

WILDERNESS STUDY REPORT

Vol. III Public Hearing Transcripts

Kenai National Moose Range

Alaska

VOLUME III

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Section
Public Hearing Transcript.....	X
Anchorage, Alaska	
Kenai, Alaska	

Section X. Public Hearing Transcript

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

2 IN THE MATTER OF:

3
4 KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE
5 WILDERNESS HEARING
6
7
8

9 Anchorage, Alaska

10 June 23, 1971

11 Sydney Lawrence Auditorium
12

13
14
15 ROBERT E. PRICE, REGIONAL SOLICITOR, PRESIDING
16
17
18

19
20
21 B & I COURT REPORTING SERVICE
22 401 K Street
23 Anchorage, Alaska

24 Reporter: Fred B. Jones
25

PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT INDEX

PORTION I. HEARING HELD IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, JUNE 23, 1971

	Page
Price, Robert E., Regional Solicitor for U. S. Department of the Interior, presiding Hearing Officer	2-212
Watson, Gordon, Alaska Area Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Anchorage, Alaska; Bureau Statement	5-12
Havelock, John, Pouch R, Juneau, Alaska; Attorney General of Alaska, personal representative of Governor Egan; oral statement	14-20
Croft, Chancy, Representative in Alaska State Legislature, Anchorage, Alaska; letter read into the record.	21
Rose, Mike, Representative to Alaska State Legislature, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	21-24
Matlock, Charles, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Highways, Juneau, Alaska; oral statement	24-28
Blum, Joseph, Chief of Habitat, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau, Alaska; oral statement	29-41
Mason, John D., District Judge, Alaska Court Building, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	41-45
Bessent, Jack, Anchorage, Alaska, representing the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club; oral statement	46-49
Kelly, Thomas E., 700 H. Street, Suite 2, Anchorage, Alaska; consultant in earth sciences; oral statement	49-55
Wright, Gordon, representing the Alaska Conservation Society, Box 5-051, Fairbanks, Alaska; oral statement	56-59
Hopkins, William W., representing the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, 425 G Street, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	60-69
Ganopole, Gerald, 2536 Arlington Drive, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	69-70
Jones, Carroll, representing the NOrdic Ski Club, 6604 Mink Street, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	70-71

Brown, Alice E., representing the Kennaitza Indian Association, 532 East 9th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	Page 72-74
Ganopole, Mark, representing the Alaska Wilderness Council, P.O. Box 4-470, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	74-79
Kvalvik, Gene, Box 404B, Star Route A, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement and 100 letters personally solicited for the record	79-81 appended
Brudie, Eivin, representing the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Star Route A, Box 241, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	81-83
O'Meara, Michael, representing the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club, 800 South Lane Street, # 1, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	84-91
Webber, Charles R., representing the Anchorage Area Chamber of Commerce, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	92-99
Blake, Herbert H., representing Alaska Consolidated Outdoor Recreation, Inc., 7729 Anne Circle, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	99-104
Hickok, David, representing the University of Alaska Sea Grant Program, 108 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	105-109
Winkley, Barbara Anne, 915 W. 25th, Apt. 8, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	109-117
Foster, Odette, 2631 West 34th, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	117-118
Ricker, Dan, P. O. Box 4-275, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	118-119
Pomeroy, Harold E., 4048 Wright Street, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	119-132
Farmen, Darrell, 3822 Spenard Road, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	132-135
Richardson, Jeff, 2505 Boniface Parkway, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	135-139
Jacobs, William, 330 L Street, Anchorage, Alaska, represen- ting the Upper Cook Inlet Chapter of the Alaska Conserv- ation Society; oral statement	139-142
Mishler, Craig, Star Route B, Box 576, Palmer, Alaska; oral statement	142-145

Schuck, Howard A., 2701 Valley Forge Drive, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	Page 145-148
Burton, Edward G., 825 W. 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	148-152
Evans, Mary, Box 1621, Star Route A, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	152-156
Hall, Lloyd, representing Alaska Bush Carriers Flying Service; 321 E. 10th Street, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	156-157
Nienhueser, Helen, 2561 Lovejoy Drive, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	157-165
Cissna, Sharon M., Box 1086, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	165-168
LeResche, Robert, P.O. Box 265, Soldotna, Alaska; oral statement	168-175
Parks, Dane F., Box 614, Palmer, Alaska; oral statement	175-178
O'Meara, Janet V., 800 S. Lane Street, #1, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	178-181
Stringham, Stephen F., c/o Moose Research Center, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box R, Soldotna, Alaska; oral statement	181-187
Galliett, Harold H., Jr., 1616 Garden Street, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	187-190
Johnson, Thomas, Box 545, Palmer, Alaska; oral statement	190-192
Sumner, James R., General Delivery, Indian, Alaska; oral statement	193-195
Jones, Robert, 4516 East 9th Street, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	195-197
Crandell, Harry, representing the Wilderness Society, Washington, D.C., 729 15th Street; oral statement	197-200
Konigsberg, Charles, Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	200-210
Wentworth, Cynthia, 2607 W. 33rd Avenue, Apt, 2, Anchorage, Alaska; oral statement	210-211

PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT INDEX

PORTION II. HEARING CONTINUED IN KENAI, ALASKA, JUNE 25, 1971

	Page
Price, Robert E., Regional Solicitor for U. S. Department of the Interior, Anchorage, Alaska; presiding Hearing Officer	213-358
Watson, Gordon, Alaska Area Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Anchorage, Alaska; Bureau statement	216-225
Navarre, George, representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kenai, Alaska; oral testimony	227-231
Gilbreth, O.K., Jr, representing the Division of Oil and Gas, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska, 206 Davis, Anchorage, Alaska; oral testimony	231-241
Warner, John, representing the Department of Economic Development, State of Alaska, Juneau, Alaska; oral statement	241-250
Talley, B.B., Box 152, Anchor Point, Alaska; oral statement	250-255
Carter, Harry, representing the Alaska Federation of Natives, 1675 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska; letter read into the record	256
Fisher, James, representing the Kenai Peninsula Chapter, Alaska Conservation Society, Kenai, Alaska; oral statement	256-261
Fair, Calvin, representing the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society, Box 369, Soldotna, Alaska; oral statement	261-275
Miller, Mary, representing the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society, Box 1, Kasilof, Alaska; oral statement	275-277
O'Brian, Drew, representing the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society, Box 813, Soldotna, Alaska; oral statement	277
Mullen, Margaret, representing the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society, Box 602, Soldotna, Alaska; oral statement	277-279

Addendum:

An additional 100 personal letters supporting the proposal were solicited in Michigan by Mr. Gene Kvalvik, Box 404B, Star Route A, Anchorage, Alaska. Most were from school children and were addressed to Mr. Kvalvik, who submitted them for the record at the public hearing in Anchorage. These 100 letters, which appear as an appendix to the public hearing transcript, bring the total of testimonies filed to 865 rather than 765, and the total number of testimonies in favor of the proposal to 821 (95%).

1 KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE WILDERNESS HEARINGS

2 MR. PRICE: Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to
3 begin the hearing. Ladies and gentlemen, first let me introduce
4 myself. I am Robert E. Price, Regional Solicitor for the
5 Department of the Interior here in Anchorage. I have been
6 designated by the Secretary of the Interior to conduct this hearing.
7 Most of you undoubtedly filled out an attendance card as you
8 entered the door. If you have not done so, I would like to ask
9 that you complete one. If those of you who have not filled out
10 cards will please raise your hands, we will distribute them to you.

11 At this time I should like to thank the City of Anchorage
12 for their assistance in making this place available to us today.
13 It is very adequate, and we are grateful.

14 As announced in the Notice of Public Hearing issued on
15 April 22, 1971 this hearing is being held to obtain information
16 relating to the desirability of establishing units of the National
17 Wilderness Preservation System within the Kenai National Moose
18 Range. As background information, I should like to explain that
19 in arranging for this hearing notices were sent to the United
20 States Senators and Congressman, the Governor of the State of
21 Alaska, and other elected officials. Replies which have been
22 received from them will be read later and incorporated into the
23 transcript of this hearing. We also sent notices to Federal and
24 State agencies and organizations and individuals known to be
25 interested in the matter.

1 Now for a few words about procedure. This hearing is not
2 a debate, a trial, or a question and answer assembly, but an
3 advisory hearing whereby all interested persons may present
4 statements, written or oral, or other information pertinent to
5 the wilderness proposal we are considering today. If anyone fails
6 to understand the statement of any person, appropriate questions
7 may be asked for the purpose of clarifying such a statement. All
8 questions will be directed to me, and I shall determine whether
9 they are pertinent.

10 This may seem a little technical or strict, but it is
11 intended to facilitate an orderly presentation of views and assure
12 a reasonable opportunity for all to be heard.

13 The Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577, provided the
14 authority and outlined the procedure by which a national wildlife
15 refuge or game range, or a portion of a national wildlife refuge
16 or game range, meeting the necessary requirements, is to be
17 considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation
18 System. This law directed the study and review within ten years
19 after September 3, 1964, of every roadless island and every roadless
20 area of 5,000 acres or more within the National Wildlife Refuge
21 System.

22 I wish to point out that eventual inclusion of a game range
23 or a portion of a game range within the National Wilderness
24 Preservation System does not remove the area from game range status.
25 The areas we are considering today within the Kenai National Moose

1 Range, if classified as wilderness, still will be administered
2 as an integral part of the Moose Range. The intent of the
3 Wilderness Act along these lines is clear. The provisions of
4 Section 4(a) and 4(b) of the Act state that the purposes of the
5 Wilderness Act are to be within and supplemental to the purpose
6 for which game ranges are established and administered. Also,
7 each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall
8 be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area
9 and for such other purposes for which it may have been established
10 as also to preserve its wilderness character. Therefore, the
11 Moose Range will still be a part of the National Wildlife Refuge
12 System but with the added feature of a national wilderness area.

13 After this public hearing a thorough review will be made
14 of this wilderness proposal, but this is not the last opportunity
15 for public expression. The record of this public hearing and all
16 other information on the proposal will be transmitted to the
17 Secretary of the Interior. After study and consultation, the
18 Secretary will transmit his recommendations regarding the proposal
19 to the President. The president will transmit his recommendations
20 to the Congress. After appropriate consideration, which will
21 include hearings, the Congress will accept, reject or modify the
22 proposal as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
23 When, after hearings and study, the proposal is accepted by the
24 Congress, appropriate legislation is transmitted to the President.
25 When signed by the President, the wilderness area becomes a part of

1 the National Wilderness Preservation System. As you can see, there
2 is a comprehensive review process of each wilderness proposal of
3 which public hearings and your views are a most important part.

4 Now, I ask Gordon Watson, Alaska Area Director of the
5 Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior,
6 to explain the wilderness proposal to you. Before Mr. Watson
7 presents his statement, however, I should like to explain again
8 that this is not an adversary proceeding. If you want to ask a
9 question in order to clarify a certain point, please feel free to
10 do so. All questions, however, will be directed to me and I shall
11 determine whether they are pertinent. Mr. Watson.

12 MR. WATSON: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am
13 Gordon Watson, Alaska Area Director for the Bureau of Sport
14 Fisheries and Wildlife. I want to express my appreciation for
15 your interest in coming to this hearing on the Kenai Wilderness
16 proposals within the Kenai National Moose Range.

17 The Wilderness Act, passed by Congress in 1964, directed
18 the Secretary of the Interior to review all roadless areas of
19 5,000 acres or more, and every roadless island within the National
20 Wildlife Refuge System, to determine their suitability or non-
21 suitability as wilderness. Further, regulations of the Secretary
22 of the Interior published on February 22, 1966, require this
23 bureau to review those areas qualifying for study under the
24 Wilderness Act that (1) suggested the general characteristics of
25 wilderness, (2) are reasonably compact, (3) are undeveloped, and

1 (4) are without improved roads suitable for public travel for
2 conventional automobile.

3 The National Wildlife Refuge System is comprised of more
4 than three hundred units containing nearly thirty million acres.
5 Units of the system are located on lands extending from the Arctic
6 Ocean shores to the islands of the central Pacific Ocean, and
7 from the Florida Keys to Maine. One or more national wildlife
8 refuges are located in each of the seventeen major life zones of
9 North America. The ecology of each national wildlife refuge
10 differs from any other refuge, although some are similar. Because
11 of these ecological differences, management objectives of
12 individual refuges are often quite different.

13 Preliminary examination reveals that about ninety wildlife
14 refuges in thirty-two states and containing nearly twenty-five
15 million acres qualify for study as wilderness. The wilderness
16 review program of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, of
17 which this proposal is a part, encompasses a wide spectrum of
18 lands within national wildlife refuges throughout the country.
19 Only through careful study and analysis may a proper determination
20 be made regarding whether a national wildlife refuge or a portion
21 of a national wildlife refuge qualifies for consideration by the
22 Secretary of the Interior as wilderness.

23 For your consideration today, we are presenting the results
24 of our study of the Kenai National Moose Range. You have a copy of
25 the brochure which summarizes the study made of this proposal.

1 Copies of the complete study report are on the table outside the
2 room and are available for your use in the building at the hearing.
3 Please leave them in the hearing room because the number of copies
4 is very limited. A copy of my statement is also available for
5 your information and use.

6 The Kenai National Moose Range, located on the Kenai
7 Peninsula in Southcentral Alaska, was established by executive
8 order in 1941, primarily to protect natural breeding and feeding
9 ranges of the Kenai moose and other forms of wildlife. The
10 boundary was revised by a Public Land Order in 1964, and the Range
11 presently contains 1,730,000 acres.

12 The Moose Range is divided into two general physiographic
13 types, a mountainous region and a forested lowland. The mountainous
14 region includes extensive portions of the Harding Ice Field and, the
15 Kenai Mountains and their foothills, while the lowland is covered
16 by a spruce-birch-aspen forest dotted with over 1,000 lakes.

17 The Range is populated by a variety of wildlife. Approximately,
18 7,500 moose, 1,000 Dall sheep, 200 mountain goats, numerous black
19 bear, reintroduced caribou, some brown bear, wolves, wolverine,
20 coyotes, and many other fur-bearers inhabit the area. The unique
21 trumpeter swan, geese, ducks, grebes, loons, gulls and terns are but
22 some of the 146 species of birds that either nest on the Range or
23 use it during migration periods.

24 The sport fishery resources are extremely important,
25 primarily rainbow, Dolly Varden and lake trout and five species of

1 salmon. These fish spawn in Moose Range waters, and the salmon
2 produced in these streams contribute significantly to the valuable
3 Cook Inlet salmon fishery.

4 The Moose Range, with its variety of wildlife, scenic and
5 water resources, is probably the most important public use area
6 in Alaska. For example, in 1968, 23,000 people spent 350,000
7 recreational use days on the Range. Camping, fishing, canoeing,
8 hunting, hiking, boating, scenic driving, cross-country skiing,
9 snowmobiling, wildlife observation and photography are some of
10 the recreational opportunities available. This use is expected
11 to increase in the future.

12 Most of the northern portion is open to oil and gas
13 exploration. The Swanson River oilfield produces approximately
14 30,000 barrels of oil per day and several gas fields have been
15 discovered.

16 The Range, then, is characterized by variable resources
17 and contrasting uses. This diversity creates an extremely complex
18 management unit and requires detailed zoning to accomodate the
19 multiple resource needs and public demands. To keep a young
20 hardwood forest in production to maintain sufficient winter forage
21 for moose will require extensive portions of the lowland habitat
22 to be manipulated. Space is also necessary for current and future
23 oil operations, roads, campgrounds, and administrative facilities.
24 Some species of wildlife, such as Dall sheep, brown bear, wolves,
25 wolverine and mountain goats, demand a wilderness environment.

1 Others do not. Likewise, hikers, canoers, nature observers and
2 cross-country skiers demand more solitude than do users of
3 motorboats, snowmachines and car campers. Thus, the wilderness
4 classification proposed here will effectively zone the Moose Range
5 for various commercial, recreational and wildlife uses. A truly
6 multiple use area.

7 Our recommendations to the Director of the Bureau of
8 Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Washington, D.C. were as follows:

9 (1) In accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act,
10 approximately 1,000,000 acres of the Kenai National Moose Range
11 qualify for consideration as wilderness. This acreage is divided
12 into six proposed wilderness units.

3 (a) The Andy Simons Unit in the southern portion of the
14 Range contains approximately 840,000 acres. It includes most of
15 the mountains and glaciers within the Range as well as some lowland
16 lake country. The area is extremely scenic and wildlife populations
17 include several thousand moose, Dall sheep, mountain goats, wolves,
18 brown bear, black bear and numerous marmot colonies. No roads are
19 located within its boundaries, nor has it been opened to oil and
20 gas usage.

21 (b) The Swan Lake Canoe Unit lies in the lowland lake
22 forest and contains 40,040 acres. Its numerous lakes are linked
23 by portages providing canoe enthusiasts opportunities for camping,
24 fishing, hunting and wildlife observation. Canoeing appears
25 compatible with wilderness objectives, and maintaining it as

1 canoeing wilderness appears to be the highest and best use of the
2 area. It provides habitat for moose; has excellent fishery
3 resources; and abounds with loons, grebes, terns, a few trumpeter
4 swans and other birds.

5 (c) The Swanson River Canoe Unit also lies in the lowland
6 lake forest at the northern part of the Range and contains 72,000
7 acres with numerous lakes and streams. A canoe system linking
8 forty lakes is expected to be increased in size. It also abounds
9 with loons, grebes, many waterfowl, shorebirds, and has extensive
10 winter, spring and summer moose habitat. The wetlands in the
11 southeast portion are extremely important moose calving grounds;
12 and unusual concentrations of moose, shorebirds and waterfowl
13 gather in this area each spring.

14 (d) The Mystery Creek Basin Unit borders the Chugach National
15 Forest boundary north of the Sterling Highway and contains 45,000
16 acres. It is mountainous, bisected by many valleys and streams.
17 It is extremely scenic and offers many opportunities for hiking,
18 wildlife observing, cross-country skiing and hunting. Large
19 populations of moose and black bear reside in the area during
20 summer and fall months.

21 (e) The 36,000 acre Caribou Hills Unit is located in the
22 southwestern portion of the Range. It is a glacial upland plateau
23 and is primarily covered with alpine vegetation and a dense willow
24 growth. The willows provide excellent habitat for moose in summer,
25 fall and early winter. Brown bear, black bear and extensive

ptarmigan populations also utilize the area.

2 (f) The Elephant Lake Unit near Soldotna contains 10,460
3 acres of lowland lakes and forest. Its accessibility makes it
4 desirable as a small wilderness area where weekend hikers might
5 enjoy a wilderness experience and enjoy the numerous waterfowl and
6 shorebirds which nest in the area. During winter months it will
7 provide opportunities for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and
8 dog-team travel.

9 These areas of proposed wilderness will assure survival of
10 those wildlife species which require a wilderness environment, and
11 provide space where outdoor recreation needs, compatible with
12 wilderness, can be pursued by the public without interference by
13 conflicting interests.

14 (2) Our second recommendation was that the remainder of the
15 Moose Range, approximately 700,000 acres, will not be recommended
16 for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. Most of this land
17 is in the lowlands and will be programmed for recreational and
18 management practices not compatible with wilderness. This will
19 include acreage for logging, habitat manipulation, mineral
20 extraction, roads; provide space for construction of recreational,
21 research and administrative facilities; and permit the use of
22 recreational opportunities not compatible with wilderness.

23 (3) Our third recommendation was that motorized boats and
24 vehicles, including snowmobiles, would not be permitted within
all wilderness units. Aircraft will be permitted only on designated

1 lakes of the Andy Simons Unit.

2 (4) Six private tracts containing 115 acres and six mining
3 claims containing 240 acres all within the Andy Simons Unit are
4 recommended for acquisition.

5 (5) Our fifth recommendation, surface exploration for
6 minerals within wilderness units would not be permitted, and either
7 the current mineral leases will be canceled, or oil and gas
8 extraction will be permitted only by directional drilling from
9 outside the wilderness boundaries.

10 I would stress that fishing and hunting will be under the
11 management authority of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as
12 it is now on the Moose Range and has been since Statehood. I will
13 also emphasize that one cannot look to the Wilderness proposals
14 alone without examining the total plan for the Kenai Moose Range.
15 It is not multiple use on a mile by mile basis, but, rather, examines
16 the total plan for the Kenai Moose Range which truly represents
17 a multiple use area for as many uses as possible.

18 I thank all of you for coming and also those who have
19 expressed their views by letter. I assure you that all oral and
20 written views will be carefully studied before final Bureau of
21 Sport Fisheries and Wildlife recommendations are submitted to the
22 Secretary of the Interior.

23 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Watson. In opening this
24 meeting for public discussion I ask that all pertinent information
25 be presented as completely as possible. If anyone wishes to

1 summarize their statement for the benefit of those present and
2 submit a written statement for the record, you may do so. In the
3 event that time becomes a factor, I may have to request that you
4 limit your oral remarks.

5 I shall now call on certain persons in order to expedite
6 and clarify the proposal. After they have completed their
7 statements, the meeting will continue to be open to the public.
8 Anyone present who desires to make a statement may do so. I wish
9 to remind you again that statements will not be made under oath
10 and since this is not an adversary proceeding, there will be no
11 cross-examination. Anyone desiring to question a person making a
12 statement for clarification purposes only will direct their
13 questions to me. If I deem them pertinent, I will request the
14 person making the statement to answer the question.

15 In order to permit the conduct of the meeting and oral
16 comments to become a matter of record, I ask that all speakers
17 come to the microphone to make their statement. This has several
18 advantages, but principally allows everyone in the room to hear,
19 and also the Recording Secretary to take down what you have to say.
20 I ask you to give your name and address and the interest which you
21 represent. You may, of course, represent yourself. I ask you to
22 speak slowly and distinctly. If you have a written statement you
23 may elect to read it for the record or leave it for the record.
24 It has equal effect either way so far as the record is concerned.

25 At this time I would like to call upon Governor Egan or his

1 representative.

2 MR. JOHN HAVELOCK: Mr. Price, my name is John Havelock.
3 I am the Attorney General of Alaska and Governor Egan has asked me
4 to appear here as his personal representative.

5 Mr. Watson, members of the panel, on behalf of Governor
6 Egan let me express our appreciation of this opportunity to comment
7 upon the proposed creation of a wilderness area encompassing over
8 a million acres and comprising the largest part of the Kenai
9 National Moose Range.

10 The State of Alaska opposes this recommended action for
11 reasons which I will attempt to state in part. Other executive
12 officers of a number of principle departments of state government
13 will make more particular objections to the proposed action and to
14 the study which attempts to support the action, at both this hearing
15 and the hearing at Kenai next Friday.

16 Following me today here will be Deputy Commissioner of
17 Highways Charles Matlock and Joseph Blum speaking for the Depart-
18 ment of Fish and Game. Joe is Chief of Habitat Development for
19 the Department.

20 But before stating the State's position, I want to make two
21 points clear by way of parameters to our criticism.

22 First, the State of Alaska does not object to the establish-
23 ment of wilderness areas, per se; nor do we object, per se, to
24 the designation of a portion of the Kenai National Moose Range as
25 a wilderness area. The State supports, as public policy of the

State, the designation of selected and preplanned areas of the State as wilderness areas to be preserved exclusively for their wilderness value. Nonuse can be a valid preferential use.

Secondly, it is not intended that our criticism reflect on the dedication of individual employees of the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife who have obviously devoted so much time to this proposal. The fault lies in the fundamental policy direction they were given, or rather, I suspect, the lack of it. In the absence of policy leadership, if agency employees followed the procedures of the past, they should not be faulted.

The first fundamental of policy formation which this proposal has ignored is the demand, new even in the years since passage of the Wilderness Act, for real public consideration of the tougher questions of environmental policy as set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

That Act calls on the Federal Government to articulate and set forth for the public, the reasoning by which public decisions are made which effect environmental quality. The written proposal which the Bureau has put before the public today does not, by any stretch of the imagination, constitute such an effort.

It is not an examination of the issues; it gives virtually no consideration to any of the potential negative impacts on the environment of the proposal, as is required by the National Environmental Policy Act. There does not appear to be the slightest indication that a complex weighing of many issues is involved in this

1 decision. The report is not a true study, but simply a supporting
2 brief for a specific administrative action, represented virtually
3 as if already made.

4 Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the public and
5 those public agencies which represent specific public interests
6 affected, are to be invited to examine and thereby participate in
7 the decision-making process in the total environmental context.
8 This has not happened here.

9 I repeat, if these issues were not met, it is not a
10 reflection on the many fine employees of the Bureau, but a
11 manifestation of a lapse of judgment in Washington.

12 I have mentioned the National Environmental Policy Act of
13 1969. It is not clear to me yet whether the Department views these
14 proceedings as an element in the procedure called for by the
15 National Environmental Policy Act, or whether the agency intends
16 to later initiate procedures in keeping with the Act. Even if the
17 Act though is interpreted as not directly applying, the spirit
18 of the Act should be complied with by the Department.

19 But, it would seem the Act does apply. Surely a decision
20 which forever determines the use of over a million acres of land
21 is a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of
22 the human environment as those terms are used by the Congress.
23 If so, where is the analysis of adverse environmental impact? Where
24 is the "detailed statement of alternatives" to the proposed action?
25 Was this proposal considered in relation to other major proposed

1 land use allocation decisions in Alaska? From the silence of the
2 report on these issues we must conclude the answer is no.

3 Where is the candid discussion of the relationship between
4 local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance
5 and enhancement of long-term productivity? All these and other
6 requirements are established by the National Environmental Policy
7 Act.

8 Frankly, it seems that wilderness purposes are treated in
9 the work of the Bureau here, not as a form of use allocation to be
10 compared and weighed against other forms of use such as national
11 parks, regulated areas, scenic areas, classification withdrawals
12 or other forms of multiple use classification, but as a form of use
13 which because it is the highest form of use, needs no comparative
14 justification. This is not sound conservation in theory or in
15 practice.

16 As a legal point I question whether this proposed Act of
17 recommendation is not fatally flawed by its all but total non-
18 compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

19 From the point of view of the state officials who have
20 studied the fundamental questions involved in land use planning in
21 Alaska the last several years, there is a second, special
22 disappointment with this proposal.

23 For months the State has bent its efforts towards developing
24 true joint land use planning. Legislation to accomplish this
purpose has been introduced in the Congress and enjoys wide support

1 there. This State administration successfully made enactment
2 of a coordinate joint planning bill, priority legislation in the
3 1971 session of the Alaska State Legislature. Executive
4 discussions at the policy level on the development of land use
5 planning have progressed apace.

6 Yet it appears when the chips are down the habits of
7 Washington's Alaskan bureaucracy reassert themselves. Despite
8 the legislative and executive mandate for change from both state
9 and federal sources, this proposal remains a rather typical example
10 of the old-style, single agency planning.

11 There is no evidence that any effort was made to work out
12 this program with state agencies working in effected disciplines.
13 Despite the National Environmental Policy Act, there is no
14 indication that the Bureau made a forthright attempt to circularize
15 even the full range of agencies within the Department of Interior,
16 never mind other agencies of the federal government, in preparing
17 its proposal. If joint use planning is to be state policy, we must
18 have more than lip service as a federal rejoinder.

19 I am aware that the Department and the Bureau are following
20 the mandate of the Wilderness Act which requires periodic review
21 of areas within the National Wildlife Refuge System. But it should
22 be noted that the Act requires review, not blind advocacy. The
23 application of the Wilderness Act to Alaskan lands should be
24 considered in the context of the Alaskan land ownership and
25 occupancy situation.

1 In the contiguous states the Department must move much more
2 aggressively to protect the fast-disappearing vestiges of potential
3 wilderness areas. The Congress recognized the fact that the areas
4 subject to the jurisdiction of the National Wildlife Refuge System
5 might be the only areas left in the public domain suitable for this
6 purpose. This was the legislative concern in the Wilderness Act.

7 To apply the identical standard in Alaska, where the
8 federal government is overwhelmingly the largest land owner and
9 where wilderness is not in precarious short supply, but is the
10 prevailing condition of vast areas of the State, is patently
11 absurd. Alaskan wilderness areas we should select, but why pick
12 this particular area out of the vast reaches of the public domain
13 of Alaska for designation? If the Bureau had adequately followed
14 the mandate of the National Environmental Policy Act, this blindness
15 would have become immediately obvious.

16 The State of Alaska is dedicated to conservationist
17 principles of which the wilderness concept is a part. The
18 Alaska Constitution provides that it is the policy of the State
19 to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of
20 its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent
21 with the public interest. It provides for application of sustained
22 yield principles subject to preference among beneficial uses. But
23 it also provides that the State may reserve from the public domain
24 areas of natural beauty and provide for their administration and
25 preservation for the use, enjoyment and welfare of the people.

7
1 "Preservation" is a constitutionally enshrined principle of
2 Alaskan state government.

3 We are prepared to follow this enlightened direction as
4 partners with the Alaska federal establishment, but we should
5 expect no less from the federal side. Much has been said about
6 the tragedy inherent in dividing Alaska into two states, one native
7 and one nonnative. It would be equally tragic if through lack of
8 foresight or sheer bureaucratic inertia, we become two Alaskas
9 dividing on the seams of federal and state jurisdiction over lands.

10 It need not be. As partners in public land use decision
11 making, we can develop a great national system of parks, wilderness
12 and development areas for the people of Alaska and of America.
13 Alaskans have proven their good faith through acceptance of the
14 continued land freeze, through creation of a Department of
15 Environmental Conservation and enactment of joint land use planning
16 enabling legislation, among other indications. Now it is the
17 turn of the federal government to show also its dedication to
18 cooperative conservation planning in deed as well as word. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. PRICE: Thank you very much, Mr. Havlock. Before
21 proceeding with the other State officials I've had call for certain
22 protocol testimony and then I will return to the State officials.
23 Is U. S. Senator Stevens present or his representative? I see he
24 is not. Is U. S. Senator Gravel present or his representative? I
see he is not. Is Representative Begich present or his representative

1 I see he is not. I will now proceed to the testimony of State
2 Legislators. At this time I have received one letter from a State
3 Legislator which I shall read into the record. Directed to Mr.
4 Gordon Watson. "Dear Mr. Watson: I have reviewed the information
5 you have sent me concerning the Kenai Wilderness Proposal. I fully
6 support this proposal and I think you are to be commended for
7 undertaking such an effort. Good luck in your endeavors. Very
8 truly yours, Chancy Croft."

9 Representative Mike Rose.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Mr. Price, Mr. Watson, members
11 of the Board. Mr. Havlock. I am pleased to have the opportunity
12 to appear before you. I was a bit surprised at the ---

13 MR. PRICE: Pardon me, Mr. Rose. The Court Reporter
14 has stated that he cannot hear.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I'm sorry. Maybe the sound is
16 just bouncing back at me. As I said, I was somewhat surprised at
17 the opposition to the proposal by the Governor's Office, and it does
18 not appear to me that the National Environmental Policy Act is
19 really intended to apply as suggested to this type of proposal. Not
20 if it's going to be read in conjunction with the National Wilderness
21 Act, under which this proposal is being -- is coming up. Neither
22 can I understand how one can consider a classification such as
23 proposed here to be forever. I'd much rather like to think of it
24 in terms of creating a land bank for the future. If it should
25 appear at some time in the future that the pressure of population

1 expansion or other desirable uses requires some other classifi-
2 cation, some reconsideration can happen at that time, but if we
3 don't create that bank then we don't have that land available in
4 the future. In other words, I'd like to think of it as putting
5 away some land, which means the land that has not been so classified
6 can be used for other purposes if needed. Then there is something
7 other that we can go to should the need arise in the future. I
8 don't think any classification is forever. What we can do, we can
9 undo. That may be a wise decision at this time.

10 As you gentlemen may be aware, I did sponsor the Kachemak
11 Wilderness Park in the last session of the Alaska Legislature.
12 The proposal did pass both Houses and was vetoed by the Governor,
13 apparently on the same rationale as proposed here today, that there
14 should be some general overall plan. That is the indication from
15 the Governor that I received.

