signed ANILCA into law on December 2, 1980.¹ ANILCA’s passage was the culmination of decades of legislative and advocacy efforts to protect and safeguard Alaska’s exceptional ecological and natural resources for the national public interest and to protect them for subsistence use by Alaska Natives. It is an exceptional piece of legislation in what it accomplished on a landscape scale, and it continues to contribute to the vibrant and ecologically rich Alaska of today.

History of ANILCA’s Passage²

While ANILCA was passed in 1980, the momentum behind protecting lands in Alaska for the national public interest began well before Alaska was admitted as the 49th state. Alaska’s rich natural resources have long attracted outside interests seeking to export Alaska’s oil, fish, timber, and minerals. Logging in southeast, oil development in the Bering River area and on the Kenai Peninsula, commercial fishing in inland and marine waters, and mining of Alaska’s mineral resources were all taking place long before Alaska became a state. But beginning in 1892 with the creation of Afognak Island as a forest reserve and fish culture station, efforts have been underway to balance the use and protection of Alaska’s resources. Alaska’s two National Forests — the Tongass and the Chugach — as well as three gems of the National Park system —

¹ Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act: Remarks on Signing H.R. 39 into Law, Dec. 2, 1980, 16 WEEKLY COMP. PRES. DOCS. 2755 (Dec. 8, 1980).

² This section was drafted with reference to: The Wilderness Society, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Citizens’ Guide 6–19 (July 2001).

Glacier Bay, Katmai, and Denali — were all created in recognition of their outstanding values and need for protection in the years before statehood. The efforts to protect Alaska’s exceptional national areas through the decades have enjoyed bipartisan support, from Teddy Roosevelt, to Woodrow Wilson, to Franklin Roosevelt, to Dwight Eisenhower.

When Alaska became a state in 1959, the United States gave Alaska the right to select 105 million acres of unreserved federal lands. This amount was five times the amount awarded to any other state, and Alaska chose well. For example, Prudhoe Bay and the central North Slope was one of the areas that the State selected. It was the discovery of oil on State land at Prudhoe Bay in 1968 that most changed the course of Alaska’s economic history. In order to deliver North Slope oil to market a pipeline to an ice-free tidewater port was needed. Such a pipeline would have to cross land that was claimed by, among others, Alaska Natives who vigorously and successfully asserted their right to settle their land claims before the construction of a pipeline.

That effort led to passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (“ANCSA”) in 1971. Through ANCSA, Congress provided 44 million acres of land and nearly \$1 billion to newly-created regional and village corporations, and also extinguished title to aboriginal lands in Alaska. At the same time, ANCSA failed to resolve the rights of Alaska Natives to continued access to and use of subsistence resources, deferring resolution of those issues to a later time. Conservation of some federal lands also remained unresolved by ANCSA, but Congress authorized the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw up to 80 million acres to study for possible designation as, or additions to, national parks, national refuges, national forests, wild and scenic rivers, and the wilderness preservation system. Those withdrawals were not permanent; they required subsequent action to ensure permanent protection. It was these two issues left unresolved by ANCSA — protection for subsistence and conservation of public lands — that laid the foundation for ANILCA.

Legislation that would carry out ANCSA’s unfinished business of setting aside public lands in Alaska for conservation was first introduced in 1977. That bill did not pass and the clock on the ANCSA land withdrawals ticked toward expiration, meaning that millions of acres of national public lands might be selected by other interests and would not be available for inclusion in conservation systems.

After Congress’ failure to act on a conservation bill and the nearing expiration of the ANCSA withdrawals, President Carter and Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus used executive authority to withdraw more than 150 million acres. These executive actions kick-started the final legislative push to protect our national public lands and pass ANILCA. After various bills were introduced and amendments made, numerous committee hearings held, and extensive negotiations, ANILCA was passed by Congress and signed by President Carter on December 2, 1980, just over 35 years ago today.

ANILCA was exceptionally forward-thinking in what it accomplished. It made long-term decisions about conservation and subsistence that continue to benefit Alaska, Alaska Natives, and the nation today. For example, the conservation benefits of ANILCA have translated into strong economic benefits for Alaskans and Alaska communities. Outdoor recreation alone generates \$9.5 billion dollars of spending in Alaska, supporting 92,000 *direct* jobs and providing

\$711 million in state and local tax revenue annually.³ More than a million out-of-state visitors flock to Southeast Alaska each year supporting 10,200 jobs that contribution another \$1 billion to the regional economy.⁴ In 2014, Denali National Park hosted over 530,000 visitors, who spent over \$5 million in communities near the park, supporting nearly 7,000 area jobs, and generating a total economic benefit to the local economy of nearly \$7.5 million.⁵ In 2011, more than 570,000 people visited the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, generating more than \$113 million in economic benefit for the area.⁶ In 2010, BLM lands in Alaska contributed over 1,000 jobs, received over 600,000 visitors, and generated over \$28 million from recreational use.⁷ Alaskan residents spent as much \$247.8 million each year in local communities as a result of their use of Alaska's two National Forests, the Chugach and Tongass.⁸ In 2012, guided hunters spent a total of \$51 million on hunting packages and another \$3.5 million on associated services while in Alaska.⁹ Almost half of the guiding revenue was earned hunting on federal land.¹⁰ ANILCA lands also support the healthy ecosystems that are necessary to sustain fishing year after year. A 2001 study estimates that Alaska's commercial fishing industry supplies 20,000 direct jobs and supports an additional 14,000 indirect jobs.¹¹

ANILCA's Conservation Mandate

In ANILCA, Congress sought to preserve for future generations certain lands and waters in the State of Alaska that had nationally significant values, including areas important for wildlife, subsistence, wilderness, recreation, scientific, scenic, and historic reasons. Land conservation in the national interest was the focus.¹² In total, Congress protected over 104 million acres of federal land in 13 national parks, 16 national wildlife refuges, 2 conservations areas, 2 national forests, and 26 wild and scenic rivers.¹³ Fifty-seven million acres were also designated as Wilderness, the highest level of protection afforded our public lands.¹⁴

³ Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy: Take it Outside for Alaska Jobs and a Strong Economy* (2013), available at: https://outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/AK-alaska-outdoorrecreationconomy-oia.pdf.

⁴ McDowell Group, *Economic Impact of Visitors to Southeast Alaska 2010-11*, prepared for Alaska Wilderness League 1 (Aug 2012)

http://www.alaskaprohunter.org/Economic_Impacts_of_Guided_Hunting_Final.pdf (last visited Nov. 29, 2015)

⁵ Denali Visitors Provide Economic Benefits to Alaska and Local Area Economies, Denali National Park and Preserve Alaska, National Park Serv., <http://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/news/econ-benefits.htm> (last visited Nov. 28, 2015); see also Denali, National Park's Economic Impacts, Headwaters Economics (June 2015), <http://headwaterseconomics.org/dataviz/national-park-service-units> (last visited Nov. 30, 2015).

⁶ National Wildlife Refuges Provide Significant Local Economic Impact, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., Region 7-Alaska (Nov. 6, 2013), available at: <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/external/newsroom/pdf/13-25.pdf>.

⁷ About BLM-Alaska, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/info/about_blm.html (last visited Nov. 28, 2015).

⁸ Spencer Phillips et al., *Greater Than Zero: Toward the Total Economic Value of Alaska's National Forest Wildlands 5-6* (2008), available at <https://partners.tws.org/wildscience/Publications1/Greater%20than%20Zero.pdf> (describing timber sales in the Tongass and Chugach forests). The estimated annual harvest value of salmon supported by these two forests is \$ 99.7 million (in 2008 dollars). *Id.*

⁹ The McDowell Group, *The Economic Impacts of Guided Hunting in Alaska 1* (February 2014)

¹⁰ *Id.* at 9.

¹¹ Steve Colt, Inst. of Social & Econ. Research, *What's the Economic Importance of Alaska's Healthy Ecosystems? 2* (2001), available at <http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/Publications/formal/rsummary/rs61.pdf>.

¹² ANILCA § 101(a), 16 U.S.C. § 3101(a).

¹³ ANILCA Titles II, III, IV, V, VI.

¹⁴ ANILCA Title VII.

With respect to our National Park system alone, ANILCA provided significant contributions. For example, Gates of the Arctic National Park is America's premier Wilderness National Park. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is our nation's largest National Park. And Denali and Glacier Bay National Parks not only protect exceptional ecosystems, they also host millions of visitors each year, allowing Alaskans, Americans, and people from around the globe to experience the values that ANILCA sought to protect.