16 Now, if that is so, then it appears to me that the various
17 people who are charged with certain responsibilities are not
18 given that responsibility to this charge. We each have our own
19 areas. The remarks that I have made here are not in the letter
20 that I had addressed to Mr. Watson who had issued the call for
21 today, in which I stated, "I have reviewed with great interest
22 the publication of your office entitled "Kenai Wilderness Proposal."
23 I have also reviewed the comments and proposed changes to the
24 proposal as prepared by the Kenai Chapter of the Alaska Conservation
Society and other groups. I take no position concerning the

1 citizens' recommendations relative to inclusion of National Forest
2 lands, and I am speaking here specifically for clarification
3 purposes to some land cross-hatched on that proposal which is not
4 before you at this time to the east of the Andy Simons Wilderness
5 Unit, and I think also a portion east of Mystery Creek Basin
6 Wilderness Unit -- whether that should be desirable or not, I have
7 absolutely no idea and I take no position as to that. In other
8 respects I do support the Department's position concerning the
9 area around Tustumena Lake. The reasons for my preferring the
10 Department's proposal on the Tustumena Lake area is that I think
11 it would make the eastern half of the lake wilderness area and
12 would continue to make the western half available for the enjoyment
13 of the less hardy or less robust person who could get to the lake
14 by road or roads provided for the purpose and enjoy the scenery,
15 wildlife and other benefits somewhat in the same manner that we
16 can go from here to the Finger Lake Area, for example, or various
17 resorts up in the Matanuska Valley where somebody can go with a
18 camper and take the family along. There are many people who
19 neither have the desire or the physical ability -- older people,
20 younger people -- to get out and hike and canoe. But, concerning
21 the eastern half -- I'm sorry, the western half of the lake for
22 that kind of use I think would be preferable.

23
24 Now, on the other hand, in the Swan Lake and Swanson River
25 Wilderness Units in the northern portion, the proposal of the
Kenai Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society would have the

1 benefit and virtue of connecting these areas, making them more
2 cohesive and protecting what is, to my understanding, an important
3 calving region, particularly for moose, and also the natural habitat
4 of other wildlife, and is not at this time particularly necessary
5 or desirable for other uses.

6 It would, in other words, connect, as you have probably
7 seen, the proposal, the Swanson Lake Canoe Wilderness Unit and
8 the Swanson River Canoe Wilderness units.

9 Subject to those comments I am wholeheartedly in favor of
10 the proposal and supports its adoption. Thank you very much.

11 MR. PRICE: Thank you very much, Mr. Rose. Is there
12 a representative of the Kenai Peninsula Borough present? Is there
13 a representative of any municipality within the Borough? At this
14 time then I am going to call on the representatives of the State
15 agencies, but prior to the State Executive agencies apparently
16 there is one Magistrate who wishes to testify. Judge John Mason.
17 Is Judge Mason here?

18 JUDGE MASON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you could put
19 me on in about half an hour. That would be fine. And go ahead
20 and let the State agencies testify.

21 MR. PRICE: Yes, Judge. The representatives of the
22 State Executive departments then in whatever order they wish to
23 testify.

24 MR. CHARLES MATLOCK: My name is Charles Matlock,
25 Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Highways.. I will attempt

1 to reduce the statement that I have here at this time.

2 MR. PRICE: Pardon me. Off the record.

3 (Whereupon an off-the-record discussion was then had.)

4 MR. CHARLES MATLOCK: The Kenai Wilderness Proposal
5 report represents a great deal of work by the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service. It is regrettable, however, that it was an "in house"
7 effort without adequate attention to the overall needs of the
8 State, and without adequate coordination with the State.

9 Wilderness areas are needed, mineral and economic development
10 areas are needed, recreational areas are needed, and agricultural
11 areas are needed. The question is really where, how much and when?
12 To answer these questions far more study must be done than has been
13 done to date.

14 Alaska needs and must have a comprehensive, coordinated and
15 continuing land use plan. We do not have one now primarily because
16 of the past failure of the various agencies of the Federal govern-
17 ment to work together with the State in setting aside their own
18 agency ambitions in favor of the good of the State and of the
19 Nation. We now have a helter-skelter system by various agencies
20 to set aside land according to their own ideas, but without any
21 overall coordinated, comprehensive and continuing statewide plan.

22 For a number of years the Alaska Department of Highways has
23 been heavily involved in long range planning in partnership with
24 the Federal Highway Administration. Because of the lack of a good
25 land use plan, we have been forced to make predictions on economic

1 and resource development areas as well as population increases
2 on the basis of meager information in order to achieve some
3 semblance of reason in developing an overall integrated highway
4 network. Such predictions, of course, must also consider wilderness
5 areas as one of our natural resources. However faulty our
6 projections may have been, they were, nevertheless, positive
7 attempts to provide a transportation plan for the future. Through
8 all the information available through Federal, State and local
9 governments, I am well aware of the scarcity of coordinated and
10 comprehensive and continuing planning.

11 Alaskans are not opposed to wilderness areas. This is what
12 drew many of us to this State in the first place. However, there
13 is strong opposition to unilateral withdrawals by Federal agencies
14 of vast areas of land without adequate overall consideration of
15 the needs of the State. These withdrawals can effectively stop
16 development far outside of the boundaries of the particular
17 unit involved by blocking necessary transportation corridors.
18 Such actions, we believe, are not in accord with the National
19 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 nor with the intent of the
20 Statehood Act.

21 Among other things, the National Environmental Policy Act
22 of 1969 states that the Federal Government is to use all practical
23 means "to obtain the widest range of beneficial uses of the
24 environment without degradation, risk to health or safety or other
25 undesirable consequences." And it also provides that a unit

1 achieve a balance between population and resource use which will
2 permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's
3 amenities.

4 In our opinion irrevocable transfer of vast multi-use
5 areas under the Wilderness Act will indeed narrow this area, not
6 widen it, and it will not provide the wide range of beneficial
7 uses.

8 Another way, we wonder if development of natural resources
9 and wilderness areas are really completely compatible. Certain
10 types of mineral extraction disturb relatively small areas which
11 can be almost completely surrounded by unspoiled wilderness. After
12 such subsurface extraction is completed, it is not at all
13 inconceivable that the wilderness area characteristics can be
14 regained in a relatively short time. While in some areas of
15 Alaska this regaining of the natural ground cover and other natural
16 growth is a very slow and almost impossible process, on the Kenai
17 Peninsula climatic and soil conditions are such, particularly
18 in the lowland areas, as to favor natural revegetation in a
19 relatively short time. Examinations of abandoned mining areas
20 and homesteads clearly attest to this fact. Why not consider this
21 on an orderly and planned basis? With some research we believe
22 it can be done. Has this possible alternative to the proposed
23 action been explored to such an extent that it can be proven
24 infeasible?

25 Our long range highway plans presently include a Tustumena

1 Loop Road which would go from Homer to the southeasterly end of
2 Tustamena Lake and back towards the Sterling Highway. Also many
3 years ago studies were made for a route from Seward to the
4 Sterling Highway via the Resurrection and Russian Rivers. From
5 a recreational and game management standpoint, the latter route
6 will probably be located west and south of Surprise Mountain. Both
7 of these conflict with the proposed Andy Simons Wilderness Area.
8 However, before we can proceed with either of these priorities,
9 we would have to obtain input and criticism from all Federal,
10 State and local agencies in turn, as well as detailed and
11 comprehensive environmental statements being prepared, public
12 hearings held, and, above all, such a route would have to fit into
13 the overall land use plan for the region. We certainly would
14 expect no less from the Federal agency contemplating an even more
15 far-reaching action.

16 Summarizing, comprehensive, coordinated and continuing land
17 use plan is an essential prerequisite to irrevocable withdrawals
18 of wilderness areas. No. 2, the National Environmental Policy
19 Act of 1969 must be complied with prior to any major Federal action.
20 No. 3, all possible alternatives must be explored. For example:
21 are certain types of subsurface resource development necessarily
22 incompatible with the eventual reservation of lands for wilderness
23 areas? How much land is really needed? Where should these areas
24 be? When should such reservation be made? And, we might add
25 another point, by whom should it be made? Thank you.

1 MR. PRICE: Thank you. I might add that if anyone
2 does have an additional copy or copies of your statement, that if
3 they would leave it with the Reporter, it would facilitate the
4 transcription.

5 MR. JOE BLUM: Mr. Price, members of the panel, my
6 name is Joe Blum. I am Chief of Habitat of the Department of Fish
7 and Game and I am here today representing the Department. My
8 statement is also in rough form. Final typing is being completed.
9 We'll submit a statement later this afternoon.

10 In 1964 the Wilderness Act was passed and signed by
11 President Lyndon Johnson. While many feel this Act marked the
12 beginning of a new era for establishing wild land values for the
13 United States, our experience has been that the past procedure
14 of unilateral action has been perpetuated.

15 Our discussion today centers around the issue of procedure
16 in studying an area for Wilderness designation and the suitability
17 of this refuge for Wilderness designation, in light of the mandates
18 of the Executive Order No. 8979 and the Wilderness Act as
19 interpreted by the Department of Interior Refuge Manual on Wilder-
20 ness; the ramifications of wilderness on management of fish and
21 wildlife and finally, the key issue of land and water resource
22 planning.

23 In December of 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive
24 Order No. 8979 establishing the Kenai National Moose Range. The
following language is found in that order, and I quote; "... it is

1 so ordered that, for the purpose of protecting the natural breeding
2 and feeding range of the giant Kenai Moose on the Kenai Peninsula,
3 Alaska, which in this area presents an unusual opportunity for the
4 study in its natural environment of the practical management of a
5 big game species ..." and I have emphasized "practical management."

6 The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577) in Section 4(a)
7 states: "The purpose of this Act are hereby declared to be within
8 and supplemental to the purposes for which ... national wildlife
9 refuge systems are established and administered ..."

10 The Department of Interior Refuges Wilderness Manual states:
11 "National Wildlife Refuges are administered for multiple uses
12 but with wildlife the dominant purpose and use."

13 The Manual further states that Sections 4(a) and 4(b) of
14 the Wilderness Act "affirm that the wildlife purposes for which
15 national wildlife refuges were established will not be jeopardized
16 by the inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System."

17 The designation of 1,040,000 acres of wildlife habitat on
18 the Kenai National Moose Range with the restrictive covenants of
19 prohibition of mechanized vehicles for any purpose seriously
20 reduces the option of practical management as stated in the
21 Executive Order.

22 The Department of Interior Refuge Manual on Wilderness goes
23 into great detail in discussing involvement of others in the
development of the study proposal. The following is quoted
verbatim from the Manual: "Plans of others (individuals, Federal

1 and State agencies, corporations, public and private organizations,
2 cities and towns, etc.) have an important bearing on a wilderness
3 study area and suitability or nonsuitability determinations.

4 It is extremely important that plans and proposals of others
5 be investigated in detail and be carefully screened to determine
6 whether there is a possibility that a conflict with wilderness
7 boundary selection or, indeed, the wilderness area, or portions
8 thereof, might occur. Possible future controversies are often
9 avoided by resolving differences early in the game. Too, in the
10 event that conflicts arise after studies have been completed, it
11 is difficult to take a firm stand in the absence of detailed data
12 and information in the Wilderness Study Report. Thus, plans and
13 proposals of others must be investigated even though it may not
14 be evident on the surface that an agency or group has plans on the
15 drawingboard which could conflict with wilderness. The main
16 concern here is not to overlook plans or proposals of others,
17 regardless of how trivial they may seem at the outset, which could
18 influence the wilderness area. All agencies, groups, individuals,
19 etc., must be contacted individually and plans incorporated into
20 wilderness reviews. An analysis of each is required in the
21 Wilderness Study Report. Examples are: Another agency may have
22 a wilderness proposal nearby. What is the relationship of the
23 two areas? Do they augment one another? Do they conflict? As an
24 example at hand, on the Kenai, what is the interaction between
25 the present Kenai proposal and the U.S. Forest Service's proposal

1 in Prince William Sound?

2 "...A State Agency may have plans to develop a large
3 recreation area in the country. Will this influence the number of
4 people who will want to visit the wilderness? Will this mean that
5 visitor facility development adjacent to the wilderness by the
6 Bureau on the refuge will have to be increased or lessened?

7 What interaction is there between the Kenai Proposal and
8 the proposed Seward National Recreation Area of the U.S. Forest
9 Service or the existing State parks adjacent to the Moose Range?

10 "...An interstate highway is planned. It may be routed
11 through an area nearby not now developed. Will this cause pressure
(visitor, economic, industrial, etc.) on the refuge and/or
13 wilderness sometime in the future? Will pressure be brought to

14 bear to route the highway through the wilderness or adjacent to it?

15 Another agency has a continuing program of spraying timber
16 or brush for a variety of purposes nearby. Will the wilderness
17 influence this operation, or vice versa?

18 County or State zoning regulations limit developments and
19 uses to a specific type of function. How does this kind of action
20 influence wilderness studies?

21 We might also add, what interaction is there between the
22 Kenai proposal and State Fish and Game management objectives for
23 this area?

24 "These are just a few examples of what must be considered
25 and studied. Since each refuge will have a different set of factors

1 to consider, a standard checklist approach is impractical.
2 Regardless, it is mandatory that the relationships of the refuge
3 wilderness study area and its entire influence area to the plans
4 and proposals of others be investigated in depth.

5 Investigations which turn up nothing are just as important
6 as those which reveal hidden or obvious potential conflicts. This
7 is because a position on an issue which crops up after field
8 studies have been finished (at the public hearing or during reviews
9 in the Department of Congress) is always taken with assurance
10 that field studies were in sufficient depth to form a basis for
11 concrete recommendations. When field studies have been shallow
12 and conclusions based on what the top of the iceberg reveals,
13 the Bureau or Department may be placed in a compromising position.
14 This possibility will be avoided."

15 Speaking for the Department of Fish and Game, we have not
16 been asked to participate in the development of a master plan
17 for this refuge (a prerequisite to a wilderness study) nor were
18 we actively involved in the wilderness study. With the exception
19 of the U.S. Geological Survey and two local conservation groups,
20 there is no indication that other agencies at any level of govern-
21 ment have been included in these studies.

22 One further point on the questions of procedure and
23 suitability is the continual references by the Department of
24 Interior to obtaining Congressional approval to these Executive
Order refuges through the Wilderness Act.

1 For example, the Department of Interior Refuge Manual on
2 wilderness states: "An important value of a wilderness is the
3 legislative protection it affords to a national wildlife refuge.
4 Most refuges have been established by administrative action and,
5 thus, can be abolished by the same means.

6 Administrative actions do not have the same effect as an
7 Act of Congress. When a wilderness is established by Act of
8 Congress, it provides additional protection for the refuge, since
9 the wilderness cannot be transferred, abolished, disposed of, or
10 reduced unless the Congress so directs. Since Committees of the
11 Congress of the United States hold hearings on legislation, it means
12 that the public has an opportunity to review the proposal in
13 detail and make its views known."

14 Is this a legitimate use of Public Law 88-577? The Wildlife
15 Refuge Handbook states: "Section 5(b) of Secretarial Order 2920
16 directed that: "Each report of review shall identify any roadless
17 area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more, or any roadless island which
18 is considered not suitable for preservation as wilderness because
19 of future requirements for rights-of-way, use facilities,
20 conservation structures, administrative installations or other
21 resource use of nonwilderness nature."

22 The master planning process is the means by which
23 determinations are made in order to meet the above directive.

24 The purpose of these guidelines is to augment those
2 instructions by presenting more specific guidelines relative to

1 implementing the master planning process of a refuge scheduled for
2 wilderness review.

3 The main purposes of the master plan are to document the
4 intentions of the Bureau as to how the refuge will be administered
5 in the future, what the area needs to accomplish goals in relation
6 to both management and development, to explain why today's decisions
7 on courses of management action were made and for what purpose,
8 to explicate the values of the refuge to society, and to document
9 estimated costs.

10 These kinds of actions are essential in order to determine
11 what the wilderness will be supplemental to. Also, proposed
12 recommendations can be vigorously defended throughout the wilderness
13 review process with assurance that resolution and agreement on
14 management needs and direction have been fully explored and
15 documented in a plan of action."

16 Although the master plan prerequisite to the Wilderness
17 studies was completed, the two documents do not compliment each
18 other. The basic questions of how, when and where have not been
19 adequately covered so that anyone can logically judge whether or
20 not the objectives of the Refuge will be met under any proposed
21 classifications.

22 Page 10 of the Kenai National Moose Range Master Plan
23 states: "Representative wildlife populations will be managed in
24 numbers consistent with the capacity of the habitat, yet there are
opportunities to maintain and even improve habitat by manipulation

1 of vegetation and control of numbers." "The outstanding wildlife
2 feature of the Range is the giant Kenai moose, largest antlered
3 animal on earth. This magnificent beast is of special interest
4 to sportsmen, naturalists and tourists from many lands. The goal
5 is to maintain habitat capable of supporting the population at its
6 estimated present level of 9,000. Management will include hunting
7 as a means of keeping numbers in balance with forage."

8 If the Refuge intends to maintain a population of no more
9 than 9,000 moose as stated on the Kenai Moose Range, then it must
10 harvest the annual increment each year. Past studies indicate that
11 about twenty percent of a moose population must be harvested to
12 stabilize the growth of a healthy population. This would amount
13 to approximately 1,800 moose per year. It is important to remember
14 that this harvest of 1,800 animals should not come from one area,
15 but should be dispersed proportionately over the fall and winter
16 ranges.

17 Although it may be most beneficial in some cases to exclude
18 various wildlife populations from intensive management through
19 strict population manipulation, such action must be as equally well
20 planned as any land use zoning system. This exclusion should not
21 be by default and poor planning, particularly when the total
22 recreational demand on our wildlife is considered.

23 Protection of habitat and management of fish and wildlife
24 are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they must complement each
other.

1 Habitat manipulation is a system of creating additional
2 moose winter range which will be needed to support the additional
3 moose. The location of the manipulated habitat is of major
4 consideration. Present joint management-research studies on the
5 Kenai National Moose Range are designed to learn more about
6 movement patterns of moose during key periods. Until these joint
7 studies are completed in 1974, withdrawal of land where the habitat
8 cannot be manipulated may be a further conflict between Department
9 of Fish and Game objectives, the Refuge Master Plan and the Refuge
10 Wilderness Proposal.

11 This refuge established almost exclusively for moose has
12 obviously been expanded within its jurisdiction to cover the
13 other species, both migratory and resident, inhabiting its
14 boundaries. The consideration for these species in protecting
15 their breeding and feeding ranges is desirable, however, the
16 insidious exclusion of the State's participation in establishing
17 management objectives for resident species is completely
18 unacceptable.

19 The exclusion of the State in the management planning for
20 wildlife species within the refuge is clearly an effort to
21 circumvent and purposely ignore the State's right to manage
22 resident fish and game which was clearly provided for in the
23 Statehood Act and subsequent transfer of this authority by Secretary
24 of Interior Seaton on April 27, 1959.

 The stated objective of the Moose Range Master Plan to

1 maintain the moose population at its present level appears to be
2 an unrealistic goal when coupled with this present wilderness
3 study as written. Considering the size of the animal and the
4 restriction on access, primary population manipulation will be
5 by necessity limited to late seasons and along narrow roadside
6 corridors. This has proved to be somewhat unpalatable with the
7 public, the Board of Fish and Game, the Refuge staff and the
8 Department of Fish and Game.

9 In addition to management implications on game species a
10 question is raised as to the interaction between the Kenai proposal
11 and fisheries management. Will this proposal negate our management
12 plans for fisheries, both sport and commercial?

13 The Interior Manual seemingly opens the door for rehabilitation
14 projects, but with the past record of failing to follow Manual
15 guidelines, we do not feel at ease with the proposal. In fact, we
16 are quite concerned that in the area of fish management no provisions
17 are made for rehabilitation measures. The Refuge Wilderness Manual
18 points out that when, "Management activities discussed contain
19 exceptions to pristine wilderness conditions, these exceptions
20 must be presented in reports, public hearings, reviews and
21 ultimately be recognized in the legislative record and Congressional
22 Committee reports or authorized in the establishing act."

23 More importantly perhaps is the question of relocating the
24 intensive fisheries of the Swanson River, Swan Lake and Elephant
25 Lake systems. It is our contention that sportsmen are again, by

1 default, being forced into smaller and smaller areas in order to
2 pursue their recreational preferences. No where in the proposal
3 is this compensated for.

4 I believe at this point it is abundantly clear that my
5 Department has sufficient grounds to oppose this proposal.

6 In addition, there is what we consider the overriding
7 consideration of land and water resource planning.

8 The State of Alaska strongly supports a concept of land and
9 water resource planning on a statewide basis. It is our belief
10 that this planning effort should involve all levels of government
11 and should include reserved land, public domain, Borough selections,
State land and Native lands.

13 As pointed out above in the Interior Manual, land
14 classification decisions on withdrawn land have impacts on
15 surrounding lands. Until this is recognized and until the archaic
16 system of withdrawal and reservation to protect or preserve
17 resources from exploitation is scrapped, our land and water
18 resources and ultimately our people will suffer.

19 Today's proposal, we believe, is the result of a subjective,
20 unilateral review of a unit of land. The major objective has been
21 to propose as large an area as possible for Wilderness designation
22 without any attempt to determine if Wilderness is the highest and
23 best use of the land, or what impact such a classification will
24 have on the basic human needs of food, shelter, recreational
25 options and economic stability.

1 In this subjective, unilateral proposal, the Department of
2 Interior has looked at Wilderness classification only as a concept
3 of area. There is at least one other option. Time. By allocating
4 compatible uses by time it is possible to retain many more options
5 on a restricted unit of land. It is not necessary to withdraw that
6 unit for single use because two uses simultaneously conflict. Why
7 not separate the uses by time, always keeping in mind that any one
8 use does not reduce the opportunity for other uses. Is this not a
9 better overall use of our finite land and water resources?

10 It is our contention that if the drafters of this proposal
11 had been objective and had followed their own manual directives,
12 the proposal would have reflected the real needs of the people
13 and the ability of not only the Kenai Moose Range to fill a portion
14 of those needs, but the interaction of the Moose Range proposal
15 and the role the other lands in southcentral Alaska would have to
16 subsequently play in the total land and water resource picture.

17 We are not opposed to wilderness as a zone in an integrated,
18 comprehensive land and water use plan. We are, however, opposed
19 to this proposal because it does not represent an objective review
20 of even these lands, much less the needs of the people.

21 We urge that the Secretary of Interior not request this
22 area as an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System
23 but instead enter into a joint planning program with the State,
24 the Natives and the local communities to develop the much needed
25 land-water use plan for all Alaska.

1 I pledge my Department's full support in such a program.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. PRICE: Thank you very much. Judge Mason, are you
4 ready to give your statement at this time?

5 JUDGE JOHN D. MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name
6 is John D. Mason. I am a District Judge here in Anchorage. My
7 testimony at this hearing is as an individual and not in any way
8 connected with my occupation. And the reason I want to testify
9 is that I have quite considerable experience in the area proposed
10 as a Wilderness area. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent
11 there and I would like to see it preserved in its wilderness state.
I am testifying in favor of the proposal.

13 I think that the best thing I can say in connection with my
14 testimony is in connection with my own experience in the area.
15 Most of my experience is in the Swan Lake Canoe System and some in
16 the Swanson River Area. These are beautiful wilderness areas. As
17 they presently stand they are perfect for canoeing, camping, hunting
18 in the fall and early winter months. I have taken trips into the
19 Swan Lake System with friends, with my family and to hunt and they
20 have been thoroughly enjoyable. The Swan Lake System is a system
21 now in almost a wilderness state with the exception of canoe trails
22 that wander through the System. There are no cabins, there are no
23 garbage disposal dumps, there is no -- it is in a wilderness state.
24 It's just a wonderful place.

25 I think that in its present state it can be enjoyed now and

1 enjoyed into the future as a wilderness area. I think that if
2 something is not done to preserve these areas -- the character of
3 these areas, that sooner or later there will be no place like that
4 left to go. At least no place reasonably close to the urban areas.

5 I am not going to make a very long statement and I am not
6 going to make a very detailed statement, because the detailed facts
7 of the proposal are beyond my capacity to testify to. I just want
8 to testify as to the character of these areas. The wonderful
9 wilderness that they are. And my belief that the best way to
10 preserve these areas is to make them into a wilderness area at this
11 time.

12 There are several parts about the proposal, at least as I
13 understand it, that strike me as being very good. It is my
14 understanding that in the proposal there is going to be limitations
15 as to the use of airplanes, snowmobiles and motorboats. In this
16 day and age, and particularly around Anchorage, you don't have to
17 go very far out in the summertime to any of the lakes until you run
18 into motorboats, water skiers and a great deal of activity. Now,
19 I have no particular objection to that. My argument is that it
20 would be wonderful to have someplace to go where you don't run
21 into that. Just some little place. It doesn't have to be
22 exceptionally large, but someplace where a person can go -- a person
23 from Anchorage can go reasonably quickly. Not up to the northeast
24 corner of Alaska by airplane or something, but where somebody from
25 Anchorage can drive to in a couple of hours to these areas and can

1 get there and enjoy themselves without running into the airplanes,
2 motorboats, snowmobiles and what not.

3 This is the present nature of the Swan Lake Area and the
4 Swanson River Area. I have not been in the other areas so I cannot
5 give personal experience there, but I do know that you can go down
6 to the Swan Lake Canoe Area and in about half an hour you can be
7 in an area where you are completely free. Where there is no problem
8 with being crowded. You can get there easily. You can get there
9 cheaply by car and canoe. You can take your whole family with you
10 if you want to. You can go with a friend if you want to. It is
11 not really a problem to get in there and it is thoroughly enjoyable.
12 And it would be nice to have that, I think, and it would be nice
3 to preserve it that way for a long time.

14 It is my belief that in Alaska probably -- I am not an expert
15 on this, but probably the most valuable resource we have is the
16 recreational resource. And I think if these areas are needed for
17 wilderness areas, they are not going to deter from recreational
18 character.

19 I don't know about the relationship between the Federal
20 Government and the State in working out all the land in Alaska.
21 I do think -- my understanding is to make these Wilderness areas
22 it must be enacted by the United States Congress. I think that if
23 the United States Congress enacts this as a Wilderness area that
24 we can be assured that it will be preserved that way for a long
25 time. It is also my understanding that to take away from this

1 Wilderness character, then it takes another act of Congress. If
2 that is the case -- and I am not an expert on that -- if that is
3 the case, then it seems to me that once it becomes a Wilderness
4 area, that we can be assured that it will stay as a Wilderness area.
5 And I would like to see that very much. I think there is
6 substantial advantages to have Wilderness areas close to the
7 urban areas in Alaska, and that means Anchorage. If we don't do
8 that -- if we don't divide our land into some Wilderness areas,
9 some areas for parks, some areas for the snowmobiles, some areas
10 for swimming, some areas for industry -- if we don't start
11 dividing up our land into areas like that, pretty soon people like
12 me who like to get away from airplanes and the motorboats and the
13 snowmobiles, aren't going to have anyplace to go. I think there
14 are a good number of people that feel the same way as I do. That
15 like to get away. Maybe I'm wrong.

16 I think that the best way to preserve this area is as a
17 Wilderness area. If we get into a contest between the Federal
18 Government and the State as to who is going to administer the
19 land, it can drag on for years, like the Native Land Claims are
20 dragging on for years. And then pretty soon it will be too late
21 to make it into a Wilderness area.

22 I don't see anything wrong with the proposal. I have read
23 it. The little details -- the smaller details, the management of
24 some particular aspects of the Fish and Game Management I think
25 they can be worked out later. I think the main thing is -- the

1 main question we have to decide is, what are we going to do with
2 those areas now? Are they going to be wilderness areas or aren't
3 they? And from my own experience, and, again, I want to make it
4 absolutely clear here that I am only giving my own personal
5 statement -- it has nothing to do with my occupation or anything
6 else -- I want to make it perfectly clear that I think the best
7 thing to do now is to go along with the proposal and make it a
8 Wilderness area which can be enjoyed by us and our children and
9 our children's children, in the state it is in now before it's
10 gone. Thank you.

11 MR. PRICE: Thank you very much for your statement,
12 Judge Mason. At this time I am going to call a ten minute recess.
13 After that time we'll begin with the testimony of the organizations.

14 (Whereupon a recess was called for ten minutes.)

15 MR. PRICE: We are about to recommence the hearing.
16 I am going to again call for the testimony of organizations, and
17 I have received requests from some individuals who have pressing
18 engagements to take their testimony out of order. What I am
19 attempting to do is take the testimony in accordance with the
20 cards that you signed. I am hoping to follow that and yet in
21 certain instances if someone does have a pressing engagement, if
22 they would indicate that to me, I will attempt to accommodate
23 you the best I can.

24 Mr. Jack Bessent representing the Sierra Club. Is he here?
Mr. Jack Bessent?

1 MR. JACK BESSENT: Mr. Price, Mr. Watson, members of
2 the State Government, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Jack
3 Bessent and I am of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club. I
4 intend to make my full statement at Kenai on Friday. This morning,
5 however, I'd just like to make a few informal remarks and, that is,
6 that we support the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in
7 this proposal and -- and recommend further that the Swanson River
8 and Swan Lake Canoeing Areas be consolidated and in the end be
9 consolidated through the addition of lands between the two. Beyond
10 that I would like to respond to Attorney General Havlock's comment
11 that the Bureau has failed to conform to at least the spirit of
12 the National Environmental Policy Act. I think that perhaps
13 there is a fallacy here in that the Range has been administered
14 for Wilderness purposes now for some thirty years and that the
15 Environmental Policy Act refers primarily to action proposed to
16 be taken at the present time. We have thirty years experience to
17 evaluate the environmental impact. The second major concern that
18 bothers me is this constant concern that statewide comprehensive
19 planning is necessary. I watched the legislation go through the
20 State Legislature this past session on a proposed joint State-
21 Federal Land Claim Classification Commission and I was frankly
22 very disappointed. In fact, in the past I was disappointed as
23 there are no provisions for State participation financially. It
had to be amended in Committee to allow mandatory public
20 participation in hearings. It provided for -- initially for not

1 even legislative participation in Commission deliberations. In
2 short, it was a very poorly conceived piece of legislation. And
3 there is doubt at this very moment whether or not in fact the
4 State will have any meaningful impact if this Commission is ever
5 set up. And if it is set up, it will be dependent on a Federal
6 financial participation and the Federal personnel will have to
7 probably determine the role. Therefore, we are skeptical about
8 statements suggesting that things should be put in a bank until
9 such time as a statewide plan is inaugurated. We look upon it
10 frankly as a cover or a smokescreen for delaying proposals
11 indefinitely and meanwhile proceeding full steam ahead with
12 desired projects. We do not see the State waiting for such a
13 plan -- or, pardon me. We do not observe the State delaying
14 consideration of the pipeline while such a plan is being prepared.
15 We do not see the State Highway Department holding back on its
16 plans while this comprehensive plan is being formulated. In short,
17 we don't think that such a proposal as the Bureau is giving us
18 today should await State -- joint State-Federal Land Planning
19 Commission.

20 From testimony given by representatives of the Fish and Game
21 and the Department of Highways it appears that they are primarily
22 fearful that this plan would jeopardize their present jurisdictional
23 interests, if any, and interfere with their proposed plans.

24 Another point I'd like to bring out is the relationship
of this whole proposal to the Wilderness Act, and that is, the

1 Wilderness Act was established in 1964 to prevent the very things
2 that have happened to, for example, the Kenai Moose Range since
3 1941. Broadly, the purpose of the Wilderness Act was, No. 1,
4 to prevent administrative discretion from getting out of hand.
5 That meant primarily Federal. And, No. 2, to prevent political
6 pressures from interfering with purposes for which these wilderness
7 withdrawals were set aside. Developers would be precluded. And
8 we have seen this on the Kenai National Moose Range. In 1957 and
9 '58 political pressures opened up roughly half of the Range to
10 oil and gas exploration over the objections of the conservationists
11 without public hearings. And as such was undesirable from our
standpoint. Then again recently the Range was opened to snowmobile
13 use over and above the objections of both the Federal officials
14 managing the Range and conservationists who oppose the use of
15 snowmobiles in hunting.

16 The Wilderness Act would by designating these areas for
17 permanent protection preclude such administrative moves, the effect
18 of which are to downgrade the wilderness quality of the area.