Given ANILCA's central conservation purpose, I provide here some examples of the valued public lands that have been protected by ANILCA, starting with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ("Arctic Refuge"). As the U.S. Department of the Interior states, the Arctic Refuge "supports the greatest variety of plant and animal life of any Park or Refuge in the circumpolar arctic."¹⁵ It hosts a huge range of wildlife species, including 42 species of fish, 37 species of land mammals, 8 species of marine mammals, and over 200 different species of migratory and resident birds.¹⁶ The plentiful wildlife on the coastal plain has led some to call it America's Serengeti.¹⁷ Fulfilling its mandate to further study the values of the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded in 1987 that the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is the "most biologically productive part of the Arctic Refuge for wildlife and is the center for wildlife activity."¹⁸

Perhaps the most celebrated of the coastal plain's wildlife are the caribou of the Porcupine Herd. The Porcupine Caribou Herd is named for the Porcupine River, which the herd crosses on its annual migration from wintering grounds in the United States and Canada south of the Brooks Range to its summer grounds on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge 400 miles away.¹⁹ Some individual caribou travel as much as 3,000 miles in making this round-trip migration, making it the largest migration of any land mammal in the world. The Arctic Refuge also provides vital habitat for Alaska's declining population of polar bears.²⁰ The Arctic Refuge has the highest density of polar bear dens on Alaska's Coast — approximately 43% of the land dens — making it the most important onshore denning habitat in America's Arctic.²¹ The Arctic Refuge is increasing in importance for the survival of polar bears as climate change impacts the availability of sea ice.²²

¹⁵ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Wildlife & Habitat, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arctic/wildlife_habitat.html (last visited Nov. 24, 2015).

¹⁶ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Wildlife & Habitat, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arctic/wildlife_habitat.html (last visited Nov. 24, 2015).

¹⁷ See, e.g., The Wilderness Society, About Wilderness Under Siege, <http://wilderness.org/article/about-wilderness-under-siege> (last visited Nov. 24, 2015).

¹⁸ U.S. Dep't of the Interior, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, Coastal Plain Resource Assessment, Report and Recommendation to Congress and Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement 46 (1987) [hereinafter FLEIS].

¹⁹ See 1 U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERV., ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: REVISED COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN: FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT 4-99, 4-101 (2015) [hereinafter Arctic Refuge CCP]; Caribou in the Arctic Refuge, <http://arcticcircle.uconn.edu/ANWR/anwrcaribou.html> (last visited November 11, 2105); Alaska Dep't of Fish & Game, Alaska Caribou Herds, http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/speciesinfo/caribou/images/caribou_herds.jpg (last visited Nov. 24, 2015).

²⁰ Polar Bear Population Map, IUCN Species Survival Commission, Polar Bear Survival Group, <http://pbsg.npolar.no/en/status/population-map.html> (last visited Nov. 29, 2015)

²¹ Amstrup, S. C. and C. Gardner. 1994. Polar bear maternity denning in the Beaufort Sea. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 58:1-10.

²² Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for the Polar Bear

Though primarily marine mammal hunters, the Inupiat people of the Arctic — especially those in Kaktovik which is on the northern border of the Refuge — also use resources from the Arctic Refuge, including caribou and other mammals and birds.²³ Living in villages along the migratory path of the Porcupine caribou herd, the Gwich'in people of northeastern Alaska and northwestern Canada rely physically, culturally, and spiritually on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and have for thousands of years. Gwich'in leader Sarah James has said, “The Gwich'in are caribou people Our whole way of life as a people is tied to the Porcupine caribou. It is in our language, and our songs and stories.”²⁴ Because of their deep reliance on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the Gwich'in consider the coastal plain the “Sacred Place Where Life Begins.”²⁵

Another area protected by ANILCA was the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (“Izembek Refuge”), which is an internationally recognized wetland and world class habitat for migratory birds, marine life, and mammals. Located on the tip of the Alaska Peninsula, this important ecosystem supports some of America’s most iconic wildlife. Characterized by a narrow isthmus of rolling tundra filled with pot-hole lakes and surrounded by sheltered wetlands, lagoons and shallow bays, this ecologically diverse refuge contains unique and undisturbed habitats, including the world’s largest eelgrass beds. The ecological values of Izembek were recognized long before ANILCA’s passage.²⁶ In 1980, with ANILCA’s passage, the Izembek Range was redesignated as the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (“Izembek Refuge”) and the majority of the Izembek Refuge was designated as Wilderness.²⁷ The Wilderness lands within Izembek provide sanctuary to an array of wildlife, including brown bears, wolves and caribou which rely on the Izembek isthmus between Izembek Lagoon and Kinzarof Lagoon as an essential travel corridor. The Izembek isthmus links the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and the Unimak Island Wilderness Area of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife

(*Ursus maritimus*) Throughout Its Range; Final Rule, 73 Fed. Reg. 28,212-01, 28,213, 28,257–8 (May 15, 2008).

²³ See NAT’L RESEARCH COUNCIL, CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON ALASKA’S NORTH SLOPE 19, 22 (2003) [hereinafter NRC REPORT]; H.R. 39, *Arctic Coastal Plain Domestic Energy Security Act of 2003*; and H.R. 770, *Morris K. Udall Arctic Wilderness Act: Legislative Field Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Res.*, 108th Cong., 1st Sess. 10–14 (Apr. 5, 2003) (testimony of Robert Thompson), available at <http://bulk.resource.org/gpo.gov/hearings/108h/86329.pdf>; Robert Thompson, Opinion: ANWR: Hunting in wilderness, not an oil field, Alaska Dispatch News (Feb. 18, 2015), <http://www.adn.com/article/20150218/anwr-hunting-wilderness-not-oil-field> (last visited Nov. 28, 2015).

²⁴ Gwich'in Steering Comm. et al., *A Moral Choice for the United States: The Human Rights Implications for the Gwich'in of Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge* (2005), available at <http://www.gwichinsteeringcommittee.org/GSChumanrightsreport.pdf>; see also *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Energy & Natural Res.*, 100th Cong. 313 (1987) (Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., Resolution No. 87-65) (noting that Arctic Village, Venetie, and Old Crow “are extremely dependent upon the population and distribution of the Porcupine Caribou herd as a matter of economics, nutrition, and cultural heritage”).

²⁵ Gwich'in Steering Comm. et al., *supra*, at 18.

²⁶ Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of the Interior, Secretary Seaton Creates Izembek National Wildlife Range in Alaska (Dec. 7, 1960) (noting that initial efforts to protect the area began in the 1940s and noting that the Izembek National Wildlife Range was established as a “refuge, breeding ground, and management area for all forms of wildlife” because of the area’s importance for waterfowl, brown bear, and caribou and “contain[s] the most important concentration point for waterfowl in Alaska”); Public Land Order 2216, Establishing the Izembek National Wildlife Range (Dec. 6, 1960.) (establishing the Izembek National Wildlife Range).

²⁷ ANILCA §§ 303(3), 702(6).

Refuge. Maintaining the integrity of these Wilderness lands in perpetuity is vital to protecting the values of the Izembek Refuge that ANILCA sought to protect.

Completing ANILCA's Conservation Vision

The benefits of ANILCA are evident today as we look around our state. From the mountain vistas of Denali National Park, to the calving glaciers of Glacier Bay and Kenai Fjords National Parks, to the vibrant coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the natural systems and Alaska Native people that conservation areas sustain. ANILCA's benefits surround all Alaskans and continue to enrich and benefit not only Alaskans, but all Americans, and will do so into the future.

While ANILCA was expansive in its accomplishments, some issues were left unresolved. One of those issues is Wilderness for lands in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service updated the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic Refuge.²⁸ During the public comment period, nearly 1 million comments were submitted supporting Wilderness for the Arctic Refuge. As a result of that effort, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the President all made historic recommendations that called on Congress to designate nearly all non-Wilderness portions of the Arctic Refuge as Wilderness. In doing so, the President stated that "This area is one of the most beautiful, undisturbed places in the world. It is a national treasure and should be permanently protected through legislation for future generations."²⁹ Congress should act on the President's recommendation and designate those non-wilderness lands as Wilderness. By designating the Coastal Plain as Wilderness, Congress would also eliminate the threat of oil and gas drilling to the Refuge and permanently protect its irreplaceable landscape for generations to come.

Threats to ANILCA's Integrity

Unfortunately, the threats to ANILCA's integrity began almost as soon as it was passed. From land exchanges, to recommendations to open the entire Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development, to weak regulations and agency directives for its implementation, attempts to weaken ANILCA's protections have been frequent. But because of the constant involvement of dedicated Alaskans, including Alaska Natives and conservationists within the state, and strong opposition from across the nation, many of these threats have been defeated or pushed back.