19 Therefore, we say the Wilderness Act has a meaning whereby
20 the public for the first time really has a say in what is happening
21 to these areas.

22 In this proceeding the public for the first time has been
23 given the opportunity to comment on the Wildlife Range and from
24 here, of course, it goes to the President and to Congress. And
Congress may in its wisdom decide that the Range be abolished

1 entirely, for that matter, or modified or whatever. My main point
2 is that we see the Wilderness Act as an extremely valuable piece
3 of legislation. It enables Alaskans and the United States to
4 participate in final decisions. Once a decision has been made
5 we can then rest assured perhaps that no further intrusions will
6 be made and the areas are set aside.

7 Thank you very much. I will, as I said, present a formal
8 statement in Kenai Friday. Thank you.

9 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Bessent. Mr. Thomas Kelly.

10 MR. THOMAS KELLY: Mr. Chairman, my name is Thomas
11 E. Kelly. I am a consultant in Earth Sciences with offices in
12 Anchorage, Alaska. I am an active member of the Territorial
13 Sportsmen, an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation and a
14 regular member of F.O.E., commonly referred to as Friends of the
15 Earth.

16 I wish to thank the Hearing Officer and the Department of
17 the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, both Mr. Watson and Mr.
18 Matlock, for the opportunity to submit a brief statement at this
19 hearing on the issue of whether or not to include certain specified
20 areas within the Kenai National Moose Range within the National
21 Wilderness Preservation System, such public hearings as are
22 required by the Act of September 3, 1964, Public Law 88-577.

23 My interest lies in the fact that I have spent approximately
24 thirteen years in Alaska and much time on the Kenai Peninsula, and
25 have had the privilege to formerly be entrusted with the management,

conservation and development of Alaska's natural resources. The views expressed are strictly my own and not necessarily those of any other group or agency.

The area required by law to be reviewed within ten years from September 3, 1964, comprises the Kenai National Moose Range, established by Executive Order 8979, wherein President Franklin D. Roosevelt decreed that, "For the purpose of protecting the natural breeding and feeding range of the giant Kenai moose on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska, which in this area presents a unique wildlife feature and an unusual opportunity for the study in its natural environment of the practical management of a big game species that has considerable local economic value, all of the hereinafter described areas of land and water of the United States lying on the northwest portion of the said Kenai Peninsula be, and they are hereby subject to valid existing rights, withdrawn and reserved for the use of the Department of the Interior and the Alaska Game Commission as a refuge and breeding ground for moose, carrying out the purposes of the Alaska Game Law of January 13, 1925. (Citation omitted)."

Subsequent Public Land Order 3400, signed by then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall in 1964 modified the boundaries of the Kenai National Moose Range to the extent necessary to encompass areas of public land and water within the boundaries and to provide for State selection of specific lands along the coast of the Kenai Peninsula and those lines basically bisected by the Sterling

1 Highway.

2 The proposed Wilderness Area, encompassing approximately
3 1,040,000 acres, includes both lands subject to the provisions
4 of the Mineral Leasing Act and other lands that by classification
5 under 43 CFR 192.9 have been effectively closed to all forms of
6 mineral entry, including oil and gas leasing since 1958. A large
7 portion of the lands under consideration for Wilderness have never
8 been available for mineral leasing since oil was first discovered
9 on the Kenai Peninsula in 1957.

10 Although one would find it difficult to refute that the
11 criteria numbered 1 to 4 under the definitions of a Wilderness as
contained in Public Law 88-577 would not fit the area under
13 consideration, the same parameters would fit most of the public
14 domain and State lands within the entire State of Alaska.

15 The problem as I see it is that very little consideration
16 is being given to the necessity for the highest and best use and
17 enjoyment of lands which are reasonably accessible to the outdoors
18 enthusiast and to the general public.

19 The Wilderness Preservation System was established ostensibly
20 to insure "that an increasing population accompanied by expanding
21 settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify
22 all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving
23 no lands designated for preservation and protection in the natural
24 condition." This perhaps is applicable to many areas in the United
25 States, but certainly not Alaska, where the great bulk of the land,

1 for all intensive purposes, will remain untouched for generations
2 to come.

3 But as to the Kenai National Moose Range, a large wildlife
4 refuge that is geographically separated, but basically in
5 juxtaposition to the largest concentration of population in the
6 State, comprising over fifty percent of the entire inhabitants, and
7 an area estimated to increase percentagewise in years to come,
8 the Range occupies that area with some of the greatest recreational
9 potential to be enjoyed by all Americans, and especially Alaskans,
10 and should not be restricted to ingress by only a handful of the
11 more robust outdoors loving people who favor canoeing or hiking
12 at the expense of those who prefer snowmobiling, riding in a boat
13 powered by an outboard motor, or flying light aircraft whose desire
14 for solitude is no less than that of the hiker or canoeer.

15 If there is reason to believe that the moose on the Kenai
16 National Moose Range, the protection of which was the reason for
17 its establishment in the first place, was in jeopardy, or that
18 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to properly protect
19 the Range from development and exploration that have occurred,
20 or that the present sanctuary, closed to mineral leasing, was apt
21 to be violated or destroyed, then it might be advantageous to
22 consider such a Wilderness Proposal. However, none of these
23 hypothetical environmental disruptions has occurred.

24 In fact, the Moose Range is one of the best examples of
wise and ecologically conscious management anywhere in the United

1 States. The supervisor of the Moose Range, the Refuge Manager
2 and all of his people are certainly to be highly complimented
3 and praised for their excellence in resource management under
4 multiple use concepts, but with predominant attention to the
5 natural habitat. Through their careful attention to wildlife
6 protection, reforestation, revegetation and erosion control, the
7 moose population has increased, and there is more opportunity to
8 do research and study on these and other wildlife species since
9 roads and trails were built than there was before man came to the
10 Kenai Peninsula. It has often been said that the Kenai National
11 Moose Range is one of the best examples of compatibility between
12 development and conservation of any area in the world. Much has
13 been written and much more has been said about the harmony between
14 man and the natural environment that exists on the Kenai Peninsula
15 Moose Range, attributable in large measure to the stringent
16 requirements imposed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

17 A large portion of the Wilderness Area as proposed has no
18 trails or the marks of entry and none is permitted under existing
19 regulations, yet the hunter and the fisherman and the average
20 citizen lacking the prowess to paddle a canoe can still find access
21 to this sanctuary. But not if the Wilderness Proposal is adopted.

22 In summary, there is no need for including the specified
23 areas within the Kenai National Moose Range in the Wilderness
24 Preservation System. Present management offers the same protections
to the natural environment, but is not so restrictive as to deny

1 the region to only a few. The Mount Bona Wilderness Area, the
2 proposed Tracy Arm, Fords Terror Wilderness Area, and others within
3 Alaska have particular geological features that make them unique,
4 but they are not nearly as potentially usable as the Kenai Moose
5 Range. These other Wilderness Areas do not influence the human
6 environment to any great extent. Not so if the Moose Range is
7 forever made a Wilderness.

8 The great urban crisis of today, restlessness, violent
9 revolt, dissent by youth and minorities, burning, destruction of
10 property, social and moral deterioration, I think, can be attributed
11 to two basic reasons: (1) Inability or unwillingness of our system
12 to accept change as a fact of life and failure to recognize that
13 the need for change is long overdue in some areas -- a restructuring
14 of our priorities; and (2) Overcrowding and forcing man to confine
15 himself to small areas without freedom or access to his environment.

16 How consistent is our policy of arresting the deterioration
17 of our society by ostensibly giving man more opportunity to enjoy
18 his natural environment, and at the same time, close to him forever
19 an area in close proximity, accessible without undue difficulty,
20 such as the Kenai National Moose Range?

21 Within any sovereign state the management of fish and game
22 resources is largely entrusted to personnel within the State
23 Departments established for the conservation and protection of
24 the many species. A dual system of management of wildlife as
25 established by the Wilderness Preservation System would not be

1 consistent with good conservation propagation techniques, and
2 may very well work to the detriment of wildlife species. I think
3 it is important to remember that the Wilderness System states:
4 "No appropriation shall be available for the payment of expenses
5 or salaries for the administration of the National Wilderness
6 Preservation System as a separate unit, nor shall any appropriations
7 be available for additional personnel stated as being required
8 solely for the purpose of managing or administering areas solely
9 because they are included within the National Wilderness Preser-
10 vation System." State programs for fish and game management would
11 not function in the wilderness, with the result that protection
12 and funds for propagation research of the Dall sheep, bear, birds,
13 and salmon could be eliminated.

14 . Notwithstanding any regard for multiple use management of
15 natural resources or wise management of the biological habitat,
16 creation of the Wilderness Area as proposed within the Kenai National
17 Moose Range is still unjust and unreasonable to the general public.

18 I would like to commend specifically the Attorney General
19 Mr. Havlock and Mr. Blum for what I consider to be very positive
20 rather than negative approaches requiring -- or at least asking
21 that more than just unilateral decisions be made by one Government
22 agency in a matter so important to the future of Alaska as is
23 this particular proposal.

24 I urge that it is not recommended for inclusion in the
25 National Wilderness Preservation System. Thank you.

1 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. We have one question
2 apparently for clarification. What is the question, please?

3 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Mr. Chairman, what group is
4 this gentleman representing?

5 MR. PRICE: Mr. Kelly is representing ---

6 MR. KELLY: I thought I made it clear to the gentleman
7 that I represent and am speaking on behalf of myself. And my
8 views do not represent any group's or agency's views. I think
9 I said that in the prefacing remarks.

10 MR. PRICE: Mr. Gordon Wright.

11 MR. GORDON:WRIGHT: My name is Gordon Wright. I am
12 speaking today on behalf of the Alaska Conservation Society. I
13 am a member of the Executive Committee, Editor of the Society's
14 Quarterly Review. I am also a member of the Friends of the Earth.
15 I can't believe it is the same organization that I just heard the
16 previous speaker being a member of. The Alaska Conservation
17 Society is an Alaskan organization of over eight hundred members
18 and seven chapters throughout the State. The Society is a non-
19 profit corporation founded in 1960 to secure the wise use of
20 renewable and non-renewable resources and the protection and
21 preservation of the scientific and scenic recreational wildlife
22 and wilderness values of Alaska.

23 I would like to include a copy of our quarterly publication
24 for the record since it indicates the scope of the Society's
25 activities.

1 The Alaska Conservation Society recognizes wilderness as
2 a prime resource of the State of Alaska. With less than one
3 percent of the land area in the contiguous United States subject
4 to inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, it is
5 imperative that the great areas of the type of wilderness in
6 Alaska be inventoried and studied for inclusion in the System.

7 The Society concurs with the State of Alaska Department of
8 Natural Resources who stated in a publication "Outdoor Recreation
9 in Alaska," "The subject of preserving wilderness is fundamental
10 to planning for recommendation and conservation in Alaska to those
11 who wish to preserve "the Wilderness Act areas of earth and life
12 untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor and does not remain."

13 It is appalling that the state where this concept could
14 be most fruitfully applied has no formally designated type of
15 wilderness areas. It is all the more appalling since the Wilderness
16 System is established statement policy of the Congress of the
17 United States.

18 It is a sad commentary on the state of mankind that we have
19 to fight for Alaskan wilderness and that we have to plead for it.
20 This peculiarly ironic that Alaska with much of its land true
21 wilderness has dedicated only fifty thousand acres to wilderness
22 and this only under insistence by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries
23 and Wildlife. The other Federal agencies in Alaska have to this
24 date no proposals for wilderness. Yet it is no secret that the
25 Federal Government has jurisdiction of over ninety percent of

1 Alaska's land.

2 The State itself has given only lip service to wilderness
3 values and to this date has made public no proposals for wilderness.

4 Who receives benefit of statutory protection of wilderness?
5 Alaskans are known to be the greatest lovers of the outdoors in
6 the United States. Few Alaskans are unable to walk, ski or
7 snowshoe. Wilderness allows horseback, dog sledding, canoeing.
8 Does the whine and roar of the snowmachine or trail bike give such
9 joy that it must dominate every last square foot of our land?
10 Can we teach our children the joys of wilderness in a solitude and
11 machine dominated environment?

12 The Lower '48 States in the next century will look to
13 Alaska for its wilderness experience. Tourists coming to Alaska
14 hardly travel thousands of miles to see oil pumping stations,
15 powerlines, clear cut forests and open pit mines.

16 The Alaska Conservation Society sees the mandate as clear.
17 Either we protect with legislation a substantial portion of our
18 wilderness now or regret it later. The full statement of the
19 Alaska Conservation Society will be given on Friday in Kenai by the
20 officers of the Kenai Chapter. The State organization supports
21 the recommendations of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and in addition
22 inclusion of the following -- I think I will pass this over and
23 will include it in the written statement -- the current conservation
24 proposals. The Society urges that the Department of the Interior
25 set the recommendations of the Bureau and those additions proposed

1 by the Alaska Conservation Society and other citizen conservation
2 organizations.

3 Furthermore, the Society would like to commend the Bureau
4 for its well documented presentation.

5 An expanded statement will be provided for the record.
6 I'm sorry, I don't have it.

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 MR. PRICE: Your statement will be received in the
2 record. Whatever you wish to have inserted.

3 MR. WRIGHT: I beg your pardon?

4 MR. PRICE: Whatever you wish to have inserted in the
5 record will be accepted and received. Mr. Hopkins?

6 MR. WILLIAM W. HOPKINS: I am William W. Hopkins. I
7 am the Manager of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, 425 G Street,
8 Anchorage. The Alaska Oil and Gas Association is a trade
9 organization of companies engaged in exploration, production,
10 transportation and marketing of oil and gas in Alaska. Our
11 membership includes all of the present commercial producers of
12 oil and natural gas in the state.

13 We would like to submit for the record of this hearing our
14 comments and suggestions regarding the proposal to include portions
15 of the Kenai National Moose Range into the National Wilderness
16 Preservation System.

17 We are in accord with the purposes embodied in the proposal.
18 But we do not feel their achievement should, or necessarily must,
19 sacrifice other equally significant benefits which would be
20 precluded by the proposed classification.

21 We believe the benefits of the various values recognized
22 in the proposal itself can best be continued and enhanced under
23 the present management status, rather than by inclusion in the
24 Wilderness System. Management under the Wildlife Refuge System can
25 and does accommodate compatible uses, and provides full capability

1 for protecting priority values of any portions of the Moose Range,
2 to the exclusion of other uses. This would not be so under the
3 Wilderness System designation. We are gravely concerned that
4 very significant benefits would be sacrificed without compensating
5 need or purpose by adoption of the proposal.

6 We will limit our comments primarily to a review and
7 description of some of the affected land in regard to its use
8 and potential for oil and gas exploration and production. It is
9 our hope to remind the public how these lands have served to
10 benefit the public through careful use of these purposes, and how
11 they can continue to do so. It is our sincere desire that our
12 industry's concern will be recognized in terms of the interests
13 it holds in common with the public in the disposition of this
14 matter. We believe this will be apparent in the answers to the
15 following questions.

16 First, what is the significance of the affected areas in
17 terms of oil and gas resources? Second, what are the benefits
18 to the public of these lands for those purposes? Finally, what
19 are the costs or benefits of these uses to other values and uses
20 within or adjacent to the areas open to oil and gas exploration
21 and production?

22 To answer the first question on the significance and
23 potential of oil and gas resources, the proposal contains a large
24 amount of acreage that falls within the area where a major portion
25 of the oil and gas productive Kenai Group Tertiary sediments of

1 Cook Inlet Basin pinches out eastward toward the metamorphosed
2 Mesozoic basement rocks of the Chugach-Kenai Mountains. This
3 regional stratigraphic relationship is an attractive setting for
4 oil and gas exploration because of the potential for entrapment
5 of oil and/or gas on local features in the updip wedge edges of
6 oil or gas bearing formations.

7 Cook Inlet Basin is a new and relatively incompletely
8 explored oil and gas producing province. It is similar in size
9 to many other basins in various parts of the world where over the
10 years considerably more oil and gas reserves have been developed
11 and where many more exploratory wells have been drilled. Drilling
12 to date in Cook Inlet Basin has been largely confined to a search
13 for oil and gas production on the easier to find anti-clinal
14 structures. Virtually no drilling has been directed to a search
15 for oil or gas accumulations in the more obscure stratigraphic type
16 traps believed to exist within the proposed Kenai Wilderness Area.

17 Exploration in all basins usually evolves to a stage where
18 sufficient sub-surface data is developed by drilling the structural
19 features to provide ideas for exploratory drilling of the more
20 difficult to locate stratigraphic and combination stratigraphic-
21 structural type oil and gas prospects. Cook Inlet Basin exploration
22 is reaching this stage. In order for the much needed oil and gas
23 reserve potential of this Basin to be more fully realized, it is
24 imperative that these lands remain available for oil and gas
25 exploration and development.

1 Over the last fourteen years the drilling of twenty
2 exploratory wells in the Kenai National Moose Range has resulted
3 in the discovery of three gas fields and Alaska's first major
4 oil field, the Swanson River Oil Field, discovered in 1957. Swanson
5 River Field, of course, is entirely within the Kenai National
6 Moose Range. The Beaver Creek Gas Field, discovered in 1967, is
7 also located within the Moose Range. In fact, the proposed
8 Elephant Lake Wilderness Area includes 1,280 acres of the Beaver
9 Creek Unit, 320 acres of which are part of a producing lease.

10 The Kenai Gas Field located just west of the Moose Range
11 was discovered in 1959, and is the main source of natural gas
12 supply to the cities of Kenai and to Anchorage by way of pipeline
13 across the northern part of the Moose Range and across Turnagain
14 Arm. Presently Alaska's only significant onshore production is
15 located on the Kenai Peninsula.

16 The success of exploratory oil and gas wells on the Kenai
17 Peninsula far exceeds the national average. The geographical
18 location of this oil and gas province is extremely important, in
19 that it lies within a reasonable distance of facilities and
20 transportation ports already established. Alaska's geographical
21 remoteness results in higher cost of operations, no matter what
22 type of operation it might be. An operator can drill at least three
23 wildcat wells on the Kenai Peninsula for what it costs to drill one
24 wildcat well on the North Slope.

25 On May 12, 1971, the State of Alaska held its 24th

1 competitive oil and gas lease sale on a portion of State owned
2 onshore competitive lands within the Cook Inlet Basin. Approximately
3 7,000 competitive acres were leased on the Kenai Peninsula. There
4 are approximately 335,000 acres under oil and gas lease on the
5 Kenai Peninsula at the present time, and the majority of those
6 acres are unexplored or undeveloped. Of the total acreage under
7 lease, approximately 225,000 acres lie within the Kenai National
8 Moose Range and most of this acreage is in the northern portion.
9 This is not to imply that only the northern portion of the Moose
10 Range holds oil and gas potential, but is simply because most of
11 the southern half, or approximately 900,000 acres, has been closed
12 to oil and gas leasing. The proposed Caribou Hills Wilderness
13 Unit contains approximately 36,000 acres, approximately 30,000 of
14 which are under oil and gas lease at the present time. If Alaska
15 were not gripped in the present land freeze, it would not be
16 unreasonable to assume that every available acre in the Kenai Moose
17 Range would be under oil and gas lease today.

18 The foregoing then is our answer to the question of what
19 is the significance in terms of oil and gas resources of the
20 areas affected by the proposal.

21 Question No. 2 regards the public benefits of oil and gas
22 operations in the Cook Inlet Basin, which received impetus from
23 the discovery of oil within the Moose Range.

24 For several years, and today as well, direct income to the
25 State of Alaska from oil and gas operations in the Cook Inlet Basin

1 have carried a substantial part of the State's operating budget.
2 Last year this income, primarily in the form of royalties,
3 production tax and rentals, amounted to approximately \$40 million.
4 Until North Slope production is allowed to go on stream, the only
5 significant revenue the State will realize from oil and gas
6 production will continue to be from the Cook Inlet Basin.

7 Further income to the public sector accrues in the form of
8 State income taxes and Borough property and sales taxes.

9 The economies of the State and local communities are
10 substantially affected in the private sector by industry operations.
11 The majority of some 3,300 petroleum industry personnel in Alaska
12 reside in the Kenai Peninsula-Anchorage area. Payrolls for the
13 industry in Alaska last year were \$65.3 million. Indeed, there
14 were expressions of doubt as to the economic viability of Alaska
15 in those days shortly before Statehood was granted. The discovery
16 of oil at Swanson River and the subsequent discoveries in Cook
17 Inlet helped to gain Statehood for Alaskans and to sustain the
18 fledgling state through the early days of Statehood.

19 What are the benefits of such development nationally? The
20 United States is entering a period of energy shortages. Energy
21 use has doubled in the last twenty years and will double again in
22 the next fifteen years. Oil and gas supplies seventy-five percent
23 of our energy needs. In 1985 when our energy usage has doubled
24 this country will be using oil at the rate of 30 million barrels
25 per day and gas at the rate of 115 billion cubic feet per day. Our

1 energy shortage problem is simply that we are not discovering new
2 oil and gas reserves at the rate in which we are using our existing
3 reserves.

4 The domestic oil and gas industry is attempting to cope with
5 this challenge of discovering additional reserves. But, it will
6 be impossible to meet the demands if the industry is precluded
7 from exploring for a diminishing commodity in those known
8 geologically promising regions.

9 Oil and gas operations have been made compatible with the
10 environment and wildlife within the Moose Range, as well as
11 operations outside of the Moose Range. The oil and gas industry
12 is very much aware of its responsibility to maintain the quality
13 of our environment and balance of ecosystems of this magnificent
14 land, while meeting the energy needs of our great nation. To
15 meet this need the industry will have to explore millions of acres
16 of all varieties of lands, from downtown urban areas to offshore
17 lands, to the tundra and forest lands of Alaska. Oil and gas
18 operations can and should be conducted in harmony with the habitat
19 and environment. A classic example of such an operation is the
20 Swanson River Oil Field itself, located within the Moose Range.
21 Under the supervision of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
22 Wildlife Service and the U. S. Geological Survey, this major oil
23 field has produced over 100 million barrels of oil and has proven
24 beneficial to Alaskans and visitors to the Moose Range. The
25 development has provided roads maintained by the industry at the

1 request of the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife Service
2 and at the industry's sole expense, by which the public gained
3 access to many natural attractions in addition to the unique Swan
4 Lake and Swanson River Canoe Routes.

5 These access roads also have abetted management of the moose
6 herd and combat of Alaska's most dreaded enemy, forest fires.

7 The operator of the Swanson River Field has maintained a
8 constant beautification, restoration and revegetation program in
9 all phases of its operation. The planned revegetation and new
10 natural growth has produced a more abundant accessible food supply
11 for the moose herd, and, together with the excellent game manage-
12 ment by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the moose herd
13 has grown larger and healthier.

14 The conservation practices involving flora and fauna are
15 not the only conservation steps taken in this oil field. In order
16 to recover the maximum amount of oil from the reservoir over the
17 life of the field, a reservoir repressurization program was
18 initiated and is presently in effect. This 7,880 acre unit is
19 under the jurisdiction and scrutiny of the United States
20 Geological Survey and the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas, to insure
21 orderly development and prevention of waste of this natural
22 resource. Oil and gas operations on the Kenai Peninsula and in
23 the Kenai National Moose Range have shown us an example of the
24 multiple use concept, serving more than one priority use of the
25 land, with no long range detrimental effects.

1 We do not take issue with the criteria that qualifies these
2 areas as exceptional scenic and recreational lands of mountains,
3 glaciers, forests, muskegs, lakes, rivers, streams, and animal life.
4 In fact, such a description is duplicated many times throughout
5 Alaska.

6 Alaska is unique. It represents many things to many people.
7 All its natural resources must be protected, conserved and managed
8 wisely for the social, economical and recreational benefit of all
9 the people.

10 In summary we would recommend that all areas remain in the
11 present management status, which allows for multiple use, for the
12 following reasons: (1) Preservation of areas for their unique
13 wilderness values can continue to be achieved through the present
14 management status. Access to the perimeters of such areas can
15 enhance their management and public enjoyment of those areas.

16 (2) Enhancement and expansion of fishing, hunting, canoeing and
17 other recreational uses can be accomplished under present manage-
18 ment status. Wilderness System designation would limit appropriate
19 and desirable public access of areas whose better uses may not
20 be strict wilderness condition. (3) Oil and gas exploration can
21 be carried out to delineate areas productive of those valuable,
22 needed resources, with little lasting effect. Production acreage,
23 where found, can be developed so as to affect the least possible
24 surface area and provide access to areas otherwise unaffected by
25 production operations.

1 These uses would be precluded under Wilderness System
2 designation.

3 In conclusion, we feel that in the face of an increasing
4 national energy shortage, it cannot be to the best interest of
5 the public to include portions of this oil and gas region in the
6 Wilderness System. To do so appears premature and denies the
7 people of the State and nation the opportunity to benefit from
8 a vitally needed resource. Thank you very much.

9 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Gerald
10 Ganopole.

11 MR. GERALD GANOPOLE: My name is Gerald Ganopole,
12 2536 Arlington Drive, Anchorage, Alaska. Resident and consultant
13 geologist. I would first like to express my deep appreciation to
14 the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife for formulating and,
15 hopefully, bringing to completion, the proposals for developing
16 large areas of the Kenai Moose Range into the National Wilderness
17 Preservation System. I can think of no higher, or more fitting
18 present program of land management for these unique and readily
19 accessible natural wilderness areas.

20 A wilderness classification not only maintains the present
21 integrity of the area, but all discovered or undiscovered natural
22 resources that may be in the area today will also be there tomorrow.

23 In addition to the wilderness units outlined by the Bureau,
24 I would recommend that Swanson River and Swan Lake Canoe Units be
25 extended and combined into a single unit and that the south coast

1 drainage area of Tustumena Lake be combined with and into the
2 Caribou Hills and Andy Simons Wilderness Unit.

3 Thank you very much for the opportunity to express my views.

4 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Who was he representing?

5 MR. GERALD GANOPOLE: I am representing myself as a
6 citizen of Alaska.

7 MR. PRICE: Carroll Jones.

8 CAROLL JONES: Mr. Chairman and Members of the
9 Committee, my name is Carroll Jones. I live at 6604 Mink Street
10 in Anchorage. I am Secretary of the Nordic Ski Club. Mr. Leo
11 Hannon who resides at 2413 Chilligan Drive, Anchorage, is President
12 of the Nordic Club and because he is out of town and unable to
13 attend the hearing, has asked me to read this statement in behalf
14 of the over 900 members of the Nordic Ski Club.

15 The Nordic Ski Club of Anchorage endorses the proposal to
16 establish the wilderness areas within the Kenai National Moose
17 Range. The establishment of such wilderness areas coincide with
18 the objectives and purposes of the Nordic Ski Club. The philosophy
19 of the Club in relation to the development of parks and other
20 public areas is, "The wilderness should be made available for publi
21 use to the optimum extent consistent with maintenance of primitive
22 conditions." Wherever conflicts arise wilderness values should be
23 dominant to the extent not limited by the law or by regulations.
24 Only primitive modes of transportation should be allowed within
25 the confines of wilderness areas. Motorized vehicles should be

1 permitted only when their prohibition would be extremely
2 unreasonable. The use of motorized vehicles for sport purposes
3 should not be considered as reasonable use.

4 The opponents of this measure who contend that the wilder-
5 ness classification would largely block access to the region for
6 almost any sort of use by the general public are sadly misinformed.
7 The general public would be free to use the region for any type
8 of recreation that is compatible with the area's primitive status.
9 If one wishes to travel by primitive means, on foot or by canoe
10 in summer, or on skis, snowshoes or by dog sled in the winter,
11 there is no limit to the recreational use of these regions. We
12 feel that hunting and fishing should be allowed subject to
13 regulations of the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game. The
14 only other rule which hunters must follow is that once again they
15 must transport themselves and their prize by primitive means.

16 In this case the Kenai Wilderness Area would be one of the
17 few remaining wild lands where we can still catch a glimpse of the
18 world of Kit Carson, Jim Bridger or Jed Smith. The spirit of
19 Daniel Boone and the mountain men would still walk these woods
20 and mountains. There are values to be gained from Wilderness areas
21 and primitive travel that are either felt in the heart or you
22 do not understand. This wilderness area would also provide us with
23 one of America's most sought after commodity, one which cannot be
24 purchased, and that is serenity. Thank you.

25 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Alice Brown.

1 MRS. ALICE BROWN: I do appreciate the opportunity
2 to express my views. My name is Mrs. Alice E. Brown. I was born
3 in Kenai, Alaska and have been active in Native affairs for many
4 years. I am the Field Representative for the Kenaitze Indian
5 Association and I am representing them today, a member of the
6 Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives and have
7 been since its inception; chairman of the Alaska Native Political
8 Education Committee; Executive Secretary of the Alaska State
9 Mental Health Association; and a member of the steering committee
10 of the Anchorage Borough Mental Health Association.

11 The Kenai Wilderness Proposal as written by the Bureau of
12 Sport Fisheries and Wildlife under the Department of the Interior
13 is fine in many respects, but lacks many considerations.

14 For one thing it is ignoring the Alaska Native Land Claims
15 Act presently in the United States Congress.

16 The Kenai Indians lived and had villages in all areas of
17 the Kenai Peninsula and especially in the Kenai National Moose
18 Range.

19 All livable lands in the Peninsula have been taken in one
20 way or another without our consent or compensation. The only
21 possible land we, as the rightful owners, could receive under the
22 Land Claims Act would have to come out of the Moose Range.

23 Most agencies consider the reserves sacrosanct. Why aren't
24 the Indian people ever considered? This is our home and has been
25 for thousands of years.

1 My mother was born by the Indian River near Tustumena
2 Lake. Barbara Winkley mentions this river in her article on the
3 Moose Range in the Sunday, June 20th edition of the Anchorage
4 Daily News. My ancestral home was in the Nikiski area. They
5 fished and hunted and later trapped in the different locations
6 throughout the Kenai Peninsula, including the large and small
7 lakes and streams. They had summer camps in some areas and winter
8 camps in other areas. But, they always had a home base. These
9 were the villages.

10 Some of the villages are: Stipanka, on the south end of
11 Skilak Lake; Kubina on Bishop Creek; Kalifonsky near Kasilof;
12 Salamatof, north of Kenai; Nikiski, north of Kenai; Caribou Island
13 on Lake Tustumena; Nicolai on Point Possession; Skituk, Indian
14 name for Kenai; Kuskatan, across the Inlet; Kasilof on Cook Inlet
15 at the end of Kasilof River and many others. We also had villages
16 on Swanson River, Kenai Lake and River, Chickaloon Flats, Moose
17 River, Caribou Hills and all along the coastal areas as well as
18 the interior and on rivers and lakes and even mountains.

19 We claim as Kenai Indians, on the basis of law, 4,540,500
20 acres. The laws are: the 1867 Treaty of Cession; the Act of 1884
21 the Statehood Act and the many court decisions honoring Indian
22 claimants. We do not expect to get the over 4,000,000 acres, but
23 we are entitled to some land in our own behalf and that means the
24 Moose Range.

25 In your Wilderness Proposal you said Kenai was founded by

1 the Russians. This is false. They only changed the name to suit
2 themselves. We always had a village at Kenai, but our Indian
3 name for Kenai was Skituk.

4 Also we as Indians have always been and are the first
5 environmentalists. Our religion, philosophy and history all
6 show our respect for nature. We never took more than we needed,
7 or destructed or polluted. I hope you will include enforcement
8 of preservation of the environment when you open the lands to the
9 public. From what I've seen of the pollution and destruction in
10 these twenty years, you'll surely need rigid supervision.

11 Many headwaters of creeks and rivers are in these six units
12 you propose. I would hate to see salmon rotting on the banks
13 before they can spawn as I've seen these twenty years. Also the
14 gun happy shooters of loons, swans and anything else that moves.

15 In your proposal you also said, "Natives owning and using
16 cabins for subsistence purposes will be given a lifetime permit."
17 When a person owns something by your law, you are entitled to hand
18 it down to your children if you wish. Why are you extinguishing
19 the Indians' right when he dies? Do you think that is justice?
20 I do not.

21 I do believe, at the present time, the Moose Range should
22 remain as it is.

23 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Mark Ganopole.

24 MR. MARK GANOPOLE: My name is Mark Ganopole. I am
25 Secretary-Director of the Alaska Wilderness Council. The address

1 is P.O. Box 4-470, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503. We wish to go on
2 record as supporting the Kenai Wilderness Proposal as submitted
3 by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. We request the
4 addition of the deliniated areas as shown on the map I will submit.

5 Since Anchorage is and will continue to be the largest
6 population center in Alaska, all the problems which accompany the
7 recreational use of lands adjacent to large cities anywhere are
8 present in Alaska also. The Kenai Peninsula is the playground of
9 that population center as well as that of all the other residents
10 of South Central Alaska. If the various Chambers of Commerce in
11 Palmer, Anchorage, Seward, Soldotna, Kenai and Homer are correct
12 in their views of how their populations are going to grow --
13 500,000 people in Anchorage alone, the Kenai Peninsula will
14 definitely feel the impact of people use on its recreational
15 resources. With this overview in mind, it then becomes necessary
16 to establish adequate wilderness areas before that growth occurs
17 or there will be none close at hand when the need is greatest.

18 As you know, the Kenai Peninsula is divided into a number
19 of land management areas under the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
20 Wildlife, National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, and the
21 State of Alaska. To plan the use of this area is one of long
22 range planning. To try and plan the use of one portion without
23 viewing the whole area as a unit is an antiquated concept and
24 disastrous to the development of good land use policies in Alaska.
25 The Kenai Moose Range includes only 1,730,000 acres of the entire

1 Kenai Peninsula. The Native Claims potential covers portions of
2 all the lands, including the Moose Range.

3 There is, as now known, mineral resources of timber and
4 mining on the Kenai Peninsula. The greatest resource potential
5 lies in three recognized areas: oil and gas; commercial fishing;
6 recreation.

7 In oil and gas you have a non-renewable resource. But it is
8 a resource that is easily exploitable. The Bureau of Sport
9 Fisheries and Wildlife has a pretty good handle on managing the
10 situation and have done a creditable job in managing the Range
11 along with allowing the oil and gas exploration and extraction.
12 When the resource is gone, so will the oil extraction accouterments.
13 Properly handled those land use signs should disappear and the Range
14 return to its natural vista. Regeneration of grasses, trees, etc.,
15 in that area of Alaska is good and in a matter of a relatively few
16 years all signs of previous use could disappear to a large extent.

17 However, you may expect the oil and gas industries will
18 oppose very strongly the establishment of the Elephant Lake
19 Wilderness Unit, the Swan Lake Canoe Wilderness Unit, the Swanson
20 River Canoe Wilderness Unit, and the Caribou Hills Wilderness Unit.
21 It comes down to a very basic question; do you want the wilderness
22 today, or in one hundred years when the oil is depleted and the
23 land may have returned to its natural state. If the oil industry
24 is successful in opposing the establishment of these units, they
25 then have the right to run seismic lines, build roads and pipelines

1 and drill for oil anywhere in those proposed areas.

2 The use of the Kenai Moose Range in a canoeing, hiking,
3 camping, fishing, hunting recreational context should be emphasized
4 as offering a permanent economic resource to the residents of the
5 Kenai. Zoning or segregation of the areas in view of the
6 anticipated impact from those recreational uses is necessary in
7 order that the intrinsic values of the Moose Range remain intact.
8 The wilderness portions are part of that zoning.

9 Although areas of easy access for many people are necessary,
10 roadless portions are of greater value to the integrity of the
11 purpose for which the Range was established. The present proposed
12 wilderness areas should be viewed as land in the bank -- as lands
13 of wildlife habitat that permit the undisturbed reproduction,
14 solitude, and protection of the life-cycle of the wildlife of the
15 Kenai Moose Range. Although it's true the hunter and fisherman can
16 walk into these areas to harvest game, it is also true that the
17 walking man as compared to the man on a machine has less of an
18 impact on the biome overall. Canoeists, hikers and campers using
19 the proper tools and responses to the natural scene cause even
20 less disturbance to the wilderness values. It is highly desirable
21 that snowmachines and such not be permitted in the wilderness areas.
22 Even airplanes landing on lakes should be limited to areas where
23 access on foot is either hazardous or greatly limited by time
24 factors. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has resisted
25 strongly the limitation of snowmachine and plane.

1 To say that the Moose Range Wilderness areas are to be
2 established for the use of man is a false premise. The wilderness
3 should be an area of free nature where man adapts to fit with the
4 whole. His needs should not dominate, nor should the wilderness
5 be managed for his convenience. And here is where the Wilderness
6 Proposals fit into the great overall planning for the Kenai
7 Peninsula. Much of the planning for the rest of the Kenai Peninsula
8 is for man's purposes and his uses dominate. The Kenai Moose Range
9 alone offers 700,000 acres of man-oriented lands, exclusive of
10 the wilderness proposed areas. To the east of the Moose Range lie
11 the National Forest Lands all the way to Seward. These lands are
12 used by cross-country skiers, hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers,
13 fourwheelers, small business men, all managed for man's pleasure.
14 There is a State Park on the lower Kenai Peninsula dedicated to
15 man's need as seen in a developed recreational sense, as well as
16 the Captain Cook Recreation area adjacent to the Moose Range. When
17 viewed in this periphery, the Wilderness Proposals are part of a
18 balanced land use. The Harding Ice Field, world known, under
19 Bureau of Land Management, lies chiefly between the southeast
20 portion of the Moose Range and Andy Simons Wilderness Area. This
21 is public domain land with its destiny as yet undetermined. Seward
22 businessmen view it as an around-the-year man oriented recreation
23 area for skiing and snowmachines. All in all, the size of the Kenai
24 Moose Range Wilderness Units now appear very modest indeed.

25 I wish to compliment the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and

1 Wildlife for the significant job they are doing on their Wilderness
2 Studies and the management of their lands.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

4 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Ganopole. Gene Kvalvik.

5 MR. GENE KVALVIK: Gentlemen, I have been an Alaskan
6 resident for nine years, a registered guide for six years, and
7 lived on the Kenai Peninsula for my first five years in Alaska.

8 During the past nine years I have spent much time in the
9 areas under consideration for inclusion as a bonifide Wilderness.

10 Just lately I have sent a few copies of the proposal to
11 friends with whom I have traveled and hunted. They in turn told
12 friends of this area. At the present time I have letters from
13 these people which represents about one hundred and fifty
14 individuals who are in favor of the proposal, and realize the
15 great need to set aside part of what is left of a once "Great Land"

16 These people are both the rich and poor. They range from
17 bank presidents to school children, school teachers to a Wyoming
18 big game guide.

19 The proposal is too modest. Skilak Lake and Tustumena Lake
20 should be both included, especially the islands in Skilak Lake.
21 One of these islands, Caribou Island, has been cut up into a
22 subdivision of 160 lots, with an air strip planned. These islands
23 must be bought and included as a necessary part of this Wilderness.
24 "Suburbia" in this wilderness is a running sore on the face of
25 "Mother Nature".

1 Vast areas of our land must be set aside. It does not just
2 preserve the wilderness or the wild things in it, it will help to
3 preserve the human race. Although the human race may not deserve
4 preserving as too many of us would sell our mother's soul if there
5 were a profit to be made.

6 There are millions of Americans who would enjoy this land
7 without the sound of machines, smog, roads and noise. To many
8 there is a great sponse of satisfaction just in knowing that there
9 is still a clean, quiet place left in the world. A place where
10 they and their children and grandchildren can go at a future date
11 to see how the world was meant to be.

12 Hunting pressures have increased drastically over the past
13 several years. From 1969 to 1970 there was a fifteen percent
14 increase. There must be steps taken now to insure a huntable
15 population of game in the future. One major step would be to stop
16 the mechanized and aerial warfare being waged against our game
17 herds. There are hunters enough who are willing to hunt by
18 sporting methods to keep the game herds within bounds should this
19 area be classified as Wilderness.

20 The value of this area would be greatly increased if
21 aircraft were excluded entirely, as well as the other mechanized
22 methods of transportation. Why allow the roar of engines in an
23 area a strong man can traverse in one days travel?

24 There is a large supply of roads, roadside parks, scenic
25 drives, etc., for the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and men such as

1 Thomas Kelly. But there is only one wilderness. Only the one
2 chance of saving it and this is it. There are millions of Americans
3 who want the magic cure that only a true Wilderness offers.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. PRICE: Eivin Brudie.

6 MR. EIVIN BRUDIE: I am Eivin Brudie. I am speaking
7 for the Mountaineering Club of Alaska which has two hundred and
8 forty-six individuals and families with a common interest in
9 hiking and climbing. The Club has an active Conservation Committee
10 which keeps the Club informed on those issues which directly affect
11 the interests of the hikers and climbers, and that Committee
12 prepared this statement. The statement was presented at a general
13 meeting of the Mountaineering Club last Thursday and unanimously
14 adopted by those present as the statement of the position of the
15 Club.

16 We regard the Wilderness Act of 1964 as highly progressive
17 legislation and realize that it was the intent of Congress in
18 passing this Act to insure that a rapidly growing population with
19 its associated mechanization does not eventually occupy and modify
20 all natural areas within the United States. Congress by its action
21 created the legal and legislative machinery that enables Americans
22 to secure an enduring resource of wilderness for people of present
23 and future generations.

24 It is especially significant, we believe, that this action
25 by Congress came at a time when only two percent of the total land

1 mass of the United States was left available as wilderness, with
2 ninety-eight percent being already subjected to non-wilderness use.

3 It is also important to realize that while much of Alaska
4 is in reality presently in a condition of wilderness, that this
5 situation is changing rapidly. Few natural areas in the state are
6 in fact afforded the legislative protection essential to insure
7 that they will remain in a wild, free and undeveloped state.
8 Intrusions that have already occurred into the Moose Range by
9 commercial interests, making portions of this wonderful wildlife
10 area unfit for inclusion in the Wilderness Proposal, are mute
11 testimony of this.

12 While it is obvious that Alaska needs intelligent development
13 of its natural resources and a strong and vigorous economy, it is
14 also obvious that wilderness holds a crucial place in the total
15 environmental spectrum because of the protection that it affords
16 to aesthetic and scenic values, to fish and wildlife and their
17 habitats, to plant life, water and air; because of the varied
18 recreational opportunities it offers the outdoor enthusiast; and
19 because it may be the only place where one can temporarily escape
20 from the ever increasing numbers of mechanized vehicles of ever
21 increasing types.

22 We sincerely believe that one true measure of a mature
23 civilization is whether or not it has the wisdom and the determination
24 to preserve at least remnants of a once rich heritage of wilderness,
25 if for no other reason than that such areas are beautiful,

1 interesting, stimulating and recreationally satisfying. Will our
2 civilization measure up to such a standard? The outcome of the
3 issue before us here today will certainly go a long way toward
4 providing the answer.

5 We are convinced that the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
6 Wildlife have adequately investigated the benefits of classifying
7 part of its Kenai National Moose Range as a wilderness area. Also,
8 the personal experience of many of our members leads us to conclude
9 that the particular part of the beautiful Kenai Peninsula chosen
10 is extremely well suited to be classed as a wilderness area. We
11 thus strongly urge adoption of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries
12 and Wildlife proposal that recommends classifying part of the
13 Kenai National Moose Range as a Wilderness area.

14 We also recommend inclusion of the unit extensions proposed
15 by the Kenai Conservationists. We feel that the two canoe units
16 should be united to encompass the headwaters of the Swanson River.
17 Extension to Point Possession will provide safety for the trumpeter
18 swans nesting there around the Dipper Lake. This would also
19 further protect the wilderness canoe trails.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak in behalf of this
21 critically important Wilderness Proposal. And again, we urge that
22 it be approved. Thank you.

23 MR. PRICE: Michael O'Meara.

24 MR. MICHAEL O'MEARA: My name is Michael O'Meara. I
25 am a citizen of the State of Alaska, City of Anchorage. I am a

1 teacher with the Borough and today I am representing the Alaska
2 Chapter of the Sierra Club, some four hundred members and myself.
3 I would like to voice our support for the Kenai Wilderness Proposal
4 under discussion here today. As it stands, the proposal will do
5 much to meet present and future needs, and seems to be a well
6 considered plan. It could, I feel, be further enhanced by inclusion
7 of areas above and connecting the Swanson River and Swan Lake
8 Units as well as that area which lies to the west of the Andy
9 Simons Unit. There is a map attached to the statement.

10 In any consideration of wilderness there always appears to
11 be some controversy over the need for such classification. To
12 those who would raise doubts as to the validity of wilderness as
13 a human need, I suggest that we recall that man is an organism, an
14 animal. Is it not logical to assume after those basic necessities,
15 food, water, air and shelter, that open space, peace, and society
16 with other free, living creatures might hold greater priority
17 than, say, more oil to run more automobiles, to demand more high-
18 ways, to demand higher taxes, all for the sake of making it more
19 difficult to breathe?

20 Wilderness is needed because man is almost out of time and
21 space. His origin is rooted not in concrete and steel, but in
22 earth and sky. The blood which flows through our arteries
23 resembles sea water far more than crude oil. Yet we have denied
24 this mortality, to our detriment. I would like to quote a state-
25 ment by Nancy Newhall to illustrate my point.

1 "Hell we are building here on earth.

2 Headlong, heedless, we rush -- to pour into air and water
3 poisons and pollutions until dense choking palls of smog lie over
4 cities and rivers run black and foul.

5 To blast down the hills, bulldoze the trees, scrape bare
6 the fields to build predestined slums; until city encroaches on
7 suburb, suburb on country, industry on all, and city joins city,
8 jamming the shores, filling the valleys, stretching across the
9 plains.

10 To build highways hypnotic in their monotony, looping and
11 twisting through cities, entangling in danger, noise, fumes,
12 communities once citadels of home; strangling the countrysides,
13 cutting the flow of water, the roots of trees, the paths of wildlife
14 and of wind, merely to bear us glazed with speed, seeing only the
15 road --

16 To choke water at its sources while demanding in it vaster
17 and vaster quantities, logging steep slopes so that in the heights
18 the springs and streams are dying, drilling deeper and deeper wells
19 until the subterranean lakes are drained so low that from the
20 coasts the bitter sea seeps in; building dam after ill-planned dam
21 where they hurt instead of help--submerge great chasms, drown rich
22 farmland, destroy habitats of bird and beast, let salmon die before
23 impassable falls--and wherein fast eroding watersheds they silt up
24 within a generation, so that for each dying reservoir another valley
25 is condemned.

1 To take from our young their wild free wanderings and
2 the help of home, until, cheated, deluded, trapped in city corridors,
3 emeshed in suburbs, empty of heart, mind, hand, they turn their
4 energies to evil.

5 To allow shortsighted men pleading specious, lesser needs,
6 to violate our parks, forests, wilderness, to herd us jostled,
7 deafened, where only a few at any time should pass; and, for cheap
8 amusements and a moment's profit, to ruin for all time what all
9 time cannot replace.

10 To plunder this planet's crust, wasting in a few lifetimes
11 the riches formed through billions of years, scraping already
12 for poorer fossil fuels--the coal unknown five centuries ago, the
13 oil untapped until last century--sighting already the end of certain
14 elements; copper, zinc, lead, phosphates.

15 To breed recklessly, until every day hundreds of thousands,
16 millions more crowd in among our already crowded billions.

17 Until more and more, on old and newly awakened continents,
18 two-thirds of the population of the world find want and hunger
19 multiplying like themselves.

20 Until the needs of all these multitudes drive nations into
21 madness. To raise crop yields on fewer acres by killing chemicals.
22 To push back deserts, icecaps, jungles for more room. To mine,
23 bore, blast; blare hate, distort the truth, delude and warp their
24 people. To grab, exploit and murder weaker nations. To pursue
25 insane chimeras of power and material ease at such a pace that

1 within a century Man will exhaust the earth.

2 And to what shabby hells of our own making do we rush?
3 A poisoned, gutted planet, rolling through dark noxious air? Its
4 rivers dead, its mountains shrunk to slag heaps, its last valleys
5 coated to catch the dirty rains, its oceans sunk to foul and dead
6 shallows? Its continents webbed, crawling, flitting with a feeble
7 race, misshapen, febrile, moved by machines, pushbuttoned to thou
8 kept miserably, endlessly, half alive by surgery, injections, rays
9 A race that never breathed wild air, nor saw the sun shine clear,
10 watched firelight dance, exulted in first snow, dreamed under tree
11 nor waded in bright seas? A race that never knew delight, nor
12 freedom, nor walked to think alone? Launching with its last
13 energy its doomed and wretched seed, exiles without hope of return
14 forth into outer space--to seek at frightful speed, for years,
15 lifetimes, eons, perhaps in vain, for other worlds, new Edens,
16 again to conquer, ruin and corrupt?"

17 We began in this nation as refugees from an outworn and
18 illused world. Here we started with room and time, but though we
19 left the old world behind, we maintained the old ways and despoiled
20 the land. We "progressed" from a continent of untouched organic
21 perfection to a malignancy of overcrowded and choking cities, and
22 we seem still unable to leave behind the old ways. Today two acres
23 of land is destroyed every minute in our nation. It is "improved
24 by building poor quality housing, supermarkets in which to further
25 glut ourselves, and industrial complexes to convert needed raw

1 materials into electric toothbrushes and polluting waste material.
2 In the meantime, more land is destroyed and an area the size of
3 Indiana is paved each day.

4 Unless action is taken now to stop the so-called progress
5 of the robber barons of industry and government, as well as of our
6 greed as citizens in an intemperate and irresponsible nation, we
7 will run out of time and room, and the "Hell" which already
8 multiplies too much of our nation will overtake us all and it will
9 be irreversible.

10 As a teacher I find myself in a position to observe the
11 effects on youth of urban dehumanization. As our society becomes
12 more removed from the reality of the organic world we all suffer,
13 but youth suffers in the greatest measure. In our affluence, which
14 is real, we deprive the growing body and mind of the urban child
15 by that very affluence. An environment of asphalt, bulldozers,
16 crowded housing, mini-bikes, television, and snowmachines encourage
17 both physical and mental laxness. Homes in which labor saving
18 devices make chores unnecessary promote irresponsibility and a
19 distinct misunderstanding of just what is required to maintain
20 human existence. Our children become less human each year. I
21 feel largely due to lack of experience with organic nature. More
22 and more young people are passive and lack enthusiasm for anything
23 feeling little involvement with life. They tend to have increasing
24 difficulty perceiving the relationships of cause and effect in a
25 situation, and each year there is a decline in average physical

1 health, endurance, and coordination in public school children.

2 The young people who seem to be the exceptions to these
3 trends are very often those that experience a continuing exposure
4 to wild places either through luck of residence or through
5 frequent visits. It has been my experience that knowledge of
6 wilderness gives wing to imagination and hope, and that visiting
7 wild places helps to replenish the insight and vitality so stifled
8 by our cities. Direct and vital involvement with the simple
9 physical acts of living and moving about in a free and wild
10 environment work most beneficial effects on young people, I
11 guarantee you.

12 With the foregoing in mind, it should become evident that
13 this wilderness proposal is of outstanding merit. The land in
14 question lies in close proximity to the greatest concentration of
15 people in Alaska. Unlike many other proposals, this wilderness
16 area will be accessible to those young people who are in greatest
17 need of wilderness experience. It should not, of course, be
18 limited to young people, however. It is already heavily used, and
19 if it is to remain usable, it must be protected before it can be
20 disemboweled by industrial interests at the option of corrupt
21 political leadership.

22 For those of us who reside in this state and who have no
23 dreams of making a fast fortune or gaining political influence,
24 the classification of land as wilderness is one of the only ways
25 open to maintaining a livable environment. Local and state

1 officials are openly opposed to most programs which might benefit
2 the people at large, and at every opportunity support land
3 speculation, mining, logging, and the petroleum industry at the
4 expense of the rest of us. Governor Egan, for example, made many
5 promises to provide leadership in meaningful state action on
6 environmental problems. So far he has blocked every effort by
7 conservationists to improve the state's appalling environmental
8 conditions. One might ask how much land this administration has
9 thus far classified for recreational uses. As examples of the
10 prevailing political attitude, let me cite a statement by Henry
11 Pratt of the Miller administration; "Hell, this country's so
12 goddamn big that even if industry ran wild we could never wreck it.
13 We can have our cake and eat it too." Indications are that the
14 change in state administration has failed to alter this political
15 climate. We find ourselves in the grip of corrupt industrialists
16 and irresponsible state and local officials, and unless some of the
17 land in Alaska is protected by the Federal Government, I fear that
18 all is lost.

19 I have tried to indicate the general and specific needs for
20 classifying the land under discussion as wilderness. Hopefully
21 I have also made clear the need for action on the Federal level.
22 In closing I would like to again quote Nancy Newhall: "Life and
23 death on this planet now lie in Man's hands. At depth after depth
24 we penetrate these phenomena which encompass us. Still beyond our
25 grasp shimmer the ultimate truths. Unless we master these, how

1 shall we learn--not to die-- but to live?

2 What wisdom guides life's ever changing balances? What
3 subtle factors work in flesh and spirit to cause one kind to rise
4 to dominance and brilliance while its near kin declines into
5 extinction?

6 After overuse by Man, the earth remains barren. Yet after
7 vast natural disasters, earthquakes and tidal waves, fires,
8 volcanos, glaciers, hurricanes, life builds back, if undisturbed
9 by Man, stage upon stage, to richness.

10 What are the forces of renewal? Only the source of life
11 can tell us. Only the living wilderness, where Man treads light
12 and silent as any other. Where duck and hawk belong to the same
13 sky, and the shrill music of coyotes to the rims of moonlight.
14 Where metamorphosis more strange than dreams call from the tadpole
15 legs and from the dark worm in the chrysalis bright wings. Where
16 across oceans and hemispheres bird, fish and beast follow paths
17 older than the continents. Are these mysteries we may penetrate
18 or mircales we may only revere? The wilderness holds answers to
19 more questions than we yet know how to ask.?

20 Thank you for your patience.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. We are
22 going to recess at this time for lunch and we'll meet again at
23 1:45. I have nearly completed the testimony of the organizations
24 and we'll begin with the testimony of individuals.

25 (Whereupon the noon recess was taken in the hearing.)

1 AFTERNOON SESSION

2 MR. PRICE: We are about to begin the hearing. There
3 are still several organizations that have not yet testified and
4 we'll proceed to hear the remainder of the organizations testimony
5 at this time. Is Mr. Chuck Webber here?

6 MR. CHARLES WEBBER: I have a prepared statement for
7 the Greater Anchorage Area Chamber of Commerce.

8 My name is Charles R. Webber. I am president of the Greater
9 Anchorage Area Chamber of Commerce, representing over 800 business
10 firms. We stand in opposition to the proposed Kenai Wilderness
11 Proposal as set forth by the United States Department of the
12 Interior.

13 For the record, we would submit that a significant portion
14 of our economy is related directly, or indirectly, to the economy
15 of the Kenai Peninsula; that members of our organization are
16 extremely dependent upon the trade and commerce negotiated within
17 this area, such as transportation, marketing, wholesaling,
18 retailing; for recreational uses and general investment purposes
19 which have heretofore been one of promise owing to the development
20 of industry and natural resources in this area of southcentral
21 Alaska, which in total embraces fifty percent of the entire populac
22 of Alaska.

23 Because this land withdrawal for wilderness purposes is
24 centered in one of Alaska's three most potential economic areas,
25 our Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly endorses the policy statom

1 of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, with
2 respect to "use, ownership, and disposition of Federal Lands," and
3 is quoted as follows:

4 "The Federal Government now owns nearly 770,000,000 acres of
5 land, which is more than one-third of the land area of the United
6 States. In the eleven western public land states, it owns nearly
7 one-half of their combined area, not including Indian lands held
8 in trust.

9 Certain lands owned by the Federal Government are now
10 devoted to, or available for, watershed protection, forestry and
11 forest products, agriculture and grazing, mining, wildlife, and
12 recreation. The administration of these lands should strive for
13 coordination of uses where feasible to achieve the highest total
14 use. Where urban and suburban development, agricultural, grazing
15 or timber production uses are the predominant values of such lands
16 the ultimate objective, as has been the case with agricultural
17 and mineral lands in the past, should be to make them available
18 for private ownership or use unless it is clear that such ownership
19 or use is not in the public interest.

20 Laws authorizing disposal to private ownership of Federal
21 lands, whether original "public domain" or "acquired" lands, should
22 be amended to provide that the owner of adjacent property, or the
23 former owner of "acquired" lands, should have first opportunity
24 to purchase the land at an equitable price. Such lands should be
25 sold in fee simple without reservation to the government of minerals.

1 oil, gas, or other rights.

2 Withdrawals and reservations. The Chamber is opposed to
3 the continuous substantial withdrawal or transfer of federal lands
4 for special uses. We recommend that Congress continue its review
5 of land policies, particularly the withdrawal policies.

6 Existing withdrawals of whatever nature should be
7 periodically reexamined and either reaffirmed, eliminated or
8 reduced to a size which the preponderance of facts will support.

9 Recreation. Rural lands, which occupy a large part of our
10 country's surface area, contain agricultural and industrial
11 resources, fish and wildlife, water supplies, recreational feature
12 esthetic scenery, and other multi-purpose use values each
13 important to the American way of life. Such lands should be
14 managed primarily for their highest economic use. Other uses,
15 including recreation, should be encouraged when compatible with
16 the major use. "

17 On December 9 and 10, 1957, the Greater Anchorage Chamber
18 of Commerce submitted written testimony at hearings in Washington,
19 D.C. concerning opening of the Kenai Moose Range to mineral
20 leasing. We did then and do now support the principle of multiple
21 use.

22 After the hearings and numerous meetings by our members
23 with Department of Interior officials, the then Secretary of the
24 Interior Fred A. Seaton, released a statement on January 29, 1958.
25 The following are pertinent portions concerning the Moose Range:

1 "I have approved this week a classification of the Kenai
2 Moose Range in the Territory of Alaska which delineates those
3 areas which will be opened and closed to development. The closed
4 section--about 1,689 square miles--includes all areas on which
5 the Fish and Wildlife Service believes oil and gas development
6 would be incompatible with wildlife management purposes.

7 In those areas of the Kenai Moose Range open to oil and gas
8 leasing--about 1,525 square miles--operations will be subject to
9 stipulations which provide maximum protection for fish and wildlife.

10 The lands open to leasing lie primarily north of the
11 Sterling Highway and include the current oil producing area and the
12 proposed new unit areas. Also included in the open areas will be
13 the Swanson River Valley, lands around the towns of Kenai and
14 Kasilof, and the Soldotna area. All good spawning and rearing
15 areas for salmon will be protected, and important waterfowl areas
16 will be preserved: Also, because of its scenic beauty, an area
17 at Bedlam Lake will be closed.

18 I am assured by Assistant Secretary Leffler that this action
19 opening a portion of the Kenai Range subject to the proposed
20 regulated development is entirely consistent with the primary
21 purpose for which the Range is managed."

22 A map showing the locations of the open and closed areas
23 is attached to this submittal.

24 Five of the proposed Wilderness Units (approximately 203,
25 acres) are within the area opened to mineral leasing by Secretary

1 Seaton in 1958. This is a net reduction of approximately 317 square
2 miles, leaving a total of approximately 1,209 square miles for
3 mineral leasing. We fail to see the necessity of reducing the
4 "open" area by some twenty percent in view of the fact that only
5 one oil field and three gas fields are located within the Moose
6 Range and these have been drilled and/or developed under the
7 supervision of the Moose Range Management.

8 The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's position taken in 1957,
9 which in effect was favoring the opening of the Kenai Peninsula
10 for oil production and the utilization of moose, without restricting
11 Game Management principles, was given illustrious leadership by
12 the then Senator Ernest Gruening of the State of Alaska, strongly
13 supported by the late Senator Bob Bartlett and solidly endorsed
14 by resolution through such organizations as the Alaska State
15 Chamber of Commerce, the Izaak Walton League of America and the
16 Anchorage Sportsmen's Association, as well as by many prominent
17 and political officials within the then Territory of Alaska. It
18 is our contention that our position at that time weighs heavily in
19 favor of our position in this proposal; that multiple use factors
20 have proven successful and would prove far more advantageous to
21 the public than a strict wilderness area.

22 Weigh the present day evidence where petroleum activity
23 has proven its compatibility with game animals on the northern
24 portion of the Peninsula, with that of the area under question here,
25 lying in the southerly portion which has no accessibility. To

1 illustrate our point, let me quote an article taken from the
2 Western Airlines Newsletter printed in their May issue which
3 states: "The rate of winter kill for Kenai Peninsula moose calves
4 will run more than eighty percent based on Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game estimates. The problem to the State biologists is
6 one of saturation of moose population in terms of available browse
7 as a result of under harvesting. Up to 3,000 moose could be taken
8 on the Kenai Peninsula each year while the actual hunter kill is
9 only about one-third of that amount." This item, in our opinion,
10 is evidence that the multiple use factor can be beneficial to the
11 hunter and to game management.

12 We believe it's obvious that multiple use factors have
13 already provided Alaskans and our visitors far more recreational
14 facilities into areas that were previously unavailable due to lack
15 of accessibility on the Kenai Peninsula.

16 Our Chamber of Commerce, as a matter of principle, would
17 remind the Department of Interior that Secretary Udall, prior to
18 his departure from office, affixed a Land Freeze on Alaska. We
19 respectfully point out that owing to the land freeze mandate our
20 hands are tied, while the Federal Government manipulates its own
21 program of land jurisdiction under our very nose. We question
22 the principle, although this specific parcel of land does not appl
23 to our point in the strictest sense. However, if the principle
24 does not apply in this case, why should it not apply in others
25 throughout the State?

1 It should be noted, as stated by our Alaska State Chamber
2 of Commerce, that it is no accident that fifty percent of the people
3 residing within the State of Alaska reside within the southcentral
4 portion which embraces the entire Kenai Peninsula. A look at any
5 map of our 49th State that shows elevation and climate, distinctly
6 portrays this specific area as green fertile plateau land; not
7 mountainous, rugged, parched, not tundra. This naturally equates
8 to land to which people are attracted. How many other areas offer
9 the same attraction within our State? How many other areas in
10 Alaska are as desirable for future homesteads? How many other
11 areas offer an attraction to trade and commerce as does the Kenai
12 Peninsula? By contrast, we submit that there are literally
13 millions of acres of other less desirable homestead and industrial
14 areas that could serve adequately as wilderness areas, and could
15 even perhaps serve better, in our opinion.

16 While we still maintain a multiple use factor, we would
17 be remiss not to point out that Alaska's brightest private
18 enterprise economy is situated in and near the greater Anchorage
19 area. Our enterprise and development plateau has been given as
20 approximately 113 square miles. We are bordered on each side by
21 either mountains, the Chugach Range, the military, Elmendorf and
22 Fort Richardson, and a tremendous body of tidal waters, Knik and
23 Turnagain Arm. Our only route of expansion and development, which
24 is evidenced in our 1980 plans for the future, has to be a crossing
25 of one or both of these bodies of water. With the aspect of a

1 wilderness withdrawal, the development and expansion south of our
2 community will be dimmed. We submit our long range plans for a new
3 route and quick access to the Kenai Peninsula will not only diminish
4 but will lack the support and backing of private enterprise.

5 Wilderness areas are valuable and desirable; however, our
6 reference here is specifically aimed at the Kenai Peninsula--a
7 high potential area embracing both recreation and industrial
8 development.

9 A wilderness area in its basic concept has been paraphrased
10 as a "Walk in naked, come out naked" area. This intimates the
11 rigid restriction to which we are opposed in such areas. Efforts
12 of rescue and fire extinguishment, both emergency operations, have
13 been known to have been delayed owing to bureaucratic red tape.
14 Acquisition rights become unavailable and even questioned at time
15 of distress to the people of our country.

16 In conclusion, we reiterate our strong opposition to this
17 Kenai Wilderness Proposal. We appeal to a conscience of rationale
18 and respectfully ask for a continuation of its present management
19 system, which is multiple use, which is, in our opinion, in the
20 best interest of the people of the State and our nation. Thank
21 you very much.

22 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Webber.