One current threat to ANILCA's integrity is the challenge to the National Park Service's authority to regulate activities on navigable waters in National Parks and Preserves. After more than a decade of litigation, federal authority to guarantee subsistence fishing access on navigable waters in ANILCA's conservation system units was settled by a 2013 court decision.³⁰ Despite that precedent, the U.S. Supreme Court recently granted John Sturgeon's petition for certiorari on this issue. If the Court were to rule broadly that ANILCA divested the National Park Service,

²⁸ See Arctic Refuge CCP at S-27; Letter from the President — Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Proposed Designations (Apr. 3, 2015), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/03/letter-president-arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-proposed-designations> (last visited Nov. 24, 2015).

²⁹ Letter from the President — Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Proposed Designations (Apr. 3, 2015), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/03/letter-president-arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-proposed-designations> (last visited Nov. 24, 2015).

³⁰ *John v. United States*, 720 F.3d 1214 (9th Cir. 2013).

and by extension other federal land managers, of the ability to manage navigable waters within Conservation System Units (“CSUs”) (including National Wildlife Refuges, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Conservation Areas in addition to National Parks and Preserves), then those federal agencies would lose the ability to effectively implement the purposes of ANILCA’s conservation system units — those purposes include protections for subsistence uses, fish habitat, water quality and quantity, and International treaty rights. In the Yukon Charley Rivers National Preserve, the National Park Service would be unable to protect the specific ecological and cultural values of the Yukon and Charley Rivers that the Preserve was created to protect.

In addition, Congress created a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife in Title VIII because it found subsistence uses to be essential to “Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence and to non-Native physical, economic, traditional, and social existence.”³¹ If the Court were to rule broadly that ANILCA divested the National Park Service of authority, then by extension, the Secretary of Interior would lose her authority to regulate and protect the subsistence priority on federal lands and waters.

ANILCA already provides for reasonable access to and development of non-federal lands within conservation system units. Congress should thus vigilantly defend the current management approach to navigable waters.

ANILCA’s Access Provisions — Balancing Use and the Interests of Other Land Owners

In Title XI of ANILCA, Congress ensured that reasonable access would be provided to and over federal public land. People engaged in traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, and berry picking may access public lands by snowmachine, motorboat, airplane and nonmotorized means (such as dogsleds).³² ANILCA also guarantees a permanent right of access to private or state land inholdings, including subsurface rights.³³ And anyone holding a valid mining right or other valid occupancy right surrounded by public lands is guaranteed access for economic and other purposes. Access is also granted for travel to and from villages and homesites.³⁴ Finally, ANILCA grants a temporary right of access to the State or private land owner to conduct survey, geophysical, exploratory or other temporary uses.³⁵

Climate Change

While climate change was not a driving force behind ANILCA’s passage, ANILCA’s benefits in the face of climate change cannot go unremarked. Alaska is experiencing the impacts of climate change at a higher rate than anywhere else in the nation. The state’s average temperature has risen 4 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 50 years, permafrost is melting, and significant portions of the coast are eroding into the sea. ANILCA’s protected ecosystems provide scientists the unrivaled ability to study, understand, and suggest ways to offset the impacts of climate change, and wildlife and communities critical opportunities to adapt to it. The value of protecting large, intact ecosystems as ANILCA becomes increasingly important every year.

³¹ 16 U.S.C. § 3111.

³² 16 U.S.C. § 3170.

³³ *Id.* § 3170(b).

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ 16 U.S.C. § 3171.

Conclusion

ANILCA truly was monumental in what it accomplished. It was the culmination of extensive work by conservation, Alaska Native, state, and federal interests. While some work remains to be done, in large part it has accomplished its central goal of protecting national public interest lands on a landscape scale. Through ANILCA, Congress also helped protect access of Alaskans to subsistence resources, and the interests of a young State in access to its unprecedented wealth in state-owned lands and resources. While there remain areas where Congress should act to complete ANILCA's vision and areas where Congress can act to protect and enhance ANILCA's goals, the central vision and purpose of ANILCA remains strong today. It has safeguarded some of the nation's most cherished public lands for the benefit future generations. Congress should continue to reject weakening amendments to ANILCA.

When it comes to ANILCA's impact on climate, Congress also proved prescient. The combustion of fossil fuels leads to climate change, which is having devastating effects on the world and within Alaska. To deny that is to deny science and reality. Oil is also a finite resource. For these two reasons Alaska must transition to a more diverse and sustainable model for the future. Failing to do so places future generations of Alaskans at even greater environmental and economic risk.

ANILCA has ensured that we also have sustainable environmental resources that are the envy of the world and which will continue to be an important foundation for jobs and the economy of Alaska. This is a legacy both to be proud of and to advance into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.