23 Mr. Blake.

24 MR. HERBERT H. BLAKE: My name is Herbert H. Blake.

25 I officially represent an organization called Alaska Consolidated

1 Outdoor Recreation, Inc. This organization is a group of
2 mechanized recreational clubs who have banded together to promote
3 logical utilization of our countryside in regards to off-road
4 mechanized vehicles. We represent snowmachines, four-wheel drive,
5 motorcycle, dune buggy and all other off-road vehicle owners.

6 In a study just completed we have determined through the
7 Department of Revenue (motor vehicles) and local dealers that
8 there are, in the Mat Su, Greater Anchorage and Kenai Boroughs
9 over 24,000 registered snowmachines (plus another 48,000 unregistered
10 approximately 10,000 four-wheel drive vehicles, 9,700 motorcycles
11 and 2,000 dune buggies, ATV's and tracked vehicles other than
12 snowmachines. With a total of 166,000 persons living in these
13 areas, according to official census, the ratio of mechanized off-
14 road vehicles to population is 1 to 1.77. That is, for every 1.77
15 persons in this area there is one off-road mechanized recreational
16 vehicle, not including powered boats.

17 These figures may seem unreal. However, during the winters
18 of 1969 and 1970, the United States Snowmachine Association took a
19 per capita snowmachine count state by state. They found that Alaska
20 led all other states. Our ratio was one snowmachine for every
21 seven persons. The next state was Maine with 1 to 26 ratio.

22 Alaskans have always enjoyed use of their land for hunting,
23 fishing or whatever. The vast majority use a mechanized vehicle
24 to enhance their pursuit of pleasure. Off-road mechanized vehicle
25 have been and are a way of life and in many cases a necessity

1 (hunting and fishing) to this majority. A large part of our
2 state has been opened up for enjoyment for all by these people
3 creating trails where necessary. Many of these trails and byways
4 do not show on official maps as these maps are ten to twenty years
5 old.

6 In September of 1964 when the Wilderness Act was created,
7 outdoor mechanized recreation was in its infancy. Nobody dreamed
8 that this area of outdoor recreation would burgeon like it has.
9 Setting aside areas for total wilderness with no mechanized traffic
10 was logical in those days as most off-road vehicles were not
11 invented yet. Only the very few hardy hikers and back packers
12 were able to use these primitive areas due to their inaccessibility.
13 However, now with the advent of sophisticated off-road vehicles
14 these primitive areas are now accessible to anybody who can afford
15 this type of vehicle. The only problem is that they can't go
16 there because it is a wilderness area and all mechanized vehicles
17 boats and planes are prohibited on wilderness sites. The question
18 is now, where can they go to enjoy that which is only available
19 to the hikers and packers?

20 In regards to the proposed 1,000,000 acres on the Kenai
21 Peninsula, it is our opinion that there should be an exhaustive
22 study made of these wilderness sites to determine if it is really
23 in the majority of the public's interest to make all of this area
24 totally inaccessible to the person who owns a powered boat, plane
25 or off-road vehicle. Remember many persons by their physical li

1 would not be able to ever see this country unless they had a
2 mechanized vehicle.

3 A classic example of this problem would be closing the
4 Swanson lakes to motorized boats. By doing this you effectively
5 shut off a well used area to all except those who own and are
6 physically able to paddle a canoe long distances.

7 We feel that a study of this area will show that most
8 current use days of these proposed wilderness sites involve a
9 mechanized vehicle whether it be a boat, plane or land vehicle.

10 Furthermore, we believe that hikers, cross-country skiers
11 canoers, etc., can enjoy these lands together with all other
12 factions without destroying the topography and wilderness image,
13 if a careful program of planning and publicity is implemented.

14 We would appreciate your consideration of these arguments
15 and facts before you make any decision on such a large and readily
16 accessible tract of land so close to the major population center
17 of our state.

18 We are willing and able to sit down with all Government
19 agencies and other organizations to help work out realistic and
20 definitive usage programs for these and other areas that are and
21 will be under consideration. Respectfully, Herbert H. Blake for
22 Alaska Consolidated Outdoor Recreation, Inc. I also have another
23 article here. It is a magazine. It is a science fiction magazine.
24 Some of you may be aware of them. It is the Analog. It is prob
25 the most popular of all the periodicals that go to the newstands

1 in the form of science fiction. It is edited by John W. Campbell
2 who is in certain circles well known for his creative writing, and
3 he's written an article called "Balance and Ecology." It is an
4 editorial and it is -- so I would like to submit this whole
5 magazine since I can't take his article and copy it. I will submit
6 the whole magazine, referring only to the article -- the editorial
7 itself. May I speak for myself now, or should I ---

8 MR. PRICE: No. You may speak for yourself at this
9 time.

10 MR. BLAKE: O.K. I am wearing two hats. The first
11 one I will take off and put the other one on now. Speaking for
12 myself, as far as the Kenai Wilderness Area, I personally feel that
13 we should have some there. I don't feel we necessarily have to
14 have anymore oil exploration in this area. Maybe we do, but I am
15 not well enough versed to say that we should or should not. But,
16 I do feel quite frankly that this area is too large and encompasses
17 too much private or publically owned land for the pressures that
18 it will receive. I have a friend of mine whose name is Howard
19 Emerson, and I haven't received permission to use his name, but
20 am going to use it anyway. He is an avid snowmachiner and four-
21 wheeler. He is a goldsmith, a jeweler, an expert photographer,
22 and he's used the Kenai Peninsula for hunting, fishing and
23 photography. He gets all over that country. There is only one
24 thing -- only one problem with Howard Emerson. He has no legs.
25 He has no legs at all. They are cut off right below his hips.

1 How does he do this? How does he get through this? How is he
2 able to go hunting and fishing and take photographs? He uses a
3 mechanized vehicle. Now, this man is an exception to the rule.
4 There is no question about that. But, were it not for the fact
5 that he had use of mechanized vehicles to go into certain areas,
6 he wouldn't be able to enjoy the areas. I feel personally that
7 roads should be built to these primitive areas and perhaps built
8 into them with a clear understanding that where you could
9 trespass beyond the roads by any kind of vehicle, that you would
10 be prosecuted to whatever extent the law would allow. But, to
11 shut it off and make you walk "X" number of miles or scores of
12 miles to see that which only the very few can see, to me -- it's
13 superfluous to me. It doesn't make sense. So I am categorically
14 opposed to the wilderness as it is projected there. But, I am not
15 opposed to it with a little bit of reasoning and a little bit of
16 planning.

17 I understand that according to the Wilderness Act that no
18 boats -- motorized boats, snowmachines or another other mechanize
19 vehicle can be used in the Wilderness Area. However, I feel that
20 with the advent of the mechanized vehicle that the Wilderness Act
21 should perhaps be amended to include these vehicles in certain
22 areas under certain conditions. In other words, now is the time
23 to start affecting a compromise. There is too big and too much
24 pressure for use of these vehicles to shut off large areas where
25 the very few could use them. Thank you.

1 MR. PRICE: There is one question.

2 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Could I ask, repeat again
3 the name of the organization you spoke for originally?

4 MR. BLAKE: Alaska Consolidated Outdoor Recreation,
5 Inc.

6 MR. PRICE: Mr. Bellringer.

7 MR. ED BELLRINGER: My name is Ed Bellringer. I am
8 president of the Alaska Wildlife Federation and Sportmen's Council.
9 It was my intention to make a statement today, but I have not yet
10 got the input from all of the voting members of our organization,
11 so I am going to have to wait until about Friday and I hope I
12 can get it at that time.

13 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Mr. David Hickcock.

14 MR. DAVID HICKCOCK: Mr. Examiner, gentlemen, my name
15 is Dave Hickcock. I am a Director of the University of Alaska Sea
16 Grant Program. Prior to that I've been employed in Alaska resource
17 development and planning for several years with the Federal Field
18 Committee. I have written extensively on resource and land
19 development and the economics of it, as well as the environmental
20 sciences of it.

21 I did not really plan to make a statement, but I was amazed
22 to hear some of the statements I did hear. I thought I should say
23 something.

24 With all respect to the number of individuals involved, and
25 many of them that I've heard are friends, I believe many of them

1 statements are erroneous. In fact, were certainly myopic in term
2 of long term impact analysis. For example, a few facts. My good
3 friend John Havelock said he required environmental impact
4 statements on wilderness and had to have a hearing for that
5 statement. Now, you do have to have a prepared statement, but you
6 do not -- you are not under the law required to have a public
7 hearing on it.

8 Now, there also were a number of statements that involved
9 planning attitudes and resource attitudes. The term "multiple use
10 was bandied about quite a bit. I have written quite a bit over
11 the years on the fallacy of multiple use, because no one really
12 practices it. The B.L.M. doesn't use it, the Forest Service, nor
13 the Fish and Wildlife Service. What we are really doing is taking
14 a look at our land and we are doing primary use planning and
15 primary development.

16 Now, in terms of the Wilderness Proposal here, this could
17 be -- well be looked at. Several years back the Range was zoned
18 for major resource areas. Myself and another fellow, for example,
19 were the Interior's representatives that came to Alaska in '59
20 or '60, I forget even now which -- to compromise the construction
21 of the then gas pipeline in terms of its environmental damage
22 being done and the positive benefits of it that also would come to
23 Anchorage. Also in terms of opening up some of the country. But
24 one of the basic fallacies we have here in resource planning is
25 that this sacred cow or sacred moose here in Alaska of multiple use

1 gets in the way of some thinking. Now, most of the resources in
2 our country that are economically available are in the coastal
3 zone -- the coastal areas of our state and yet, for example, right
4 now we know less about the minerals in the Chugach Mountains than
5 we do in the Brooks Range. And when I hear some of the Statesmen
6 speak about the attitude on resource development down in the Kenai
7 here is an area that we have more knowledge of than all of the
8 surrounding country around in terms of resource values, timber
9 production rates, fishery values, the streams and so on. Now, it's
10 high time, I think, that everyone here kind of look at their own
11 job and we all tried to make a contribution to do something
12 together. It doesn't do any good, in my view, for limiting
13 aspersions, in a way, to be cast by one Government agency on the
14 other, when they themselves are not doing all they can do in terms
15 of planning in Alaska. I've been involved with it for several
16 years. One of the biggest areas of lack of any comprehensive
17 planning is in the State agencies. And we have a succession of
18 State planning bodies that have worked for the Federal Government
19 Federal Field Commission, and none of them have delivered a thing.
20 And it's about time this was done.

21 Now, there are two -- there are many other values to
22 Wilderness than somebody looking at it or being on it or seeing it.
23 Now, in terms of the Kenai, it is a great fish spawning area. The
24 value of that fishery resource is in the millions. It can best
25 be protected by leaving it alone in terms of the future of economy.

1 of the fishing industry. We have a fishing industry, for example
2 that is regulated to such an extreme that it takes a Philadelphia
3 lawyer on the end of the buoy to tell us when you can fish and
4 can't. And the State has talked several times -- the Federal
5 Government, in the past years also, about the value of fisheries.
6 Well, the fisherman is getting left out on a limb in a lot of
7 these land use designations. And I think it's high time we looked
8 at some of our watersheds in terms of the production of fishery
9 crops even with nobody looking at it.

10 Now, the other thing is, I was rather amazed to hear the
11 volume of these snowmachine vehicles and off-the-road vehicles,
12 but all I can say is, all you have to do is fly over or be on the
13 ground in the Tangle Lakes country, Lake Louise area, and you see
14 impact. There is more environmental damage to that country than
15 in the whole North Slope with the oil industry involved. The
16 point here is, if we are going to open up all of these areas, we
17 say, on the Kenai or down at Lake Clark, Illiamna, where there are
18 great fisheries values, and we are going to induce more and more
19 erosion and silt up the fisheries, millions of dollars of the
20 fisheries are going to be at stake, so I think it's high time we
21 looked at the juxtaposition of resource use of economics and of
22 wild land, so that the best use of that land was, one, for oil, and
23 it is on the Kenai, and the other for canoeing and another area
24 for camping and another area just to have for its wilderness value.

25 Now, one last point, I think there's been -- at least as I

1 know of, seven or eight major studies on recreation and the
2 economics of recreation in this State. To the Anchorage area, to
3 the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, to many other economic
4 communities -- the inflow of people, because there is some wild
5 land is of tremendous value to the whole economy. We have made
6 projections. I believe in the long run that the value of
7 recreation dollars to the State is something on the magnitude of
8 7 to 1 over oil in the long run in the next forty or fifty years

9 I think that is all I have to say.

10 MR. PRICE: Thank you very much. At this time we are
11 going to have strictly individual testimony, and I have one
12 statement for the record to be made. As of this date 214 letters
13 have been received in the Office of the State Director, Bureau
14 of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. These letters will be made part
15 of the record. I will not read the letters directly into the
16 record. However, they will be in the record as part of it.
17 Barbara Winkley.

18 BARBARA ANNE WINKLEY: Mr. Chairman, my name is Barbara
19 Anne Winkley, and I am a resident of Anchorage, Alaska. I am also
20 a member of two outdoor recreational clubs in Anchorage, the Knik
21 Canoe Club of Anchorage, and the Mountaineering Club of Alaska of
22 which I am presently Conservation Committee Chairwoman. However,
23 the opinions and ideas I present here today are entirely my own.

24 The Moose Range to many Alaskans is like the Everglades to
25 most Floridians or Yosemite to Californians, whether or not they

1 familiar with its history or have had an opportunity to explore or
2 venture into the high country within its boundaries by foot or
3 travel its splendid waterways by canoe or kayak.

4 During recent years this area has been in the limelight
5 because the first Alaskan oil wells were put into operation here.
6 Also, there have been many heated discussions over game management
7 practices in the area. The oil industry is quick to let us know
8 how compatible their operations are with the wilderness and at
9 least to a degree this is quite so. I feel that the Swanson
10 River oil development is a shining example in the State. But, let
11 us not forget that this showpiece was accomplished only under
12 unusual conditions of strict surveillance and enforcement of
13 regulations by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

14 It is no secret that the State Department of Fish and Game
15 has been hassling over the management of game within the Moose
16 Range since Statehood. We have repeatedly heard from the State
17 Department of Fish and Game how competent they are in wildlife
18 management and taking care of wonderful wild lands. There have
19 been no major oil disasters within the Range itself, while during
20 the spring of last year, on the North Fork of the Anchor River,
21 there was major oil pollution by Standard Oil due to poor
22 construction of a pad. This was approximately forty miles south
23 of the Moose Range and on State land. Actions speak louder than
24 words. And I am enclosing an article by Dr. Robert Weeden on
25 this particular case of pollution, which was titled "Oil, Silt &

1 Fish" and was published in the 1970 summer edition of the Alaska
2 Conservation Review. In December, two years ago, the Fish and Game
3 Department was anxiously awaiting a snowfall, which in that year
4 didn't come until January, so that they could have their famous
5 snowmachine moose hunt. What great sport! They tell us that the
6 machines are used only for transportation to and from the hunt.
7 Well, I must shed a tear for these poor under-exercised hunters.
8 I myself have hiked to the very interior of this proposed wilderne
9 area and if a 130 pound woman can do it, then so can these great
10 white hunters.

11 I personally know several foot guides who use this area,
12 making perhaps two or three trips to transport their meat out,
13 generally of a distance of at least eight miles. For these reasons
14 and because machines destroy the solitude of the wilderness, I
15 would urge that motorized vehicles be prohibited in the area,
16 including planes to the Twin Lakes and some of the lakes in the
17 canoe system, as proposed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
18 Wildlife.

19 I would like to include for the record an article from the
20 Minneapolis Tribune from February, 1970, in which the Director of
21 Minnesota Game and Fish recommends that "areas of solitude" be
22 established in Minnesota that would be off limits to snowmobilers.
23 He said, "There is no wilderness anymore, and sometimes even
24 innocent viewing of wildlife by snowmobilers causes the eventual
25 death of such wildlife." He said that people complained that the

1 could no longer find any untracked snow.

2 And the recent comments by Mr. Blake about having tracks
3 where there would be no trespassing, if you want to check this s
4 of thing you only have to look in the foothills of the Chugach
5 State Park. I was up there last weekend on foot and there is qu
6 a lot of evidence of these vehicles going off the trails and
7 ruining the tundra. And a lot of it is ruined beyond repair.

8 This past winter four black wolves were run down by
9 snowmachines on Tustumena Lake. I repeat, four black wolves wer
10 run down and shot by men on snowmachines on Tustumena Lake.

11 I would like to see one area set aside in this State,
12 famous worldwide for its wilderness, but which as yet for the
13 exception of a few small island bird refuges, has no designated
14 wilderness areas. Who of us can truly say that he doesn't look
15 forward to the first bird calls each spring as the long summer d
16 open their doors to man and beast alike and invite us to rejoice
17 with the return of the migratory birds as they return from their
18 winter nesting grounds. We accept this, just as we each spring
19 expect the days to get longer. Several years ago I had occasion
20 to visit the southeast coast of India in Madras. The sand was
21 white and the waves rolled in and crashed on the shore, but ther
22 was something missing. It's an empty feeling with no seagulls b
23 a seashore, in a land where people live to the water's edge so t
24 there is no place for the birds themselves to nest. And there
25 are human faeces instead of rocks on the sand.

1 We are repeatedly told, especially by one of our local
2 newspapers, that this sort of thing will never happen here. But
3 are you really convinced when you know that less than one hundred
4 years ago there were salmon in the East Coast streams in the
5 abundances that we have in Alaskan streams today, but now they h
6 none.

7 Governor Egan made the statement at the recent Anchorage
8 Borough Seminar that wilderness areas are inaccessible to most
9 people. This Wilderness Area will serve a dual purpose, for not
10 only will it provide wildlife with living space unharrassed by
11 motorized vehicles, but it is accessible to Alaska's greatest
12 population center, Anchorage, with accessability less than three
13 hours' drive. The Sterling Highway bisects the proposal where m
14 has already made his intrusion.

15 To many a million acres sounds outrageous. Well, it is,
16 particularly when you consider that each year in the United States
17 over one million acres of living land is stifled with concrete.
18 In the Kenai Proposal we have an opportunity to set aside a pie
19 of living American land--living streams and valleys sheltered by
20 living mountains. Wilderness is an inexhaustible resource, for
21 no matter how many times it is viewed, it never grows old, and
22 more people we have to view it, the more beautiful it becomes as
23 our wilderness areas vanish.

24 I have studied the additional proposals by the Kenai
25 Conservation Society, and I strongly urge the Bureau to adopt i

1 in addition to their own. I would like to see the Swanson River-
2 Swan Lake canoe units connected, as this land includes the
3 headwaters of the Swan River. And I would also like to see the
4 Swanson River Unit extended to Point Possession. This area I feel
5 is vital to the trumpeter swan, almost once extinct in the lower
6 '48 States. I had occasion to fly over this area at the end of
7 May this year. At that time I observed four pairs of swans nesting
8 in the Dipper Lake area. Many of the swans had relocated this
9 spring due to the extremely late winter and it was obvious that the
10 smaller lakes close to the salt water melted sooner than the lakes
11 farther inland. Constant landing of airplanes disturbs the nesting
12 of these magnificent birds, and with wilderness status, rustic type
13 canoe routes could be extended into this area.

14 I would also like to see both Skilak and Tustumena Lakes
15 included in the wilderness system. Both these lakes would give
16 added protection to the areas with motorized boats during the summer
17 being allowed by permit only.

18 This would eliminate snowmachines, as I stated earlier
19 about the four black wolves being run down this winter on Tustumena
20 Lake by snowmachines, and it took the Protection Officer several
21 months to find them after they had changed the treads on their
22 machines. This past winter I had occasion to ski from Granite
23 Creek to Moose Pass, and although it is not in the area concerned
24 here, I would like to mention that there were several moose in the
25 area in very deep snow, high in the mountains, and I doubt very

1 much whether this was their normal winter habitat, since snowmach
2 tracks were evident there. I would also like to see the U.S.
3 Forest Service give wilderness protection to the Russian Lakes
4 area adjoining the Andy Simons area to the north, since this is
5 a valuable salmon spawning stream.

6 Apart from the wilderness values of the whole area, I feel
7 that it has qualities which in their own right are sufficient to
8 qualify it for wilderness status. Here is the last remaining
9 stronghold of the brown bear on the Peninsula, and here also is
10 an area of Alaska where the three types of ptarmigan can be found
11 Rock, whitetail and our State bird, the Willow Ptarmigan. The
12 Indian high country affords easy above tree line early summer hik
13 in most years. It is not unusual to see mountain goats, Dall she
14 moose and bear all in one day, and I am a witness to this. Not
15 to be overlooked are the miriads of wildflowers that deck the
16 hillsides. I would like to request that Joe Sekora, the only
17 inhabitant of the Andy Simons Unit be given a lifelong permit to
18 reside there.

19 The Canoe System is certainly any outdoorsman's dream, for
20 here one may still by his own Hiawatha for a day, a week, or as
21 long as you wish, and discover where "they build their nests in
22 summer." For true wilderness is wild sounds, living sounds, the
23 screech of an owl, the cry of the geese in the spring as they wi
24 their way high overhead to follow the beckoning midnight sun. W
25 you can hear the eerie call of the loon drifting through the sti

1 ness of the soft Alaskan night. These sounds belong to the
2 wilderness and for a brief time here we may feel as though we
3 belong.

4 If this area becomes a wilderness, it will certainly be
5 the only one of its kinds in the world, for it will encompass
6 glaciers, mountains, above tree line hiking country, waterways and
7 wildlife of many species.

8 I would like to compliment the Bureau of Sport Fisheries
9 and Wildlife and their staff for the wonderful job they have done
10 in studying this area, and presenting it to us here today for our
11 comments. I would also like to thank Mr. Will Troyer of that
12 agency and have this included into the record. I understand that
13 he was personally responsible for initiating the portages between
14 the lakes on the Swanson River-Swan Lake Canoe Units. I believe
15 that when funds of his agency were low, he cut the trails in his
16 spare time on weekends with a few friends. This area is famous
17 certainly statewide and nationally also, for it has many out-of-
18 state visitors annually. Mr. Troyer's devoted services to his
19 work have given pleasure and will continue to do so in the future
20 to many, many people.

21 In closing, I would like to mention that the science of
22 ecology knows no geographical boundaries. It must be up to each
23 us to let no political boundaries imposed by many affect a small
24 piece of living American land. The world we create today is the
25 one we inherit tomorrow. Does the United States intend to remain

1 a leading world nation at the expense of her last remaining
2 wilderness area? For any of you in the audience who may oppose
3 this proposal and as yet has not ventured into the area under
4 your own steam, I would like to invite you to come hiking with
5 me sometime in this area, and then let me know if you still feel
6 the same way. Two weeks ago I led twenty-four people into the
7 Fuller Lake-Mystery Creek area and there were people on that
8 hike -- there was a grandmother and a seven year old, so any age
9 can get there. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear here
10 today.

11 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Mrs. Odette Foster.

12 MRS. ODETTE FOSTER: My name is Odette Foster. I live
13 at 2631 West 34th and I am testifying just simply as an individual
14 and a mother. I am here to testify in favor of the Kenai Wilderness
15 Proposal because I believe that man is a permanently playful animal.
16 It's man's parks and playgrounds I'm concerned about. Man has
17 arrived at the crossroads of a decision. He has the technology
18 and ability to either make a playground or a garbage heap out of
19 his world. And I believe that the Kenai Moose Range would make a
20 very nice playground, a very great wilderness area.

21 I support the Kenai Wilderness Proposal because many families
22 have come to Alaska, not to get rich, but to live close to a
23 wilderness area. Because there are very few wilderness areas left
24 around large cities in the Lower '48. Because the Anchorage man
25 will depend more and more on wilderness areas like the Kenai Moose

1 Range as the city grows larger and his life grows more hectic
2 and more complicated. Because traveling to and from the Kenai
3 Moose Range is inexpensive and easy. Because play in the Kenai
4 Moose Range is inexpensive. Because although many people do not
5 presently use the Kenai Moose Range, the option should always be
6 left open to them. Because the Kenai Moose Range is a beautiful
7 and fascinating place, and because my son and all of our children
8 must have a place to play in twenty years. Thank you.

9 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Dan Ricker.

10 MR. DAN RICKER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.
11 I am Dan Ricker. My address is P.O. Box 4-275 in Anchorage. I am
12 here today as an individual. I represent no particular group. And
13 I would like to express my support for the Kenai Wilderness Proposal.

14 I have been an Alaskan resident since 1955. My permanent
15 year round job is that of a customer engineer. I maintain data
16 processing equipment. However, in the fall I work as an assistant
17 guide and it is in that position that I have become familiar with
18 a portion of the proposed Andy Simons Wilderness Unit. I have
19 helped in the taking of numerous moose and bear from the Andy
20 Simons Unit. These animals were backpacked from seven to nine
21 miles or more. Much of the terrain in this area makes covering not
22 only long distances by foot not only practical, but rather easy.
23 It is an area where access is not limited to the rugged outdoorsman
24 but an area where the entire family can enjoy true wilderness today
25 and hopefully in the future.

1 Over the last sixteen years I have seen tundra areas from
2 Eureka to Paxton cut up by track vehicle and swamp buggy trails.
3 I have seen, as I am sure many of you have, much of our semi-
4 wilderness area become tarnished by bullet ridden road signs and
5 paint decorated rocks. How much longer can we wait and still
6 preserve some of what is left? Thank you very much for your
7 attention.

8 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Ricker.
9 Harold E. Pomeroy.

10 MR. HAROLD E. POMEROY: I am Harold E. Pomeroy testify
11 on my own behalf as a citizen from -- I am from the Kenai
12 Peninsula where I came in 1949 for an interlude of homesteading,
13 a spiritually rejuvenating experience, but not economically
14 sustaining. My field is generalist in public administration with
15 emphasis on community development planning. I was the executive
16 elected chairman of the Kenai Peninsula Borough during its first
17 three years starting in 1964. Observation, study and participation
18 in matters of community concern and development on the Peninsula
19 commenced in 1949, with considerable attention in the latter years
20 to subjects relating to outdoor recreation.

21 For the record reference is made to a short paper I prepared
22 last January on the subject, "The Kenai National Moose Range,
23 Management and Development," which Congressman Begich requested be
24 included as testimony of this hearing.

25 This is not a simple subject with which we are dealing. Tho

1 are considerations far beyond what appears on the surface and
2 there are no simple answers.

3 Economic considerations in Alaska are a sobering reality.
4 The State has a tight money situation which will not be eased for
5 several years and will probably never be eliminated unless there
6 are future oil developments at least as spectacular as up to now.

7 Alaska will be plagued chronically with the high cost of
8 not enough jobs to go around. This will continue to be especially
9 aggravated in the remote areas due to limited economic potentials
10 and high birth rate. The Native Claims settlement will bring no
11 magic economic remedies. Periodic oil exploration and development
12 booms will help temporarily with good jobs and high earnings, but
13 will not significantly ease the long term problem.

14 We will need all the oil revenue that can be secured. There
15 is not even the prospect of considering planned moderation of
16 development so that the return from this non-renewable resource
17 can be stretched out over a longer period than otherwise.

18 The direct and indirect economic benefits from all types of
19 outdoor recreation activity can be made a continuously growing and
20 more significant element in the support of the state and the people
21 in the long run. For this aspect alone of the value of our outdoor
22 recreation resources we must see to their maintenance and manage-
23 ment undiminished for their highest and best use perpetually
24 against the future time when exhaustible resources are depleted.

25 Our natural resources for outdoor recreation and their

1 potentials to serve the well being of people and generate economic
2 benefits are enormous. It is exceedingly fortunate that we have
3 the Federal Government in effect in partnership with us in this
4 field as our means are meagre in relation to the potentials. It
5 is to our great advantage that we work together as colleagues
6 rather than as though our Federal associates represented interests
7 inimical to ours.

8 From the testimony of State officials this morning it
9 appears to me there has been a significant omission as to
10 consultations with State Departments and agencies. It seems to me
11 this can and should be corrected before the Bureau finalizes its
12 report, even if this means a continuation of the subject and even
13 reopening it. I should not like, however, to see the whole
14 effort fall before the idea that perhaps everything should be
15 delayed until there has been significant progress in development
16 of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the State. This would be
17 rather like throwing out the baby with the bathwater. Even if it
18 is believed to be a premature birth, the baby does seem worth saving.

19 The National Moose Range wildlife refuge is illustrative of
20 this situation. That is, the relationship between us and the
21 Federal authorities concerned with our resources. I preface
22 comment on this by quoting from the paper of last January. "The
23 Moose Range is an irreplaceable national asset. Its potential for
24 the perpetual enjoyment of the people is enormous. The wealth of
25 the land in beauty and variety of its cover, and the richness in

1 wildlife is probably not exceeded in any similar sized area
2 anywhere on earth. The appeal of the Range to people seeking the
3 simple outdoor recreation of enjoying nature is enormous."

4 This superb area is so close to Anchorage, the point from or
5 through which most visitors come to enjoy it, that it can be
6 glimpsed from the air. It is thirty minutes away by air, less
7 than three hours by car. It is the Federal Government that
8 operates the Range and pays the bills. The paper referred to at
9 the start of this statement was directed to the Federal Government
10 to request early implementation of a \$1,500,000 investment for
11 improvements and user facilities of a projected \$5,000,000 program
12 to extend the capacity of the Range for the enjoyment of the people.
13 There is little doubt that further developments will be needed,
14 feasible and projected before the program already laid out is
15 completed. And from some of the testimony, Mr. Watson, it seems
16 that we like very much our money, but don't want to be bothered
17 very much.

18 There is now a proposal to carry out the intent of the
19 Wilderness Act of 1964 by creating certain wilderness areas in the
20 Moose Range. It will be in the public's interest to create some
21 wilderness areas. I will have comments on specific aspects of the
22 proposal later in this statement.

23 There is a great need to conserve unspoiled areas in their
24 natural state in perpetuity, not just to know they are there, but
25 for use without the threat of destruction. Such areas are usually

1 thought of as remote wildernesses that are exceedingly expensive
2 to get to and therefore may be enjoyed by only very few. We are
3 uniquely fortunate here to have close-in areas, as yet largely
4 undamaged or modified and which are superbly endowed and suited
5 to the enjoyment by the many of the type of use being proposed.

6 Fortunately the Range is of a generous overall size to
7 allow amply for continued developments for the more intensive uses
8 of the type already being served and to compliment this with
9 adjacent wilderness areas with their level and type of use. This
10 association of the two levels and types of use will contribute
11 to the retention of the high quality of each without deterioration.

12 This is illustrated at the point where the proposed Andy
13 Simons Wilderness Unit borders the huge and magnificent Harding
14 Icefield that is certainly destined to be a sophisticated and
15 relatively intensive use playground near Seward. On the wilder-
16 ness side of the boundary is a splendid area for skiing,
17 snowshoeing and otherwise enjoying the breathtaking beauty in quiet
18 and out of the way of the playground for snowmachines. The two
19 will complement each other and thus afford enjoyment for a greater
20 total number of people than if there were not areas of two levels
21 of use adjacent to each other.

22 Congress has provided via the Act for the formal means of
23 designating the wilderness areas, which is by Act of Congress, for
24 the excellent reason that experience has demonstrated that
25 management authority to apply restrictions that could accomplish

1 substantially the same purpose is actually no safeguard at all,
2 because of the ultimate pressures. The fact of more people,
3 increasing urge among growing numbers of people to get into the
4 outdoors for recreation, plus the explosive increase in mobility
5 by the proliferation of all kinds of motorized vehicles produces
6 pressures that simply are not rationally contained.

7 The difficulty is that the individual sees the country out
8 there and he can't understand why he shouldn't go out with the
9 means at his command and enjoy it in his own way. After all, he
10 doesn't intend to hurt anything and anyway it belongs to the
11 people and he has as much right there as anyone else. He does not
12 comprehend that when the individual is multiplied by too many and
13 successive generations of all-terrain vehicles make it easier and
14 easier to go anywhere, and increase mobility twenty to forty times,
15 liberty becomes license and there must be restraints in the
16 interest of all individuals.

17 The problem comes down to the fact that the outdoors
18 available to be enjoyed is not inexhaustible and can be damaged
19 or destroyed through overuse or misuse.

20 The underlying condition which demands our concern and
21 attention can best be described as people pollution. Generally
22 the individual cannot be blamed because he simply does not have
23 adequate information as to what is happening. An insidious aspect
24 of the matter is that while the damage is often imperceptible, it
25 can be frighteningly rapid. It is imperceptible in the sense that

1 the individual cannot see the effect that one act of his, followed
2 by identical or similar acts by a number of other individuals will
3 have.

4 It is quite feasible to determine the level of some kind of
5 pollution of a stream that will kill life in the stream, to set
6 limits, monitor volumes and enforce compliance. This problem is
7 quite easy to understand and so individuals in increasing numbers
8 throughout the United States are demanding restraints on such
9 pollution. The measures taken can be effective in the case
10 described as there is usually some entity involved and because,
11 contrary to popular belief, there is a high degree of corporate
12 responsibility, and because penalties can quite feasibly be
13 applied and enforced.

14 The people pollution of the outdoors scarcely lends itself
15 to a parts-per-million formula. Further, it would be difficult
16 to understand or would be rejected as unrealistic or premature and
17 dismissed in about these terms, "Anyway, that's just another fool
18 regulation interfering with my liberty and innocent and healthy
19 fun for my children." Try to imagine a standard that says so many
20 parts of snowmachines over a trail with so many inches of snow at
21 such and such a temperature will kill all the groundcover and small
22 to microscopic species of animal life under the trail. And this is
23 a fact. One doesn't have to prove by a report that a given amount
24 of damage, deterioration and destruction will occur from certain
25 kinds and levels of use and misuse to know we need to conserve some

1 of our outdoors against these effects and that we need to do it
2 in a formal way and in areas sufficiently convenient as to access
3 for the enjoyment of the most people.

4 Here are some recent occurrences in the Moose Range and on
5 the Peninsula that are quite relevant. There is a fine little hill
6 in the Range for an exhilarating straight down snowmobile run.
7 Some big kids amused themselves this way one day late in the season.
8 The result was erosion and damage to the slope, which had been
9 used for skiing up until then and for which it had been excellently
10 suited.

11 Men on snowmachines ran down four wolves on Tustumena Lake
12 and slaughtered them a few months ago.

13 High speed heavy snowmachines have left trails of snapped
14 off frozen moose browse in twenty to thirty below zero weather.

15 Beavers were almost gone in the 1880's from what is now the
16 Moose Range because of heavy and unrestrained trapping. They are
17 friendly little animals and appeared again in the gently rolling
18 lowlands during the next fifty years. There has been homesteader
19 trapping. This was by men who were living with the land. They
20 trapped out one or two adults per house and then waited two years.
21 They kept away from the immediate vicinity of the houses so as not
22 to get the kits. Now the Sunday trappers on snowmachines are
23 cleaning the houses out. This is observable. A long time home-
24 steader resident told me of a boy who brought in the skins of three
25 adults and five kits from one house, and the kit pelts are valuable

1 The limit per season is forty beavers. There would be no way to
2 enforce a restriction on how many are taken from one place. Here
3 again overmobility and misuse of mobility is causing damage.

4 The State Department of Fish and Game disagreed with a
5 Moose Range judgment against snowmachine hunting of moose in a
6 rather remote area of the Range in which the Fish and Game
7 officials had determined there was a concentration of animals
8 that should be harvested. The State prevailed. I am not qualified
9 to pass judgment in this case, but can predict a future result
10 if we half step ourselves into continuous broad use of all terrain
11 vehicles in hunting. All of a sudden we will find we have created
12 pressures on nature and wildlife which should be reversed, only
13 to be confronted with a political lobby of all terrain vehicle
14 dealers and people outraged at having a privilege they have been
15 enjoying curtailed or withdrawn. One can guess the likely outcome.
16 That nature and animals would lose. And the bad joke of it is that
17 the people as a whole would be the losers in the long run.

18 I believe that this statement so far deals in matters on
19 which we have much evidence to support the line of reasoning
20 stated. However, there are other realities that are much harder
21 to evaluate, but which may be quite as significant to any other.

22 Man, a creature of the earth, has lost by his alienation
23 from nature, by his continually greater reliance on the increasingly
24 greater abundance and sophistication of mechanical things and
25 other things made by man or modified by him, until there is very

1 little that is natural with which we live anymore. This is not bad
2 per se. We can and should be proud of our modern society, even
3 though we have created many problems.

4 One of the problems is to provide adequate opportunity for
5 contact with nature and to reverse the trend of the increasing
6 superficiality and abnormality in relationships with nature to
7 the detriment of man and the abuse of nature. There are some
8 illustrations of significance that may seem simple, but they are
9 pertinent.

10 Last year the sister of two brothers on the Peninsula sent
11 her fifteen year old boy to them for the summer from Massachusetts.
12 At home he had become utterly unresponsive and intractable. He
13 was taken on the brothers' fishing boat. When they returned he
14 wanted a motorbike to use for the rest of his stay and instead
15 one of the brothers took him on a leisurely camping trip in the
16 Moose Range canoe trails. The boy's outlook changed from day to
17 day. After he was sent home his mother wrote to the effect, "I
18 don't know what you did, he went away a problem child and came back
19 a man."

20 Children from an Alaskan juvenile institution are taken
21 into the woods to learn contact with elemental reality and self-
22 reliance. They carry water, chop wood, make the fire, help cook.
23 They make their shelters to keep dry. They benefit noticeably
24 from the experience. Another effect is that the Army Sargeant
25 technical supervisor of the project must stay awake all night to

1 keep them from swiping wood, blankets and tools from each other.
2 And I don't know what that effect is. It's either just for the
3 sheer exuberance of it or it's to keep in practice.

4 There has been a year long campaign to save a little creek
5 running through Anchorage, to have a little bit of nature to
6 reach out and touch, although there is much country nearby.

7 There is a growing urge to have bicycle trails and a
8 green belt in Anchorage. There is a shortage of bicycles nation-
9 wide and in Anchorage too. This is more than a desire for
10 exercise, it is a yearning for contact with nature.

11 There is much evidence that the national mores are changing
12 and that one aspect will be a great increase in the outdoor
13 recreation of just enjoying the peace and quiet of the country.

14 In the Kenai Borough school system there is a pilot program
15 in environmental education involving outdoor classes in the Moose
16 Range to teach comprehension of nature, the need to conserve and
17 the respect for wildlife. This is a glimpse of changing values.

18 There is a negative effect from an outdoor recreation abuse
19 of first magnitude. This is hunting by snowmachine and other all-
20 terrain vehicles. Such hunting can only be described as a search
21 and kill mission, not a hunting experience.

22 An incident was related to me by a responsible person who
23 was acquainted with the hunters involved. Four snowmachines with
24 the men and boys of the families were hunting caribou near Lake
25 Louise. They hazed twenty-five caribou onto a slippery area and

1 shot them up so badly that the meat of some animals was worthless.
2 Such butchery is an obscene parody of a hunt.

3 There have been numerous reports of snowmachines on the
4 Peninsula and elsewhere running moose to exhaustion both in and out
5 of season. In a hunting area a friend of mine heard a snowmobile
6 hunter brag, "He can't get away. I can follow him right up to the
7 top of the mountain." Then he went out with his associates, aided
8 by radios, and had a successful hunt, if it can be called that.
9 The animal was a victim of slaughter, not a quarry of a hunt.

10 I am concerned with the effect on boys who may be growing
11 up with their only concept of a "hunt" gained from some variation
12 of what has been described.

13 Extreme abuses may be the exception rather than the rule,
14 but the temptation to use a powerful machine in pursuit rather than
15 to get in and out of a hunting area is great. Increase of abuses
16 is inevitable. Other testimony recently given of statistics of
17 ATV's only emphasizes the need for restraint. There is place and
18 plenty of space for ATV's, but not without very distinct restraints
19 against the abuse and trespass on the rights and freedom of others.

20 I am convinced there is abundant justification in the
21 public interest for some wilderness designations in the Moose
22 Range. I believe, however, it is necessary to consider hard
23 economic realities. We must take into account that the greatest
24 source of potential revenue for the State is from oil and gas and
25 that there must be increasing revenues for the State to be

1 adequately viable to serve the needs of the people.

2 From my incomplete knowledge I believe the geology of some
3 of the areas proposed for wilderness designation is favorable for
4 oil, while that of other areas is not. My impression is that very
5 little, if any, potential would be given up if the Mystery Creek
6 Unit and most of the Andy Simons Unit were designated. It is
7 also my impression that at least parts of the other three proposed
8 units may be of interest for oil.

9 Perhaps the Bureau for Sport Fisheries and Wildlife cannot
10 take an economic consideration into account under the Wilderness
11 Act. In any event, I recommend that an attempt be made to secure
12 the benefit of competent comments from the petroleum industry
13 before finalizing the recommendations of the Bureau.

14 Pertinent to petroleum industry development I make reference
15 to Pages 6 and 7 of my February pipeline hearing testimony as to
16 the Swanson River oil field in the Moose Range. A valid
17 conclusion from the facts of the Swanson River example is that the
18 term "tenancy" for oil production need not impose permanent adverse
19 effects on nature.

20 I believe a rational evaluation in the present situation is
21 that there is leeway for the accommodation of primary and secondary
22 use without doing violence to our needs to conserve nature.

23 In summary, the designation of certain wilderness areas is
24 both needed and desirable for social purposes and benefits and
25 because this will at the same time enhance the long term economic

1 value of the Range.

2 There is valid basis in need to make prudent allowance for
3 possible future oil production in the geologically favorable areas
4 in the Range. Thank you very much, Mr. Price, and because this
5 subject relates to the environment, I am reminded of a little
6 ditty on a sign at the entrance to a park in a southeast Asia
7 country, which went something like this, "If with litter you will
8 disgrace and spoil the beauty of this place, may indigestion rack
9 your chest and ants possess your pants and vest."

10 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Edward
11 Burton? Darrell Farmer.

12 MR. DARRELL FARMER: Mr. Price, Mr. Watson, members
13 of the Committee, I am Darrell Farmer of Anchorage, Alaska, and
14 I would like my statement to be part of the official record of
15 this hearing. I appear not as a representative of a conservation
16 organization nor a land development enterprise, but merely an
17 average Alaskan citizen who recognizes the absolute need for high
18 quality environment and to put an end to what President Nixon in
19 his message to Congress called "plunder of America's national
20 heritage."

21 Most of us will agree there is no more needful place to
22 start than in the magnificance of what is now referred to as the
23 Great Land. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has propos
24 that about one million acres of the one million seven hundred and
25 thirty thousand acre Kenai Moose Range be included in the National

1 Wilderness Preservation System. I believe this agency should be
2 commended for their effort to have six outstanding land units
3 designated as wilderness.

4 I believe further this agency should be commended for
5 exercising restraint for not including most, if not all, of the
6 Kenai Moose Range in the Wilderness Proposal. This has been
7 suggested by organized conservation groups.

8 It appears to me the agency responsible for the Kenai
9 Wilderness Study produced an excellent program. A plan that
10 offers a balance between furthering mass recreation opportunities
11 and preserving a section of a unique natural habitat. In my
12 opinion this well founded proposal could and should serve as a model
13 for developing a statewide land use plan whereby a comprehensive
14 zoning system would permit the most efficient use of all of our
15 natural resources, not just mining, extraction of fossil fuels,
16 highway construction and increased hunting and fishing.

17 All of us I am certain will agree that a land use plan for
18 the Great Land is long overdue. I was especially interested in the
19 testimony of the individuals representing our State Government.
20 They in essence argued against the Kenai Wilderness Proposal on
21 the grounds a master land use plan should precede the classification
22 of some natural lands designated as wilderness areas. Is this
23 State adhering to this policy in their demand that a permit be
24 issued for the immediate construction of the TransAlaska Pipeline
25 Such testimony forces me to view the State Government as a two-

1 headed dragon with one tongue lamenting the need for planning, while
2 the other forces resource development regardless of environmental
3 responsibility. And as quickly as possible or the State be faced
4 with indebtedness. That the State doubletalks is further
5 substantiated by the fact no mention was made of any land use
6 plans when over half the Kenai Moose Range was opened to oil and
7 gas leasing, and this I am distressed to say was done without the
8 benefit of a public hearing. If the recently constructed Hicikel
9 Highway is an example of the State Government's ability to plan,
10 I truly fear for the next generation of Alaskans.

11 We have on recent occasions heard the State adversaries
12 expound that parks, refuges, ranges and wilderness areas proposed
13 for the hinterland would not receive their support because of their
14 remoteness and lack of reasonable access. Now we have a proposal
15 for a classic wilderness area near Alaska's largest population
16 center and still the State refuses to offer an endorsement. It is
17 obvious to me that before the State takes any position it should
18 first develop an intelligent policy.

19 I would like to mention the absurdity of building roads for
20 the so-called purpose of making all of the outdoors accessible to
21 all of the public. I defy anyone to show me a road that does not
22 profoundly distract from the quality of wild lands and waters.
23 Show me a road through forest land and it will be my displeasure
24 to show you a landscape marred by litter, garbage and in many cases
25 denuded by fire. Show me a road extending around a still body of

1 water and it will sadden me to tell you that the one time clear,
2 sparkling waters are now usually unfit to quench a hiker's thirst.
3 Natural fish populations have disappeared and artificially reared
4 fish have to be stocked in order to maintain a supply for a demand
5 from only by overuse and easy access. Millions of acres of prime
6 wilderness have already vanished before the onslaught of develop-
7 ment and exploitation. We know that restoring areas to their
8 natural state is difficult, if not impossible. Now we are learning
9 by sad experience that the only way to safeguard our natural
10 heritage is through compromise with the small thinking people who
11 view quality as something measured only in terms of dollars and
12 cents.

13 I urge the Department of the Interior to submit the Konai
14 Wilderness Proposal as written to the President of the United
15 States and recommend that it become part of the National
16 Preservation System.

17 Lastly to those who think that technology in the end will
18 be triumphant in saving the quality of our environment, I can only
19 suggest to each of you, try swimming in Lake Erie with your mouth
20 open. I guarantee you'll taste the bitter fruits of technological
21 advancement.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Jeff
24 Richardson.

25 MR. JEFF RICHARDSON: Mr. Price, Mr. Watson, Mr.

1 Troyer, my name is Jeff Richardson. I reside at 2205 Boniface
2 Parkway. I have completed my junior year at East Anchorage High
3 School. The views expressed here are solely my own.

4 At the outset, I must state that I fully endorse and support
5 the designation of approximately 1,040,000 acres in the Kenai
6 National Moose Range as Wilderness Area, as proposed.

7 I am, as some here may know, what is commonly referred to
8 as a "preservationist". I have reached this state of mind as a
9 result of spending many years of my life in the region of Southern
10 California. My reasons for supporting the proposal are therefore
11 personal and otherwise.

12 My personal reasons are most difficult to express,
13 especially to those of different or indifferent views; for they
14 are reasons far removed from the city, far removed from insane
15 pressures, far from economics, far from the maddening, insignificant
16 details of today's everydayness.

17 I want this wilderness established because I place high
18 value on solitude, because it's so very hard to achieve. I place
19 a high value on pristinity because it's so scarce. I cherish
20 wilderness because I can learn from it. So many things I can learn.
21 It is in the wilderness that I can see where my life thread inter-
22 weaves with others to form the fabric of all existence.

23 To some these feelings are distant and unreal, a poetic
24 figment of some Nature-Lover's imagination. I can only assure you
25 that they are real. It is in the wilderness that one can see the

1 continuity of life. It is in the wilderness that one is closest
2 to his God. That some feel that people like myself are trite or
3 wordy in expression of our feelings for wilderness is indeed
4 unfortunate, but this fact does not in any way negate or invalidate
5 those feelings.

6 I stated that I had other reasons for supporting the
7 Wilderness Proposal. Aldo Leopold wrote in his "Sand County
8 Almanac" in 1949 that, "There are some who can live without wild
9 things, and some who cannot." I would agree and then qualify his
10 statement somewhat from my point of view. It seems to me that
11 anyone can live without wild things, many people do, but it is
12 simply a matter of completeness, a matter of the fullness of one's
13 life. A sense that one has truly lived to his fullest potential,
14 learned all there is to know of the way and order of things cannot
15 be had by ignoring the wilderness for the non-wilderness. I
16 firmly believe that a great many people are coming to realize this.
17 There are "progress people" as opposed to "preservationists" who
18 would argue that this increased interest is due simply to an
19 increase in population, and that proportionally, wilderness
20 advocates are still a loud, but scant minority. This argument,
21 more correctly, I think, reflects the worried remarks of a
22 shrinking group of people who don't like conservation for
23 conservation's sake, but think progress for the sake of progress
24 is the greatest thing since time began.

25 My point is this, more people are going to continue to use

1 these areas for outdoor recreation than some would lead you to
2 believe. Wilderness designation will not forever lock these
3 areas up to human use; and as one man has aptly put it, "Wilderness
4 is for people."

5 I have expressed, clearly I hope, why I feel the need for
6 the Kenai Wilderness to be established. But some may ask, "Why
7 congressional designation of wilderness? Does not National Game
8 Refuge status afford ample protection to all resources involved?"
9 I think not. Having been established by presidential proclamation,
10 the area has already come under the influence of political
11 maneuvering by special interest groups, oil and gas in this instance.
12 Politics are at once good and bad, in any situation, depending on
13 whose side you're on. However you look at it, politicians are often
14 hard up for objective reasoning at any given time.

15 The apparent fact is that Congressional action is more
16 difficult to undo with the aid of political influence than is that
17 of another nature. This remark is not directed at the oil and gas
18 industry specifically, but any vested interest group, including
19 those that are recreation oriented.

20 In conclusion, let me reiterate that I fully support and
21 endorse the designation of approximately 1,040,000 acres in the
22 Kenai National Moose Range as Wilderness Area, as proposed. I
23 believe that the benefits to be derived by the public make the area
24 well worth the proposed status. These benefits include numerous
25 forms of outdoor recreation, stress removal, personal achievement

1 and nature appreciation. In addition, as Professor Stanley Cain
2 states, "Wilderness areas are the only yardsticks we have or can
3 have of the long interactions of natural ecological laws in the
4 relative absence of man." Wilderness may be our last chance, and
5 Alaska may be the last chance for wilderness. Thank you.

6 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement.

7 MR. RICHARDSON: I would like, if possible, to submit
8 as an exhibit for the record a book entitled "Wilderness and Plenty,"
9 by Frank Fraser Darling.

10 MR. PRICE: How big is the book? I'm not sure if it
11 will be able to be duplicated completely in the record, but it will
12 be received and held in the contents of the materials that are
13 being received. William Jacobs.

14 MR. WILLIAM JACOBS: Gentlemen, my name is William
15 Jacobs. I reside in the Anchorage area and have since 1962. I
16 am appearing on behalf of the Upper Cook Inlet Chapter of the
17 Alaska Conservation Society. On behalf of the Society I want to
18 express my appreciation for this opportunity to make our views
19 on this important project known to you.

20 The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife recommends that
21 about 1,040,000 acres of the Kenai National Moose Range be included
22 in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

23 The Kenai Wilderness Proposal consists of six units ranging
24 from approximately 10,400 to 340,000 acres in size.

25 The membership of the Upper Cook Inlet Chapter of the Alaska

1 Conservation Society strongly supports and urges adoption of the
2 recommendations of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.
3 However, we urge that these six units be extended in size and/or
4 united to fully assure that existing wilderness and wildlife values
5 of the Kenai Peninsula will remain intact to safeguard a part of
6 our national wilderness heritage.

7 We strongly urge that the Swanson River and Swan Lake
8 wilderness units be combined through the inclusion of 30,000
9 additional acres of Moose Range lands. This will produce a
10 magnificent forested lake area of 192,000 acres of wilderness
11 canoe country teeming with fish and wildlife. I personally covered
12 all of the presently existing Swanson River and Swan Lake canoe
13 trails. I've often found this area to be crowded with people on
14 weekends, which is, after all, the only opportunity most resident
15 Alaskans usually have for recreation in the area. If the true
16 wilderness values in this area are to be maintained at all, it is
17 essential that a much larger area be included before it is too
18 late to take such steps. If this is not accomplished now, it seems
19 to me unlikely that it ever will be, to the serious detriment of
20 future generations.

21 We believe that a one square mile addition should be made
22 to the proposed wilderness area on the northwestern corner of the
23 Mystery Creek Basin Unit. This would more adequately protect
24 the valuable Chickaloon watershed.

25 We believe that Tustumena Lake, and all lands south and west

1 of the lake in the Moose Range should be considered as one
2 contiguous wilderness, that is, the Andy Simons Unit. The Andy
3 Simons Unit as proposed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and
4 Wildlife would be increased from 840,000 by the addition of
5 146,000 acres. This would include the proposed Caribou Hills
6 Unit and include all of Tustumena Lake. In our opinion the
7 importance of having all of Tustumena Lake designated as wilderness
8 cannot be overstated, because this important system supports
9 valuable spawning habitat used by salmon and trout.

10 In summary, we respectfully and strongly urge, (1) the
11 inclusion of a substantial part of the Kenai National Moose Range
12 into the National Wilderness Preservation System. We recommend
13 a 1,267,240 acre wilderness as opposed to the Bureau of Sport
14 Fisheries and Wildlife proposal of 1,040,000 acres. (2) That the
15 Swan Lake and Swanson River canoe units be enlarged and combined
16 into a single integrated wilderness unit. (3) That the Caribou
17 Hills and Andy Simons Wilderness Units be combined into a single
18 986,000 acre unit.

19 It has been said that wilderness classification will lock
20 up the natural resources of the Kenai Moose Range, but the opposite
21 is true. More than half the population of this state lives within
22 easy driving distance of the Kenai Peninsula, and the area is
23 already very heavily used where accessible by road. The Peninsula
24 has been world famous as a magnificent wilderness since 19th
25 century sportsmen first came there for trophy hunting. We propose

1 the opposite of locking up natural resources, that is, if these
2 lands are managed as a wilderness, we will have the assurance that
3 this region, with its unique wildlife and natural beauty, rather
4 than being locked up will be always available to our people.

5 I would also like to point out that Alaska -- I live here
6 and go to that area quite often. Let's not forget that this is
7 Federal land. It belongs to two hundred million people who don't
8 even live in Alaska. And I have no doubt that if this is preserved
9 as a wilderness that in the long run future generations -- this
10 wilderness will be of much more value, even dollar wise, let
11 alone aesthetic, than any resources that could possibly be extracted
12 from it at any time. And I feel that future generations will
13 rightfully curse us if we don't take this opportunity now to keep
14 it the way God made it.

15 MR. PRICE: Thank you. I am going to call for a ten
16 minute recess at this time.

17 (Whereupon a recess was taken for ten minutes.)

18 MR. PRICE: We are going to reconvene the hearing.
19 Will those out in the hall please return? Is Mr. Michler here?

20 MR. FRAY MICHLER: First of all I want to say that I
21 heartily endorse the Kenai Wilderness Proposal as it stands, but
22 I feel that it is a bit incomplete and I wish to see the following
23 additions to the primary areas under consideration added to this
24 proposal. In fact, I'd like to see that whole Moose Range turned
25 into wilderness, except for the oil field, but I realize that there

1 are a lot of barriers. So I would like to see the Swanson River
2 Canoe Unit extended to the south and west to join with the Swan
3 Lake Wilderness Unit. I see no real reason for separating the two
4 units and allowing for some future road or trailer court or
5 factory west of the park. In fact, there is a road separating
6 part of the two areas already and I'd like to see that cut off.

7 The Caribou Hills Unit seems to me unnecessarily fragmented
8 and divided. The eastern boundary touches the western boundary
9 of the Andy Simons Wilderness Unit and it seems to me it would be
10 desirable from a practical management standpoint to have these
11 units to join.

12 The Andy Simons Unit can also be greatly enhanced with the
13 inclusion of the Skilak Lake and Tustumena Lake. It stands to
14 reason that the glaciers which feed these two giant lakes are part
15 of the same sub-arctic ecosystems and deserve to be classified
16 accordingly. Protection of Skilak Lake is extremely important
17 because -- for two reasons. One is its closeness to the Sterling
18 Highway which makes it threatened even at this time, and also for
19 the two archeological sites of ancient Indian villages. And
20 Tustumena Lake seems to me needs to be rescued from the snow-
21 machinists which last winter alone ran down and killed off four
22 black wolves. I think it is absolutely imperative that these
23 animals be protected from future motorized incursions to maintain
24 a healthy ecological balance. Anyone who knows anything about
25 wolves know that they only prey on the weak and the sick of the

1 large game animals, the moose and caribou. And they are necessary
2 for keeping down the rodent population. And I would -- I would
3 like to see snowmachines banned from these lakes. There seems to
4 be easy access and quite a threat to the wilderness areas.

5 As a cross-country skier there is nothing more mind blowing
6 than to have a snowmachine come buzzing by you. The machine,
7 the whine and the smell and the stench of the exhaust from snow-
8 machines and from motorcycles and Amphi-Cats is totally nauseating
9 and seems totally incompatible with a wilderness area as I conceive
10 of it.

11 Just recently I hiked five miles into the Mystery Creek
Basin to escape the roar of technology and stench of pollution
12 such as I find already here in this city. And so I am especially
13 eager to see petroleum leasing and timber harvesting rigidly
14 excluded from all these areas. Multiple use management simply
15 is not compatible with the concept of or the existence of beautiful
16 wilderness. For historically it is obvious that once industrial
17 and commercial intrusions are made, the lid of Pandora's box has
18 been opened and there is no way to reverse the poaching done in
19 the name of development.

20 I have no doubt that the oil and gas companies would export
21 the clouds out of the sky and the stars out of the firmament if
22 they felt it helped the economy. And this is the time to say "No"
23 to private business interests. Let the Anchorage Chamber of
24 Commerce stay in Anchorage.

5 We in Alaska can never have enough wilderness and, again,

1 my feelings are focused in the expression, "Not enough. Not enough."
2 I want to see it all wilderness. I live in Alaska because it is
3 unique from any other state and it is an emotional commitment which
4 keeps me here, knowing that any time I can throw a pack on my
5 shoulders and take off into areas virtually untouched by others.

6 The Kenai has for a long time been a wildlife refuge. Now
7 it's possible to make it a refuge for man as well. Thank you.

8 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Michler. I want to make
9 one statement now which may help us to finish the hearing this
10 afternoon. I have eighteen cards left and I would suggest to
11 those that are going to testify, if they could limit their testimony
12 to ten minutes. It is not mandatory at this time. It is merely
13 a suggestion for all who have not had an opportunity to testify
14 this afternoon. Howard Shuck.

15 MR. HOWARD SHUCK: Members of the panel, my name is
16 Howard Shuck. I am an Alaskan interested in seeing Alaska develop
17 in a prudent way, but without unnecessary destruction of the
18 environment that many of us came to Alaska to enjoy. I am also
19 knowledgeable of the Kenai National Moose Range and have hiked,
20 camped, fished, boated and hunted in most sections of it. My
21 exposure to this great area began in 1957 when I first went into
22 Iceberg Lake at the head of Skilak Glacier. Since then I have
23 become impressed with the variety of types of outdoor recreation
24 that could be accommodated in the Moose Range, if proper zoning
5 is accomplished. And I am not unaware of the pressures by

1 industrial and other groups for use of this area.

2 I have been a professional fisheries and wildlife researcher
3 and I am presently a systems analyst whose job it is to evaluate
4 the merits of alternative ways to develop different types of arctic
5 land and to estimate the effects of various types of development
6 upon the environment and upon the wellbeing of people. Although
7 I am employed to conduct such evaluations, I speak today as a
8 private citizen.

9 The conclusion of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
10 is that wilderness is the best use for a good portion of the Kenai
11 National Moose Range. As an analyst, knowledgeable of cost benefit
12 analysis techniques, I was interested in learning what type of
13 analysis led to this conclusion. I have found that a formal cost
14 benefit analysis with economic and social effects was not
15 calculated for all of the competing uses for this land. However,
16 we know that cost benefit analyses with objective judgment and
17 largely quantified results are expensive and time consuming.
18 Also there are legal restraints for use of the Kenai National Moose
19 Range, one of which obviously is the obligation to preserve the
20 environment of the moose and other animals, which means perhaps
21 that a partly economic cost benefit analysis is not necessary for
22 such an area or even appropriate.

23 In lieu of such an analysis I was well impressed with the
24 ability of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's analysis
25 and with their understanding of the competing uses for Kenai land

1 by widely divergent groups, which range, of course, from
2 industrialists to mechanized hunting and to non-mechanized hunts,
3 to campers and so forth. In research it is always a question of
4 judgment as to when we have done enough analyses to provide a valid
5 basis for decision making. As an analyst myself I am often
6 discouraged as to how little analyses support many important land
7 use decisions. However, I must admit that it's also possible to
8 study something so long and so completely that we pass by the time
9 for decision.

10 If I had to make a judgment today with the information at
11 my disposal, I would conclude that the Bureau researchers have
12 probably correctly concluded that the best use of the area they
13 have delineated is actually as wilderness. This information at
14 my disposal includes, of course, the analysis done by the Bureau,
15 also my assessment of the competence of the people who produced ~~it~~
16 the legal constraints for use of the Range, my personal experience
17 on the Kenai and my experience as a professional cost benefit
18 analyst.

19 I would make only two further observations. One is that
20 evidence is rapidly mounting that motorized vehicles, including
21 snowmachines and trail bikes, are having dilatorious effects upon
22 not only the well being of game populations, but also the environ-
23 ment itself, particularly the ground cover through erosion. And
24 also upon the enjoyment of the wild by non-motorized recreationalists,
25 including, of course, non-mechanized hunts. Obviously there should

1 be some areas set aside legally where motorized vehicles are
2 prohibited.

3 The second observation is that while there is always a cost
4 to make any change in the present situation, there is also generally
5 a cost of not taking action. If we wait, probably the decision to
6 classify land into wilderness status will be even more difficult
7 than it is now. If our society really recognizes that types of
8 development other than merely industrial development are necessary
9 for man's well being and that there actually is a value of
10 wilderness, an economic one actually as well as sociological, then
11 probably the time to act on this wilderness is right now. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Mr. Ted
14 Burton.

15 MR. TED BURTON: Sir, gentlemen, my name is Ted Burton.
16 I live in Anchorage and I am an attorney. I am also a member of
17 the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. I am also a member of
18 the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club. I find myself kind of torn
19 between two organizations. I have no authority to speak for the
20 Sierra Club as such, although I would like to, and I have no
21 authority to speak for the Chamber of Commerce, because they know
22 better. Just listening to the Chamber of Commerce's presentation
23 I suddenly became impressed with how much the outdoorsman's faith
24 has in common with the American Indians. The surging wave of
25 westward development keeps pushing us back, in the end to look for,

1 land that nobody else wants and tells us to go use it.

2 When I listened to Mr. Blake's inventory of mechanized
3 equipment in the Anchorage area, for a moment there I felt like
4 an Englishman standing on the shore of the channel in 1940 and
5 looking over the water and thinking of the Germans mustering all
6 that equipment. A few weekends from now I am going to be down
7 in that area on a three day hike and I suspect I shall look north
8 and think of that again.

9 I find it rather depressing in the day of new national
10 awareness of the fragility of our environment -- to the values of
11 a clean environment, in the day when the Congress has finally
12 bestirred itself to create a National Environmental Policy and a
13 Wilderness System, when we in Alaska sitting on top of the last
14 clear chance to spare a portion of the continent from the economic
15 rapists, we stand here trying to persuade fellow Alaskans that the
16 wilderness is valuable. That it is not unending and that time is
17 short. I find it rather tragic that out of the mouths of 20th
18 century Alaskan businessmen and politicians are coming the words
19 of 19th century entrepreneurs.

20 It is very shortsighted of the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and
21 of certain people who have spoken here today to criticise this
22 proposal, as it has been quoted, because the wilderness would be
23 reserved "for those few individuals who could hike several miles."
24 Something astonishing has happened to the human foot if they can
25 say there are only a few of us who can hike several miles. And I

1 can only urge that not all the world is to be given over to the
2 machine. A thousand Alaskan sourdoughs surely spun in their graves
3 to hear such effete sentiments expressed by Alaskans.

4 Equally inadequate is the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's
5 idea that wilderness should be minimal. What does minimal mean?
6 To some people the present proposal is minimal. To the Chamber,
7 perhaps, the classification of 5,000 acres of the Harding Icefield
8 would be maximal -- perhaps they wish to be free to mine icecubes.

9 Likewise, the Anchorage Chamber's stressing of approval
10 of "established principles of multiple use" is a hollow shibboleth.
11 I fear what they really mean, in view of the fact that multiple
12 use in the past has always turned out to be dominant use, plus
13 whatever else is tolerable -- what they really mean is that if there
14 is a copper nugget under any tree or ledge anywhere in there, it
15 should be available to be dug up and hauled out over a modern
16 highway. "Multiple use" is a very misleading term. It implies
17 that all uses are compatible. But not all uses are compatible.
18 But these arguments are all largely irrelevant anyway. Congress
19 has pronounced that some areas shall be classified wilderness.
20 Whether wilderness is good or wilderness is bad is irrelevant.
21 Congress has said, "Let there be wilderness." The only inquiry
22 is whether, since there is to be wilderness, the wilderness should
23 be protected in this place and at this time.

24 And, of course, this is just the first round. Those who
25 wish to see economic development in this area will surely bend the

1 Secretary's car, the President's car, and the Congress' car, each
2 in turn, and we all know that. If then the State within the next
3 five years ever gets around to its planning, it will presumably
4 still have plenty of time to evaluate this proposal in its light.
5 Indeed, I would hope that if there are any of these areas that
6 are not now classified as natural areas, that they be so reclassified
7 pending anything of this nature being accomplished.

8 Let me turn to the State's argument concerning planning.
9 There are times when I wonder whether Alaska's government is
10 ruled by inertia, preposterous precaution, or hypocrisy. We hear
11 endlessly of plans, of studies. The State has spent thousand and
12 millions of dollars on studies. And then when the studies are
13 done, they are shelved, for while the planners fiddle, Rome burned.

14 They tell us there should be no more parks, no more
15 wilderness classifications, no more withdrawals. They tell us that
16 we shouldn't lock it up. It could be the wrong place to lock up.
17 And ask us to come sit down with them and plan together.

18 The problem is first that we aren't in any real sense
19 trying to lock anything up. Wilderness is the only use that
20 preserves intact the possibility of all other uses. And, secondly,
21 while they plan, they are in effect letting private people lock
22 anything up that they can get their hands on. They're leaving
23 the door wide open to private locking.

24 Now, if they came back to us and said, "We will build no
25 more roads, we will build no more airports, we will allow no more

1 people and allow no new leases, allow no new land claims of any
2 variety -- in other words, if they could do that. If they could
3 say that while the wilderness advocate is waiting out the plan that
4 the State and developers must also sit tight and wait out the
5 plan, that would be one thing. But, that is obviously not what
6 we're faced with. They cannot tell us that and they won't tell
7 us that. I am sure they will come back and say, "Be reasonable."
8 That we need basic, minimal necessities by way of development while
9 the planning is going on and in the interim it will be nibbled
10 and nibbled away.

11 All we are doing is asking them to be reasonable. To take
12 a step forward giving us our wilderness. Also now to us it is a
13 basic minimal necessity.

14 The more of that fantastically beautiful and soul enriching
15 country that you can classify wilderness, the better. Some of the
16 opponents should spend a week out there to learn how insignificant
17 man becomes. The plan as proposed has been explained most
18 eloquently by Mr. Troyer at many public meetings and the plan
19 itself seems to be beautiful. Thank you.

20 MR. PRICE: Mary Evans.

21 MARY EVANS: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, my
22 name is Mary Evans. I reside at Box 1621, Star Route A, Anchorage,
23 Alaska. I am testifying as an individual. I would like to begin
24 my testimony with an appropriate line from Henry Thoreau. "In
25 wildness is the preservation of the world."

1 The Kenai Proposal is a unique wildness. It contains
2 unusual numbers of species and habitats and an unusual concentration
3 of wildlife. It also contains large amounts of rare life,
4 especially trumpeter swans. This wildlife is abundant enough
5 so that a traveler through the Proposals can see much of it. At
6 the age of six my youngest brother saw his first and largest owl,
7 his first loon and his first swan in the Swan Lakes Area. The
8 Kenai contains the most examples of wilderness for any area of
9 its size in the state. It is also the closest well used wilderness
10 area to Anchorage, and it is easily accessible from any one of
11 several cities. It fits all the qualifications for a wilderness area.
However, I feel that it must soon be made a wilderness if it is
13 to become a wilderness, before it ceases to be what could be
14 considered a wilderness.

15 The Kenai is, I feel, incompatible with any activities
16 which could in any way change the state it is in presently. I
17 often carry a trash bag in my knapsack and I have found the
18 largest amounts of trash in the areas mechanized vehicles can go.
19 I have picked up a dump left by airplane hunters in the Mystery
20 Creek Area. I have traveled the Swan Lakes route several times,
21 and I have always seen an overload of trash, including gas cans,
22 in the first few lakes of the canoe system and the last few miles
23 of the Moose River. These are the only few places in the system
24 where motorized boats can easily travel. We are seeing a growth
25 of motorized vehicles in the state, and if this trend continues,

1 the system will be more heavily used and the remoter lakes will
2 also fill with trash. In the Eastern states motorized vehicles
3 have so abused the lands that legislation is being passed to
4 prohibit them from wild areas there. The same thing will probably
5 ultimately happen in Alaska since Alaskans have never proved
6 themselves more virtuous than any other Americans.

7 Because of its closeness to population centers, the Kenai
8 wildernesses are in more danger of over littering than most other
9 wild areas in the state. This area is too valuable as wilderness
10 to allow this. One of the reasons this area is valuable as
11 wilderness is because it contains the largest concentrations of
12 trumpeter swans in the state. Therefore, I advocate the addition
13 of the areas south of Point Possession and between the Swan Lakes
14 and Swanson River Proposals to the canoe proposals. Not only
15 will the nesting and breeding grounds be protected, but the canoe
16 systems will be connected and extended an additional 80,000 acres.
17 I feel that these are the best canoeing systems in the state, since
18 the lakes are easy enough for beginners and entire families, and
19 beautiful enough to attract any canoeists. I learned to canoe
20 largely in this area.

21 I also advocate the addition of the Tustumena Lake area to
22 provide for the incorporation of the Andy Simons and Caribou Hills
23 Proposals. This would protect the salmon spawning in the lake.
24 And it would also allow for more efficient protection of the
25 Wilderness Area against illegal mechanized entry by creating a

smaller amount of border for a larger amount of land.

2 I have spent parts of several summers in the Wilderness
3 Proposals and have seen a good deal of the wildlife. One of the
4 most important lessons I have learned is that the value of a
5 piece of land is not its economic value. A wilderness area is
6 the most easily managed type of area, since it is entirely self-
7 sufficient. It requires no maintenance by any Department since
8 Mother Nature has had four billion years of practice in it. I
9 would especially like to remind the Fish and Game Department of
10 this point.

11 We cannot make a just decision on these lands if we only
12 consider their monetary worth, or how many moose and how much oil
13 can be produced from it. What we must consider instead is how much
14 it will be worth to us to be able to say, in twenty or thirty
15 years' time, that we have a place in our state that can truly be
16 called "wilderness," and that it can always be wilderness.

17 It is obvious that the Kenai Wilderness Proposal is a large
18 area. Too large some of the speakers have said. However, once
19 we had an entire continent in the state the Kenai Peninsula is in
20 today. Only a small fraction of that continent is still in that
21 state. I feel that any American has the right to enjoy a
22 reasonable amount of wilderness, and I do not feel that a
23 reasonable amount of wilderness has been allotted. We in Alaska
24 have the last chance to allot that wilderness. Not only for
25 ourselves, but also for the rest of America. It must mean a great

1 deal to a New Yorker to know that there is still wilderness left
2 in Alaska. I feel that it means enough to protect that wilderness.

3 I am sixteen. When I am as old as most of you here today,
4 I want to be able to say that I have canood down a wild river and
5 hiked up a wild mountain. And that I can do it again. Thank you.

6 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Lloyd Hall.

7 MR. LLOYD HALL: Gentlemen, some of you sitting up
8 there know me and know my operation. I am Lloyd Hall who has
9 Alaska Bush Carriers on Lake Hood which is an air taxi operation
10 who specializes in flying in fishermen and people who wish to
11 spend a weekend in a remote area. And for the last twenty-one
12 years I have been flying into the Kenai National Moose Monument.
13 Specifically in the area of Mall Lake, Bedlam, formerly Gene Lake,
14 and also Sport Fish Lake.

15 I have heard some controversy here on planes coming in and
16 landing and motor vehicles as such. I would like to submit that
17 an airplane in no way hurts the ground. I do have motorized
18 vehicles on the lakes. I have four on each lake of the three lakes
19 that I operate from.

20 And I would further like to submit that there are people
21 who are unable to hike in. I have taken wheelchair cases out to
22 my camps with their families and they have spent a beautiful
23 weekend, and have not littered the country in any way. I am
24 instructed by Mr. Hakila, Will Troyer, and my rules are laid down
25 under which I operate. And, therefore, I'd like to see this

1 land left as a multiple use land. There are many dollars spent
2 with me each week and throughout the week in this area. My money
3 in turn buys aircraft here locally, maintenance locally, so it
4 does mean something to the City of Anchorage as the Anchorage
5 Chamber of Commerce pointed out.

6 I have several people who come up from the States that are
7 T.W.A. pilots, Pan American pilots, Western Airline pilots, that
8 call me from -- long distance from San Francisco and say, "Lloyd,
9 we want to go out to one of your camps. We understand you have a
10 nice comfortable camp and we'll go out for three days. We have a
11 layover in San Francisco and we'll get a pass and come up. Would
12 you reserve a camp for me." Now, this is important to my business.
13 And I came down here today to learn and I have learned a lot. I
14 have heard self-interests after self-interests and I believe that
15 this land is big enough to carry on an old Alaskan tradition of
16 live and let live. Thank you.

17 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Helen Nienhueser.

18 HELEN NIENHUESER: My name is Helen Nienhueser. I am
19 speaking as an individual. I have been a resident of Alaska for
20 twelve years. I came here and I intend to stay here because of
21 Alaska's wilderness. I fully support the proposals for all six
22 wilderness units in the Kenai National Moose Range.

23 Alaska's greatest resource and her greatest asset is her
24 wilderness. It is the last area in this country where vast areas
25 untouched by man can still be found. In years to come the national

1 importance of our wilderness will become increasingly obvious as
2 population overcrowding increases and open space dwindles.
3 Wilderness is a vital source of renewal for the human spirit.
4 More and more people are realizing this every year. Annually
5 the hills, mountains and valleys of this nation become more
6 crowded by people seeking nature as a relief from the increasing
7 pressures of our technological society. Project this 100 years
8 and ask where the crowds then will go. They will not find what
9 they seek under crowded conditions. Will there be no place to go?
10 No, there won't be, unless we act now to protect wilderness
11 permanently. Lots of it. Legislative action by Congress is
12 necessary to really protect the land. An executive order, which
13 is all that protects the area under its present status, can too
14 easily turn the area to other uses at the whim of one man or the
15 powers that control him. Once that happens wilderness is lost.
16 Alaska is big enough to be able to afford to have many acres
17 reserved as wilderness.

18 Ultimately Alaska will benefit economically from the
19 establishment of wilderness. Long after the non-renewable resources
20 have been extracted from the ground, tourism will continue as a
21 steady source of revenue. And rest assured, there are many more
22 than "just a few individuals" who are able to hike several miles
23 to enjoy such a protected area. And the number of hikers increases
24 annually.

25 As an Anchorage resident I am especially anxious to see

1 wilderness on the Kenai well protected. I have hiked in Alaska
2 for twelve years, but no longer find the pleasure in it that I
3 once did. Now I am forced to share the mountains and valleys
4 with various kinds of destructive, noisy, smelly motorized
5 vehicles and the outdoor experience is ruined for me. I go to
6 nature for peace, to renew within myself a sense of tranquility
7 that I once found in the Chugach foothills. Such peace can no
8 longer be found near Anchorage where the obnoxious machines are
9 omnipresent. But, the Kenai Peninsula is not far away and it
10 seems reasonable that some area within easy weekend distance
11 of Anchorage should be kept as wilderness so that those of us
who came to Alaska because of the wilderness can still find it
on our weekends.

14 Several arguments against the Wilderness Proposal seem
15 irrelevant, strange or shortsighted to me. For instance, it is
16 argued that the Federal Government has no right to attempt to
17 reclassify land when Alaska itself cannot act on land selection
18 because of the land freeze. This is a smart political remark, the
19 kind that will be picked up and echoed, but it falls apart under
20 examination. In the first place, the land under discussion already
21 belongs to the Federal Government, is already withdrawn from the
22 public domain, and cannot be selected by the State of Alaska. So
23 the Federal Government is not trying to steal anything from Alaska
24 while the State's hands are tied. In the second place, the State
can and is doing what it pleases with the lands to which it has

1 patent; the land freeze has no effect on that. So I am not sure
2 that there is much relationship between the land freeze and the
3 attempt to reclassify what is already Federal Land withdrawn from
4 public domain. And, in the third place, the Bureau of Sport
5 Fisheries and Wildlife was directed by the Wilderness Act of
6 1964 to review wildlife refuges for wilderness potential prior to
7 1974. So this proposal is merely what Congress ordered; it is just
8 that, a proposal, and Congress is unlikely to make it an established
9 fact until after the Native Land Claims are settled and the land
10 freeze lifted. So the land freeze argument is pretty irrelevant.

11 The arguments against the proposals advanced by the State
12 Department of Fish and Game seem to me to be in the best interest
13 of that department and not in the best interests of the Kenai Moose
14 Range. Fish and Game is not as concerned about the best long term
15 use of the area as they are about their power.

16 In the first place, it is simply not true, as Augie Reetz
17 claimed and the Anchorage Times reported with front page headlines,
18 that the proposals would return management of wildlife resources
19 to Federal hands. As has already been pointed out, the Department
20 of Fish and Game would continue to manage the wildlife in the
21 wilderness areas. It is true that there would be some restrictions
22 on the methods of wildlife management, but I just can't see that
23 as a catastrophe.

24 In the second place, I believe that there are some very valid
25 objections to the whole philosophy under which the Department of

1 Fish and Game operates and which leads it to this paradoxical
2 position of opposing wilderness.

3 The basic assumption under which the Department of Fish and
4 Game operates is that game must be managed. This attitude is
5 understandable because management of fish and game creates jobs
6 for Fish and Game employees. But, carried to the extreme, as the
7 department seems most often to do, this is a very narrow and
8 shortsighted attitude which fails to take into consideration any
9 values other than hunting and fishing. They seem to see the only
10 use of animals as game and the only use of wild areas as habitat
11 for the game. Their goal is maximum harvest of game animals. To
12 accomplish this they allow game populations to increase to a size
13 beyond that which the Range can naturally support. If left alone,
14 the animals will overgraze their Range and begin to starve. To
15 prevent this, a large number of game animals must be killed or
16 "harvested" each year by hunters. But, in order for enough moose
17 to be killed, hunters must be able to get into the back country.
18 And to do that they must be allowed to use the destructive all
19 terrain vehicles and snowmachines and roads must be built. This
20 is precisely the situation on the Kenai with regard to moose as
21 explained by Mr. Blum this morning. The use of motorized vehicles
22 as a tool of game management is one of the major reasons why
23 there is a conflict between game management and wilderness. The
24 two simply are not compatible. But, the choice is not between
1 hunting and wilderness, for hunting and fishing are permitted.

1 Nor is the choice between game management and wilderness, for
2 management of game will continue under the State Department of
3 Fish and Game. It is simply that the methods chosen for game
4 management must be compatible with wilderness. This may result
5 in a few less moose to be shot, but that is a small price to pay
6 for the preservation of substantial accessible wilderness acreage
7 that would hold forever the promise of a genuine wilderness
8 experience, of peace, of silence, of renewal.

9 The State Constitution is regularly cited by Fish and Game
10 people as justification of their position. But, it seems to me that
11 they use it as just that, a justification for something they want
12 to do anyway. They take only what they want from the Constitution
13 and ignore the rest. The Constitution says, "Fish, forests, and
14 wildlife... shall be utilized, developed and maintained on the
15 sustained yield principle, subject to preference among beneficial
16 uses." It seems to me that the phrase "subject to preference among
17 beneficial uses" says that at times other values may supercede
18 game management. And those other values could include wilderness
19 where wilderness and game management conflict. It is interesting
20 that not all of the Fish and Game people who use the Constitution
21 as their justification know what the Constitution actually says.
22 In recent conversation with one such high level official I was told
23 that the Constitution dictates game management for "maximum yield."
24 There is a lot of difference between "maximum yield" and "sustained
yield," which is what the Constitution actually calls for.

1 Maximum yield is perhaps incompatible with wilderness, but
2 sustained yield is not. I am convinced that the fish and the game
3 in the proposed wilderness areas can be managed for sustained
4 yield without violation of wilderness.

5 I would like to see the whole approach of the Fish and Game
6 Department reevaluated and changed so that game management takes
7 its rightful place as only one of several important values to be
8 considered in planning land use. Wilderness is a legitimate value
9 of equal merit, and when game management finds itself in opposition
10 to wilderness, something is very wrong. Alaska is big enough to
11 contain both areas of intensive game management for maximum
12 yield and wilderness areas where game management is less intensive
13 and sustained yield is the goal. Alaska can afford to place these
14 one million acres of the Kenai Moose Range in wilderness status.
15 They comprise only 0.3% of Alaska's land area.

16 The argument that the Federal Government is trying to reduce
17 us to colonial status once more doesn't hold water. This is another
18 smart remark that will be picked up and quoted. The Kenai National
19 Moose Range is administered out of Kenai, not out of Washington,
20 and wilderness status will not change the location of the management.
21 The colonialism argument is generally substantiated by reference
22 to the salmon runs which declined disastrously prior to Statehood
23 and which have been restored under the management of the Alaska
24 State Department of Fish and Game. The Department of Fish and Game
25 certainly deserves credit for this, but the whole salmon question

1 has nothing to do with the Kenai Wilderness Proposals. Prior to
2 Statehood the salmon were managed by the Federal Bureau of
3 Commercial Fisheries. The Moose Range and the proposed wilderness
4 areas will be managed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
5 which has had an office here since before Statehood, and which had
6 a good record of game and sport fish management prior to Statehood.
7 It seems to me that the question should be, what is the best use
8 of this area in the years to come and how can this best be
9 accomplished? To me the answer is clear; the best long term use
10 of this area is as wilderness and the best protection for wilderness
11 can be provided by the Federal Government through the Bureau of
12 Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. He who can do the job best is the
13 one who should do it. In this case it is the Federal Government,
14 as State testimony made this morning has made abundantly clear.
15 But, these Federal officials will be Alaskans, living here and
16 making the decisions here. I do not find this a horrifying
17 prospect.

18 Finally, it is just plain arrogance for us to assume that
19 because we live here, we, and we alone should dictate what happens
20 here. 95% of the land in this state belongs to the Federal
21 Government. That means it belongs to all Americans. Even after
22 the state has selected its share and the Native Land Claims are
23 settled, the Federal Government, i.e. all Americans, will still own
24 about 60% of Alaska's land area. The rest of the U.S. does have a
25 right to a voice in what happens here. And they have the right to

1 find wilderness here for their recreational needs.

2 Not to preserve these areas as wilderness now would be
3 extremely short sighted. I am appalled at the testimony of other-
4 wise intelligent Alaskans who claim that Alaska's wilderness is
5 so vast that it needs no protection. Well, neither did what is
6 now the continental United States which is five times the size of
7 Alaska. What has happened to it in the last two hundred years?
8 Only the last fifty or so of those years have been blessed with
9 modern technology which makes it possible to despoil natural areas
10 so much faster. What is going to happen to Alaska in the next
11 two hundred years, all of which will have the benefit of technology,
12 unless we protect it now? How can these Alaskans ignore history?
13 Multiple use, as advocated by the Chamber of Commerce, has already
14 been allowed for in the rest of the Moose Range, not to mention
15 the rest of the Kenai Peninsula. To consign a greater portion of
16 the Moose Range to multiple use would be to tip the scales unfairly
17 in favor of this generation and its pocketbook, at the expense of
18 generations to come. Wilderness status preserves the area for the
19 recreational use of future generations. Don't we have an obligation
20 to them? Thank you.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you. Sharon Cissna.

22 SHARON CISSNA: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, my name is
23 Sharon Cissna. I am a resident of Anchorage, Alaska. I am very
24 familiar with the area being discussed and considered and have hiked
25 in the Andy Simons area. I have canoed in the Swanson River canoe.

ails and have been on a number of hikes throughout the Kenai
ea.

As an Alaskan who is concerned about recent developments,
am perplexed at recent events which appear to have a bearing on
e consideration of this Wilderness Proposal. There appears to
a "dog in the manger" attitude developing among those who should
ve the people's best interests at heart. It goes something like
is, "If we can't have our pipeline, you can't have wilderness or
rks." Proof of this can be found in statements by a number of
officials in the State, as well as, unfortunately, the Federal
vernment. I mention this problem because I feel that unless
is observation is incorrect, what I say further, or what any of
who have only the welfare of Alaskans at heart, will be based
my own weekend trips into the Andy Simons area. I saw literally
undred dall sheep, mountain goats at close range, bear, moose,
much of the wildlife. What an experience for not only those
us who are able to enjoy this country ourselves today, but
those who are coming. How important -- how important for the
st and respect we have lost among our other members of society
the development of areas such as this in a trust status. Areas
re we are not gluttonously displaying our madness to consume,
show our faith that there will be a future for our children.

At this point I would like very much to say that looking
ward to having a child and looking forward to trying to raise a
ld the world today is a very frightening thing and one of the

or

1

1 reasons why it is so frightening is because of some of the
2 testimony -- or we can point to some of the testimony that we have
3 heard today as an example of why it's frightening. One of the
4 examples is the fact that many of our State officials mouth the
5 sentiment that they are concerned about today's problems. The fact
6 that we have juvenile delinquency, we have drug problems, we have
7 this, we have that. And the problem is not wilderness areas. We
8 don't need to provide wilderness areas. What we need to provide
9 are lots of parks and things that are accessible for the children.
10 Mr. Thomas Kelly mentioned this, yet only several years ago in
11 Anchorage when a group of local citizens, Garden Club members and
various people like that, met with Mr. Thomas Kelly -- at that time
13 he was Commissioner of Natural Resources -- Mr. Kelly opposed a
14 park in the O'Malley area for a number of reasons, most of which
15 were -- were economics, but one of the reasons that he actually
16 gave was because in a park status rather than a residential status,
17 it would not provide a proper firebreak. Now, this kind of
18 reasoning -- and then -- and then listening to the testimony of
19 why we shouldn't have wilderness. We should have lots of
20 accessible places for our children to play -- and put those two
21 things together and the figures don't add up.

22 This is the kind of -- this is the kind of thinking that we
23 listen to day in and day out in Alaska. And we hear the same thing
24 from our Federal officials. No wonder kids are turning out the
way they are. We need only look at Anchorage to see the unplanned

development that has occurred in Alaska. This makes the development of planned parks, scenic and wilderness areas of incredible importance. If we are to make a pigpen of our towns, then we should at least pick areas around them that we maintain for restoration of our spirits.

Wilderness status for the Kenai area is tremendously important because it's so close to large pockets of humanity. It's possible and will continue to be possible to drive to Kenai from Anchorage on the weekend and to enjoy the wilderness area, knowing meanwhile that our children will be able to enjoy this in exactly the same way we did, knowing that nature's own incredible balance will be maintained.

I sincerely hope that the impression that I've gotten and which thousands of Alaskans have gotten, that of outside developers playing cat and mouse with our state at the expense of a proposal such as this, is not founded in fact. Your decision will be our answer. Thank you very much for this proposal and I certainly do support the proposal of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

MR. PRICE: Thank you. Robert LeResche.

MR. ROBERT E. LERESCHE: My name is Robert LeResche. I have lived in Alaska for seven years and will probably never live anywhere else. I have a Master's degree in wildlife management and a PhD in ecology. I first visited the Kenai in 1965, and for more than two years I have been fortunate enough to live year

1 round in the midst of the Kenai National Moose Range. I am a
2 research biologist and what follows is my personal testimony.

3 We've had ample evidence today from both sides that the
4 wilderness designation for land use has become little more than an
5 emotion issue. And what a shame it has become that. The very word
6 "wilderness" is a rallying cry to polarized thinking; horses are
7 good, snowmachines are bad; canoes are good, aircraft are bad;
8 birdwatchers are good, hunters are bad. In a world where nothing
9 really is certain, we suddenly are confronted with moral absolutes
10 on which we can hang our ideas.

11 The inevitable result of this is intolerance. Conservation-
12 ists, paradoxically, have become as intolerant of anyone not
13 accepting these supposed absolutes, as so many were intolerant of
14 them until recently. Perhaps it is a natural human reaction, this
15 backlash, but isn't it also abrogation of our responsibility to
16 our land and to our future environments?

17 In the last century millions of acres of public lands were
18 given to railroads; more millions went to homesteading, to mining,
19 to oil development. All this occurred with much political maneuvering
20 and little planning for the future. James Ridgeway summarized the
21 situation in his book "The Politics of Ecology:" "We are all victims
22 and nothing changes." I sometimes feel that this could well be
23 true, but that at least one thing has changed; now the victimizers,
24 the exploiters, are ourselves, the conservationists. Now we are
advocating commitment of land to certain uses without much thought

1 and with even less planning.

2 The responsibility we are in danger of ignoring is the
3 responsibility to plan comprehensively. The responsibility to
4 see each acre, or each million acres, as a piece of our one earth.
5 The responsibility to have a little peripheral vision in our
6 decisions.

7 Planning is very difficult. It is infinitely more easy to
8 see things simplistically, in terms of right or wrong, good guys
9 and bad guys. But I hope we are capable of a little more
10 sophistication than that. I hope we are able to see that the
11 wilderness designation for land alone, attractive as it is, is
12 no more a panacea than oil development alone; or cities alone, or
13 supersonic transports alone.

14 With some exceptions and additions, I am in basic agreement
15 with the Kenai Wilderness Proposals. In actual fact, the proposed
16 uses of this land differ minutely, if at all, from current Kenai
17 National Moose Range management practices. These practices have, in
18 many instances, evolved from an emotional, and occasionally
19 objective, feeling for the land and for its place in the south-
20 central Alaska region. Planning in relation to the big picture, in
21 other words, has occurred in spite of itself.

22 The proposed Andrew Simons Wilderness Area could well serve
23 as a model for what a wilderness area should be. It is large,
24 tremendously scenic, and still relatively untouched. Its populations
of wildlife are in large part self-sustaining, although a majority

1 of its moose do depend in most years upon areas of winter range
2 outside its borders. This is a positive aspect, for it allows
3 manipulation of this habitat to the moose's benefit. The Area's
4 wolves almost certainly leave its boundaries at times, as must
5 individual black bears, brown bears and smaller mammals. Still,
6 the Unit is in large part a true ecological unit.

7 I would recommend, however, instead of the proposed token
8 wilderness the Andy Simons Area be made a true wilderness, beyond
9 the letter (but perhaps not beyond the intent) of the Wilderness
10 Act. I recommend that trail construction be immediately stopped
11 in this area, that permits be required for one to enter its
12 boundaries with horses or other domestic animals, that use of
13 aircraft -- all use of aircraft -- be prohibited below 1,000 feet
14 above ground level except in emergencies, and that all machinery,
15 chain saws, generators, everything be prohibited.

16 The proposed Caribou Hills Wilderness Unit is not a logical
17 unit in itself, ecologically nor physiographically. The corridor
18 left between this unit and the Andy Simons Unit is incompatible
19 with wilderness values, I feel, if both the Caribou Hills and the
20 Andy Simons are managed as wilderness.

21 The Caribou Hills, therefore, should either become a part
22 of the Andy Simons Unit or be excluded from wilderness classification.
23 It would add little to the Andy Simons Unit. Furthermore, the area
24 is currently a popular and high quality area for snowmobile
25 excursions, seeking scenic values and upland game bird hunting.

1 Snowmobiles as we all should know are prohibited now for big game
2 hunting in the Caribou Hills.. In addition, the wildlife
3 observatory proposed in the Kenai Refuge Master Plan is more
4 compatible with other management practices than with wilderness.
5 I therefore recommend that the Caribou Hills Unit not be designated
6 as wilderness, but be managed, as at present, for many compatible
7 high quality uses.

8 The proposed Mystery Creek Wilderness Unit is a very
9 important and beautiful wildlife concentrating area in summer,
10 fall and early winter. I have counted as many as fifty-eight
11 bears and three hundred moose in a three hour period flying over
12 this area. It is readily accessible by foot from the Sterling
13 Highway. However, a political boundary, the east boundary of
14 the Moose Range, makes it an untenable unit as proposed. My
15 recommendation is to enlarge the area and to include the resultant
16 unit as wilderness. The addition should be in Forest Service land
17 to the east, so that the entire Mystery and Dike Creek Canyons
18 are included. This addition is outlined in the Alaska
19 Conservation Society's proposal. Since the area is so accessible
20 by foot; horses and other domestic animals, as well as all
21 motorized vehicles, should be excluded.

22 The Elephant Lake Wilderness Unit is a nondescript and, by
23 Alaska standards, not very special 10,000 acres. I oppose its
24 inclusion into wilderness as a purposeless gesture that would
25 unnecessarily curtail future wildlife and land management policy

1 choices.

2 The most difficult proposed areas to comment upon are the
3 two canoe units. Maybe they're difficult for me to comment on
4 because I live virtually right between the two. That they are
5 tremendously scenic cannot be denied. Equally, they contain great
6 numbers of wildlife, mammals and birds, and also fish. One of
7 them, the Swanson River Unit, contains part of a very critical
8 moose habitat area. The Moose River Flats is the spring concentration
9 and calving area for maybe 5,000 animals. It is true that oil
10 development and summer aircraft and motorboat use would detract
11 from the best use of these areas.

12 On the other side of the coin are these facts; the units
13 are presently managed as a wilderness. Motorboats and aircraft
14 being prohibited during seasons when canoeing is possible. This is
15 already a fact. Wilderness designation would not change things in
16 this respect. Wilderness designation would, however, require
17 limiting use of these very high value recreational areas. Wilder-
18 ness designation in the future would provide limiting use in the
19 areas. If current use increase continues, and it would in all
20 likelihood increase were the area designated wilderness, it would
21 become necessary to construct toilets, remove garbage and do the
22 other housekeeping chores associated with such areas. These
23 activities are incompatible with wilderness, as is the garbage
24 that would result were these activities not carried out. Further-
25 more, legitimate wintertime uses, I feel, of aircraft and

1 snowmachines, which are perfectly compatible with summer canoeing,
2 would be excluded prematurely under wilderness. They could be
3 excluded administratively as they have been in summer when other
4 use demands became great enough to warrant it.

5 Therefore I suggest the following relative to the canoe
6 units. (1) Include the Swanson River Wilderness Unit as proposed
7 into wilderness in order to add an extra measure of protection
8 to the Moose River-Scenic Lake moose calving grounds, and to
9 provide a foot-ski-snowshoe only area of considerable size in
10 these lowlands. (2) Exclude the proposed Swan Lake Unit from
11 wilderness and manage it as an intensive recreational area with
12 non-motorized recreation, ie, canoeing, favored exclusively during
13 summer months, but other uses permitted at other times of year.
14 This seems the highest use for this land.

15 I have one more comment, a rather strong one, to make. I
16 feel it is ridiculous to imply that members of the general public,
17 whether or not they have seen the areas, should make any sort of
18 a reasoned judgment of these proposals given only the information
19 available from the Fish & Wildlife Service. This information
20 consists in its entirety of an 8 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch booklet of twenty-eight
21 pages and about 2100 words of text. That's about the length of a
22 highschool English theme. It is an attractive booklet, but does
23 it contain enough information to help us decide how to manage
24 1,040,000 acres of public lands?

Mr. Troyer, Mr. Hakila, and others have made a strong effort

1 to meet with the public to verbally discuss the proposals. Although
2 their efforts have been subjective, as salesmen for wilderness
3 rather than evaluators of it, I do admire their efforts.

4 Still, the public has been shortchanged. After nearly two
5 years of study the Bureau should surely have supplied us with more
6 information with which to intelligently participate in this
7 important decision about our public land. I hope in future
8 wilderness proposals this can be corrected. Thank you.

9 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Dane Parks.

10 MR. DANE PARKS: My name is Dane Parks. I reside
11 in Palmer, Alaska. However, I also own and maintain a residence
12 in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I am here today as an individual
13 to support the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife proposal
14 to develop 1,040,000 acres of the Kenai National Moose Range be
15 included in the National Wilderness System. I also support the
16 addition of 227,240 acres proposed by the conservationists to be
17 included in the Wilderness System. The proposed wilderness areas
18 I refer to are shown on a map reproduction attached to my written
19 statement.

20 As one who has hiked, climbed and paddled through these
21 proposed wilderness areas while hunting, fishing, camping or
22 simply enjoying the out-of-doors, I feel competent to speak of
23 their wilderness value. Because adjectives fail me when I try
24 to describe these areas and explain why they must be preserved for
all people now and in the future to enjoy, I will try to show their

1 wilderness value by relating a few experiences that I've had in
2 these areas.

3 One day while sheep hunting in the proposed Andy Simons
4 Wilderness Unit, my hunting companion and I observed thirty-four
5 dall sheep, four black bears, a flock of spruce hens and one bull
6 moose. All of this wildlife was in view at one time and within
7 about three hundred yards of where we sat picking and eating ripe
8 blueberries. That hunt would have been a success even if we had
9 not later taken a legal ram. That one wildlife scene is one I'll
10 never forget.

11 Another time we were camped in the tag alders near timber-
line in a different location. We awoke to find ourselves face to
13 face with a brown bear just five steps from our plastic shelter.
14 Fortunately he just turned and ambled off. Although not the way
15 one would want to start each day, this incident is one I am glad
16 I had. To camp in the home of the brown bear is true wilderness
17 camping.

18 On a one day hike two years ago we saw a score of moose,
19 including one bull with at least a sixty inch spread, several
20 black bear and three brown bear.

21 Let me stress that these are typical, not unusual wildlife
22 encounters that await the wilderness enthusiast. To me it is
23 fantastic that in our so-called civilized world of 1971 with its
war, civil strife, overcrowded cities and all the other unpleasant
25 aspects of this era, that wilderness experiences such as I have

1 described are still possible. Not only are they still possible,
2 but they are within a three hour drive of the largest population
3 center in this state. But, it is not sufficient that these
4 experiences are possible today. I am selfish enough to want them
5 available to my two year old son and others like him when they are
6 old enough to appreciate them.

7 Now is the time to set these areas aside, before development
8 ruins their wilderness quality forever. Others have traded their
9 natural resources for short term financial gain. Let us hold
10 large areas of our land for us to use and enjoy as wilderness and
11 for future generations to use as they see fit.

12 I have basically been discussing wilderness value in terms
13 of wildlife, but there is certainly more to these proposed
14 wilderness areas than animals. These animals exist in such
15 profusion because of a food supply and habitat that is present.
16 It is this animal habitat, including its remoteness, that make
17 these areas unique.

18 Though the animals may not appreciate the beauty of their
19 home, we who traverse these wild places do. A good camera can
20 capture some of the scenery, but even photographs show only a
21 surface view. One must be there to taste the clear water from a
22 mountain stream, or hear the loon's call across a lake while the
23 campfire's last embers still glow. These are things that must be
24 experienced.

While Robert Service did not write specifically about

1 Alaska, I would like to close by quoting a few lines he wrote
2 that to me, seem to apply to much of the Kenai National Moose
3 Range in general, and particularly to those areas proposed for
4 wilderness classification, particularly the Andy Simons Wilderness
5 Unit.

6 "There's a land where the mountains are nameless, and the
7 rivers all run God knows where; there are lives that are erring
8 and aimless, and deaths that just hang by a hair; there are
9 hardships that nobody reckons; there are valleys unpeopled and
10 still; there's a land, oh, it beckons and beckons, and I want to
11 go back -- and I will." Thank you.

12 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Janet
13 O'Meara.

14 JANET O'MEARA: My name is Janet O'Meara. I am making
15 this statement on behalf of myself. I want to thank you for the
16 opportunity to present my opinion concerning the proposed Kenai
17 Wilderness Areas.

18 First, I wish to state my support for the classification
19 of these areas as wilderness. Secondly, I wish to state my support
20 for the additions to your proposals which have been suggested by
21 various conservation groups in the area.

22 Why do I feel wilderness is important? Because it gives
23 the human spirit a chance to recuperate from its daily barrage
24 of pollution, noise and population pressure. Man needs a place to
rest his spirit, just as surely as he need a place to rest his

1 body. A place free from all the tensions that assail him daily.
2 A wilderness area provides just such a place.

3 There are others who have pleaded the cause of wilderness
4 much more eloquently than I. Thoreau said: "We need the tonic
5 of wildness, to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and
6 the meadow hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell
7 the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl
8 builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the
9 ground. At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn
10 all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable,
11 that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by
us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature. We
13 must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and
14 titanic features, the seacoast with its wrecks, the wilderness with
15 its living and decaying trees, the thunder cloud and the rain
16 which last three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness
17 our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where
18 we never wander."

19 On the subject of man's need for nature, Jonathan Edwards
20 said: "Surely there is something in the unruffled calm of nature
21 that overawes our little anxieties and doubts; the sight of the
22 deep blue sky, and the clustering stars above seem to impart a
23 quiet to the mind."
24

On this same subject, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "In the
woods, too, a man casts off his years, as the snake his slough,

1 and at what period soever of life, is always a child. In the
2 woods we return to reason and faith. Standing on the bare ground,
3 my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space,
4 all mean egotism vanishes."

5 And, Richard Jeffries wrote: "My heart is fixed firm and
6 stable in the belief that ultimately the sunshine and the summer,
7 the flowers and the azure sky, shall become, as it were, inter-
8 woven with man's existence."

9 Does man need nature? You can bet your life he does. To
10 know that this is so, you need only review the statistics as to
11 the numbers of people who visit our national parks each year. We
do, indeed, need the tonic of wildness.

13 Certainly those who need wilderness the most are those
14 who reside in areas of heavy population, such as Anchorage. One
15 of the most frequently voiced objections to wilderness is that
16 it is generally inaccessible to all but the few who can afford
17 the plane fare to these wilderness areas. Obviously, this argument
18 is not applicable in the present case. In fact, it is the very
19 accessibility of the Kenai area that makes wilderness classification
20 here most desirable. Located just a few hours from the population
21 center of Alaska, these wilderness areas will have the capability
22 of serving more people than any other wilderness area in the State.
23 Certainly there are many people in the local area who could never
24 afford the time and expense of a visit to more remotely located
wilderness areas. For these people the Kenai Wilderness Proposal

1 is like a spring tonic. Just what the doctor ordered.

2 For myself, and for other citizens of Anchorage and of
3 Alaska, I urge haste in classifying the proposed areas as
4 wilderness. Such a golden opportunity for so many people may never
5 present itself again. I am sure I need not remind you that once
6 wilderness is gone, it is gone forever; it cannot be reclaimed.

7 In conclusion, I would like to quote Gwen Frostic who, in
8 her work "Air Borne," said: "Little plants rise from earth each
9 spring. Birds sing in loveliness. Frogs trill into the night,
10 as the stars come into view. Moss grows on an old, old log, bright
11 and fresh and green. These things do not live for me, but because
12 they are, I am." Thank you.

13 MR. PRICE: Thank you very much for your statement.
14 Stephan Stringham.

15 MR. STEPHAN STRINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, ladies and
16 gentlemen, my name is Steve Stringham. I am a graduate student
17 at the University of Alaska, currently studying behavior of moose
18 down on the Kenai Peninsula. The area I am most familiar with is
19 the area around the Swan Lake Canoe System, but that is not the
20 area I am going to speak on now, but rather on the Andy Simons
21 Wilderness Area.

22 Now, as one of our previous speakers, Mr. LeResche, mentioned
23 the Andy Simons Wilderness area in very many ways seems to be rather
24 ideal as a wilderness area and it is on the features which make it
25 ideal that I wish to speak. Now, when we pick an area for wilderness

1 we try not just to pick an area which happens to be wild. There
2 has to be some judgment gone into why certain boundaries are
3 picked here, there or the other place, and hopefully these are not
4 just based on political considerations, but on considerations which
5 make a wilderness a wilderness. Considerations which allow it
6 to be what we are saying that it is and allowing it to remain that
7 way. As Mr. LeResche pointed out, the capacity to be self-sustaining
8 is essential in the fact in my mind it is the essential feature
9 in picking a wilderness area other than the simple quality of
10 being wild. And then we talk about the balance of nature. We
11 have our predators, we have our herbivores, we have myriad types
12 of animals and plants, supposedly all functioning together to
13 form a balance, but they only form that balance if they are within
14 essentially a unit. What we call a system. If our boundaries are
15 too small, we cut off part of the system and it is not self-
16 sustaining. It slowly deteriorates, and sometimes rapidly
17 deteriorates. Very occasionally new balances can be found, but
18 generally this has not been the case.

19 The Andy Simons Wilderness Area, first of all, is rather
20 large and it is heterogeneous. These two factors together provide
21 a basic foundation of self-sustaining wildlife and plants. This
22 is very essential.

23 Secondly, it's got the Harding Icefield to the east. This
24 limits use very severely from outside and rather than being a
25 detriment, this is very, very much an advantage.

1 Thirdly, it is surrounded by the rest of the Kenai National
2 Moose Range and this is, again, a very essential feature. Now,
3 let me make an analogy between the human body and a wilderness
4 area. Most of us who live up here in Alaska know darn well that
5 you just don't walk outside stark naked and survive during the
6 winter. You put on clothing or you live in dwellings. You do a
7 thousand things to buffer your body against the natural elements
8 and it is only through these buffers that we survive. In the
9 same way, it is only through buffers that wild areas survive.

10 Now, consider the Andy Simons Wilderness Area and consider
11 what surrounds it. Now, first of all on the east, as I have said
12 already, is the Harding Icefield. To the west and the north we
13 have the rest of the Kenai National Moose Range. These areas in
14 a sense limit access. They limit use. You don't have a city right
15 next to it. You have people filtering in, and as filtering implies
16 not all of them make it. The further in you go, the fewer make it.
17 And more importantly the less destruction, less damage is done to
18 an area.

19 For an area to be self-sustaining does not mean no use.
20 Does not mean no destruction, does not mean no disturbance, but
21 what it does mean is that these factors are limited to within the
22 levels that an area can sustain. Self-sustaining area. This
23 is a wilderness. So, when we set up our rules for wilderness, as
24 Mr. LeResche pointed out, we must chose our rules, not simply by --
25 "I don't like the sound of snowmachines, do like horses." We have

1 to chose them by what does not damage the area beyond what it can
2 sustain by itself. What it can perform for its own self-renewal.
3 The Andy Simons Wilderness Area by its size, by its ecological
4 characteristics and by its situation relative to the Harding
5 Icefield and to the Moose Range, I think, is ideal for a wilderness
6 area and, therefore, I outstandingly urge that it be included as
7 such.

8 And, as a second topic, let me address myself to the often
9 made point of tying up areas of land by designating them as
10 wilderness. I don't think that one can really defend this argument
11 because I don't think we are really tying something up. We talk
12 about multiple use. In fact, one gentleman talked about multiple
13 use on a time basis. A gentleman from Fish and Game. All right.
14 He's talking about a time basis in terms of months perhaps. I will
15 talk about a time basis in terms of years and generations as many
16 others have. We limit use now to certain levels. Maybe in the
17 future we have to yield this to other uses, but the opportunity
18 for those other uses has been preserved throughout that entire
19 time. It's been wilderness. We have had our cake and we are eating
20 it too.

21 But, more importantly, let me talk about the continued use
22 of wilderness as wilderness. Now, it's often been said that there
23 are only a handful of people who will use a wilderness area. A
24 handful who will hike in. When we really get down to brass tacks,
25 in a sense it's only a handful who have the motorboats and snow-

1 machines -- the other elements which do so much destruction. It is
2 only a handful of people who do the destruction. It is not
3 millions of people that are coming into most of these areas. It's
4 in the neighborhood of thousands of people who have used an area
5 and in their use consumed it and destroyed it. So maybe we are
6 talking about a few thousand vs. tens of thousands in comparing them
7 under the normal standards. But, I don't think that, even by itself
8 is a valid standard to compare by, if only because of considering
9 the many years of use as a wilderness, but more importantly to
10 consider indirect use of wilderness areas. And this is something
11 which we don't talk about very often, but which again is an
12 essential point. Because back down there in the States there are
13 millions of people who consider wilderness and wildlife -- the
14 rapport between man and nature, especially the rapport between man
15 and wild animals -- to be something beyond compare. To be something
16 absolutely invaluable in our lives. The little old grannies sit
17 in their rocking chairs, the ones who have arthritis and can't move
18 very far. They've got their canaries and geraniums outside the
19 window, but they also sit down and read books like "Born Free"
20 when they get a chance. They go to see movies like "The Vanishing
21 Desert" -- excuse me. "The Vanishing Prairie" and the "Living
22 Desert." They are what you call indirect uses through the media
23 where people gain from the experiences of other people. And this
24 is something we have hardly begun to exploit. I hate to use a word
25 like "exploitation" but it seems the best word to use.

1 George Washington Carver during the 1800's took what was
2 considered a worthless plant, a peanut, and showed people how there
3 can be a bonanza in this. I don't think we have learned how to
4 use wilderness and really use it as wilderness. We are sophisticated
5 now in our media, now in 1971, far, far beyond what people could
6 have imagined a few generations ago. And I think it won't be very
7 many more generations -- probably not one more generation considering
8 the logarithmic growth -- excuse me. The exponential growth of
9 science and technology -- before we have means of media which are
10 equal, if not further beyond our imagination to what those have
11 been of our ancestors. That day is not very far away when we'll
12 be able by one means or another, without touching that area in
13 terms of destruction, without marring it, to bring very, very
14 deep fulfillment and enjoyment of those areas through photographs,
15 through movies, through things we can't even imagine now -- in a
16 sense to bring the mountains not to Mohammed, but the mountains to
17 the masses, if I may use that word, not in a derogatory sense, but
18 to include myself as one of those masses -- through indirect means
19 that work through the relative few who actually go into the area,
20 but to bring it out to the rest of us. Not a handful of people,
21 but millions upon millions of people from generations to come will
22 have use of these areas, but they will have use of those areas only
23 if we maintain them. If we allow them to be self-sustaining. If
24 we allow them to deteriorate over the years there will be nothing
25 left when that capability is there for us to utilize.

1 And I submit that for now what we can enjoy from it and
2 especially against the future day when such a means will be
3 available, that we do unto others as we would do unto ourselves and
4 to our children.

5 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. We are
6 going to recess at this time for ten minutes.

7 (Whereupon a ten minute recess was had in the hearing.)

8 MR. PRICE: We are going to recommence the hearing.
9 Will everyone come back in the hearing room. Harold Galliett.

10 MR. HAROLD GALLIETT: Gentlemen of the hearing panel,
11 thank you for letting me appear here to give you some of my thoughts
12 on this wilderness area. It seems to me from living here in
13 Alaska for seventeen years that we are a little crowded by a lack
14 of access to recreational areas. Maybe I should qualify that word
15 "access" by saying convenient access.

16 Now, I have flown all over the State and worked in many parts
17 of it and, of course, it's a great pleasure to have the kind of
18 work sometimes that permits you to see the Alaska Range and some
19 of the other beautiful areas of the State, but I have children, a
20 family, and a house and a few other things that I have to support.
21 And it is quite difficult to enjoy that kind of travel with a
22 family. Practically speaking, with a family you've got to be able
23 to get fairly close to your recreational area by automobile today.
24 This is pretty difficult in Alaska. The days that you want to go
25 out or can go out on these outings, you will find that everyone else

1 seems to want to at the same time. This is the problem in the rest
2 of the United States. Going back to some of my personal history
3 in the west -- I consider myself a westerner -- I hiked and hunted
4 in the Wasatch Mountains, in the Uinta Mountains, in Wyoming and
5 Montana, the Sierras, the Cascades -- I enjoyed this very much.
6 Almost every outing that I enjoyed started with a drive by auto-
7 mobile and then and only then a hike or a fishing trip or something
8 of that kind -- or camping. And I think that my personal
9 experience indicates that these wilderness areas are really
10 practical for the enjoyment of a very small number of people. I
11 am not against them, but I think that they are preserves for a
12 special class of people only.

13 Now, in this particular proposal before us today, as an
14 engineer by profession, I tend to take the side of the economic
15 man, but only to a certain extent. Let me say that the idea of
16 using the Andy Simons area for wilderness seems to me pretty sound,
17 though there are some possible problems in the future. For one
18 thing, it's only been in recent years that we have had good enough
19 maps to make adequate assessments of other values in this area.
20 And one of the other values in this area is power. Now, there are
21 several power sites that were, I would say, discovered by Mr. Bob
22 Rutherford, an electrical engineer of this city, in this large
23 wilderness area. They are not large power sites. There are medium
24 sized power sites. They have not been presented to the Federal
25 Power Commission. I believe before any wilderness area is created

1 here that these sites should be looked at by the Federal Power
2 Commission. And if they warrant it, I believe they should be
3 set aside as Federal power sites. I don't know that this is a
4 requirement of law, but it should be investigated.

5 I hear quite a bit of pro and con about private gain. There
6 is much objection on the part of the conservationists of those
7 that have Government salaries to support them about the use of
8 anything for private gain. I think this is wrong. I think that
9 we have to look at the whole picture. All possible uses and very
10 simply put, as one gentleman said here, "Live and let live."

11 Now, being more specific, I would favor the Andy Simons
12 area if it were trimmed a little bit around the edges in places
13 where it approaches too closely to present activity. The Cariboy
14 Hills area, I think, should be eliminated from this proposal.
15 There are coal measures at very great depths lying between Caribou
16 Hills that have not been explored at all. And I think it would be
17 a mistake to lay the Federal mark name on this area. Now, we
18 know as a practical matter that once something like this is created,
19 that every individual or small enterprise that approaches the
20 problem of developing something within this area, approaches a
21 monster which they can never hope to overcome. A glacial monster.
22 The Federal Government. So that you in effect lay the dead hand
23 on this land once you put it in a status of this type. And we
24 needn't kid ourselves that once it's done, it's subject to
25 Congressional change. That it may be, but practically it is not.

1 As far as the Elephant Lake Wilderness Unit and the Swan
2 Lake Canoe Wilderness Unit and the Swanson River Canoe Wilderness
3 Unit, I feel that these are going to get quite a bit of
4 recreational use. Possibly more recreational use than will permit
5 them to remain really an unspoiled wilderness. They are going to
6 take more management, more care, clean up activities for those
7 that simply won't clean up after themselves, more attention to
8 these details that are often overlooked. And when you consider
9 also that these three areas overlies some geology of great potential
10 for oil and gas, I believe they should be eliminated from this
11 proposal too. But, as far as the vast bulk of the Andy Simons
12 area, it seems to me a reasonable proposal. Thank you.

13 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Galliett. Mr. Thomas
14 Johnson.

15 MR. THOMAS JOHNSON: My name is Thomas Johnson. I
16 live in the suburbs of Knik, Alaska, and I am also a property
17 owner of a home in Seward, Alaska, so I have some financial interest,
18 I suppose you could say, in the Kenai Peninsula.

19 Alaska stands ready to move into high gear in the develop-
20 ment of its natural resources. At the same time vast numbers of
21 knowledgeable American citizens, and this certainly includes many
22 Alaskans, are expressing grave concern over the rapidly disappearing
23 remnants of the great wilderness that has been so much a part of
24 our national heritage. The coinciding of these two somewhat
25 related facts emphasizes the timely significance of the Kenai

1 Wilderness Proposal. In Alaska we are in the very enviable
2 position to protect segments of our existing wilderness from
3 commercial exploitation and from the deleterious effects of
4 mechanized mass recreation.

5 I have traveled on foot, by canoe and by dog team in four
6 of the proposed wilderness units. The beauty and variety of
7 experiences offered to the wilderness observer and traveler would
8 make the Kenai a desirable addition to the nation's wilderness
9 system, especially if the proposed area were enlarged to include
10 those additions recommended by the Alaska Conservation Society.

11 I would like to make two specific comments. There have
12 been remarks from some quarters to the effect that to designate
13 a particular area an official wilderness is to restrict that area
14 to the enjoyment of only a few. Why this is so I have never heard
15 adequately explained. It would seem that most people are able to
16 walk; consequently, they are able to make use of the existing and
17 planned trail system in the Kenai Wilderness. If some would claim
18 to need a mechanized transport in order to benefit from a
19 wilderness, then I suspect that the machine rather than the
20 wilderness is the source of enjoyment. And there are millions
21 upon millions of acres of land in Alaska where mechanized travel
22 is allowed.

23 Moreover, I think that restrictions on motorized travel in
24 a wilderness area actually make the wilderness experience possible
25 for everyone rather than just those who are able to afford a plane

1 an all terrain vehicle, or a snowmobile. It has become increasing
2 evident in many parts of Alaska that to observe or hunt game or to
3 experience the truly wild country, the outdoorsman with only a
4 limited time at his disposal must have some mechanized means to
5 get back ten, fifteen and twenty miles from the highway. For
6 one example I have heard residents in the Lake Louise area claim
7 the Nelchina caribou herd has been driven farther and farther back
8 from the highway in the last few years by the swamp buggy and
9 the snowmobile. This kind of mechanized transportation is expensive
10 and restricts the wilderness experience to those who can afford
11 a machine that will get them beyond the range of the other machines.

12 It is different with a wilderness area. Nearly everyone
13 has access to an automobile. One can drive to a campground
14 bordering the wilderness, and within a few minutes walk he can
15 be in a place where he can experience the wild country without
16 the roar of engines, without the smell of gas fumes, without the
17 ruts and gouges left from wheels and tracks.

18 My last consideration is a political one. Alaska's
19 conservation image in the Lower '48 seems to be much in the news
20 as of late. Perhaps we could help to untarnish our image if we
21 were to show strong support for the Kenai Wilderness Proposal.
22 Surely one of the best ways to show an environmental awareness
23 and concern is to support the protection of those areas of
24 outstanding wilderness values such as are found in the Kenai
25 Wilderness Area. Thank you.

1 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Jim Sumner.

2 MR. JIM SUMNER: My name is Jim Sumner. I am a
3 resident of Indian, Alaska which is in the -- towards the Kenai
4 area. I have spent a great deal of my time down there. I do
5 somewhat wonder why the hearing we are having is held during the
6 summer. I would appreciate the fact that any more of these that
7 are held could be held during the winter when the people really
8 have the time to sit down and make evaluations. The people who
9 are out in the wilderness, who are there right now, are there right
10 now. This is the summertime, the time when they can get out there
11 when the people who know -- or, let's put it this way, a large
12 variety of the people who know about this will be there.

13 Also the group which I would like to represent right now
14 cannot be here at this time. The Student Actives for Free
15 Environment for West High, because of the fact the school is not
16 in session right now. As a result, I am testifying as an individu
17 on this.

18 The suggestion that I'd like to make is that this area that
19 you have designated is started from the wrong direction. I think
20 we should classify the areas in the Kenai as to those that are
21 already developed -- classify them. The development that is
22 there. And then exclude the rest of this area from development
23 until a proper inventory can be taken. This doesn't mean an
24 inventory of what fish is there -- what we have as far as just
25 commercial fisheries, which is what we do in the State of Alaska

1 right now basically. I want to know what is there as possible
2 oil and gas development; fishing, both commercial and recreational
3 what recreational use there can be, hunting, what minerals are
4 available. When I tried to find out, you know, what we were
5 contesting here as far as this wilderness area, I found they
6 didn't know what was available as far as the geology of this area.
7 I would like to know what timber is there. What area is really
8 usable as a high quality timber resource.

9 Now, I am a conservationist. I am not a preservationist.
10 If I had my way about it the whole Kenai would be set aside as a
11 wilderness area. I would very well like to have as much wilderness
12 as possible. But, I think we have to do this intelligently. We
13 have to know what is there. Is there part of it that would be
14 acceptable as a grazing area, because this is coming up just with
15 the use of horses to go in there. Is part of it going to be set
16 aside as water development? There are important resources there
17 that Alaska has not looked at or seen, so what I am suggesting
18 instead is that a complete inventory of this area be taken and
19 that we zone this the other way. We zone the areas that are now
20 under development and zone them for that particular development
21 at this time. And at a set date, say, four or five years from
22 now, this inventory should be completed and then we can make an
23 intelligent decision as to which areas should be zoned as far as
24 a use as wilderness area. Which one should actually be a recreational
25 use area. In plain words, a real honest multiple use plan. And I

1 believe the Department of Interior at this point does have a
2 chance to do this with the Kenai area with the tremendous amount
3 of land that they have. I think the Federal Government should do
4 a lot with this, not only in Kenai, but in the entire State of
5 Alaska. And that means that we have to stop some of the develop-
6 ment and concentrate our studies so that certain areas can be
7 developed and they can be developed intelligently and wisely.
8 This is what I am asking for. Thank you for your consideration
9 and time.

10 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Robert Jones.

11 MR. ROBERT JONES: First of all, I'd like to say that
12 I am not a speaker and that I come totally unprepared, but -- and
13 I speak for no organization. I speak for myself.

14 There are lots of things that the average people believe
15 in and they set back and they let things go until they are totally
16 out of hand. And I admit I also do the same. But, as far as this
17 Kenai Wilderness area goes, my own personal opinion, I do not
18 believe it's in the best benefit of the people. Especially to
19 those who live in the Anchorage area and the Kenai area. This is
20 one of the largest populated areas in the State of Alaska. And,
21 myself, I use the land -- my family and I -- I would estimate at
22 least every other weekend. We are out enjoying the country in some
23 type of way, either camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, whatever.

24 I have been through the state from -- I have worked through
25 the state from Ketchikan to Prudhoe Bay. I am not an oil person.

1 And I feel that this is not to the public's best demand.

2 I contend that I am not against wilderness areas. I am
3 for them. But, I do not feel that this, myself, is to our best
4 of interest being this close to the large populated areas of the
5 state. We have the park to the east of us which has a large
6 quantity of land tied up and this is fairly accessible by plane
7 or motorized vehicle. I know every person here that was not born
8 in the state got here by some means of what some people call
9 stinky motorized vehicles. I know we didn't walk up from the
10 Lower '48 or from other countries. And this is to everyone's own
11 conscious, I guess, but I feel that being this close to the largest
12 population of the area that it should be left open for those who
13 like to get out and enjoy the country. And I feel that a total
14 wilderness area -- that there'd be far less people using this
15 land than any other means.

16 I don't like to try and step on anyone's toes. I have never
17 made a statement such as this before. But, I feel it's time for
18 me as a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska,
19 as a resident -- that it's time for me to speak up. This proposal --
20 I am not an expert and I really don't know -- I am just saying
21 due to the public's best interest, I do not think they should be a
22 total wilderness. I think it should be usable for recreation.

23 I have heard statements that the whole state ought to be a
24 wilderness area, and I think that is an absurd statement. If we
25 are going to do that, let's just close up the whole schmeer and

1 move out. And I've heard statements that canoes, horses and such
2 cause little or no environmental damage, and this I do not believe.
3 I have ridden in a number of float planes. I have never owned a
4 plane in my life. I have never flown one in my life. And I have
5 yet to see the damage of the plane under normal use of a lake
6 that a canoe can't do in a swampy area or as such that a plane can
7 land on. They can tear up the ecology in the water. In fact,
8 a lot of times more so than any plane I have ever seen. Horses,
9 myself -- I might prefer to ride around in a motorized vehicle as
10 to stomp around in horse dobbings, but this is my own belief. I
11 have been in or on both. And I would like to see this country
12 left open to the people to use. Thank you.

13 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Jones.
14 Harry Crandall.

15 MR. HARRY CRANDALL: Mr. Chairman, my name is Harry
16 Crandall. I am with the Wilderness Society, a national
17 conservation organization of some seventy thousand odd people.
18 I'm stationed in Washington, D.C. I intend to make a statement for
19 the Society at the Kenai hearing on Friday, but with your
20 permission I'd like to have about three or four minutes to make
21 some observations for this portion of the hearing record.

22 First of all, I think it should be emphasized that the
23 Kenai National Moose Range is just that. That word "National" is
24 terribly important for everyone to understand. It is one of the
25 country's national treasures. It is thought of my people --

1 learned people, knowledgeable people, throughout the country as
2 being on an equal basis and on a par with places like Grand Canyon,
3 Sequoia, Kings Canyon National Parks, Okefinokee Florida Wildlife
4 Refuge, Cascade National Park and several of the other well known
5 areas. It is a national area and the word "national" I think
6 sometimes has been overlooked today.

7 The major advantage you folks in Anchorage should think of
8 in a wilderness designation is, as has been mentioned by Mr.
9 Watson, I think, in his introductory speech this morning -- is
10 that the Kenai National Moose Range was established by executive
11 order, which is in some cases a transient kind of thing, even
12 though it was established in 1941, and can, as some folks put it --
13 could be abolished by a stroke of the pen. This is highly
14 unlikely because of the national interest in this particular
15 wildlife area. But, still it is possible. This is the reason
16 that we have people proposing coal development, which is impossible
17 in a National Wildlife Refuge anyway because it isn't open to
18 mining. Mining laws don't apply. But I sense that people are
19 looking upon it as being part of the public domain in the State of
20 Alaska and it isn't. It's been elevated to a higher order by
21 executive order. This particular action elevated it to an even
22 higher order by giving it Congressional sanction of selected
23 portions of it to qualify for review as wilderness.

24 Now, the Wilderness Act -- I think it is tremendously
25 important that the record show this and that people analyze the

1 the record and utilize it -- the Wilderness Law has a very definite
2 timetable for these actions to be utilized. Recommendations have
3 to be made to the President of the United States, to the Congress
4 of the United States by September 3rd, 1974. Now, any body -- when
5 I speak of a body, I mean any political body or a social
6 structure, that would interfere with the orderly processes as set
7 forth in the Wilderness Law could be in violation of this law.
8 If, for example, we wait five years for land use planning in
9 Alaska to get the final recommendation, I think it would be a
10 very interesting development if the State of Alaska, as the
11 Attorney General suggested, postpone this until the requirements
12 or the land use plan for Alaska is being developed. It would be a
13 very interesting thing, I feel, to see a court case along these
14 lines in the event the President was unable to make a recommendation
15 to Congress because of an obstruction of this nature.

16 It was mentioned this morning in connection with our
17 Environmental Quality Act that the provisions may or may not have
18 been met by this proposal today. What we are actually doing today
19 is meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy
20 Act by having a hearing on the alternatives of a major Federal
21 action affecting the environment. The Environmental Policy Act
22 provides also -- I think it very important that the record show
23 this -- any new development in the Kenai National Moose Range such
24 as classification for oil and gas, also has to meet the require-
25 ments of the National Environmental Policy Act with a full scale

1 public hearing.

2 One final item, it's been a very interesting thing for me
3 to listen to the minor controversy and argument going on regarding
4 snowmobiles, because there have been some oversights here in the
5 United States Senate on this very subject, and there is likely
6 to be some kind of legislation along these lines in the next few
7 years. Perhaps this session of Congress, perhaps later. But, I
8 would like to submit for the record that the Alaska Game and Fish
9 Department by proposing, and the Department of Interior by
10 accepting use of snowmobiles in the National Moose Range could
11 very well be in violation of the National Environmental Policy
12 Act right now. Thank you very much.

13 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Charles
14 Konigsberg.

15 MR. CHARLES KONIGSBERG: Mr. Price, gentlemen, ladies
16 and gentlemen, I am Charles Konigsberg. I reside and teach at
17 Alaska Methodist University where I am a professor of Political
18 Science. I speak for myself.

19 I have walked, canoed, fished and did some hunting in the
20 areas under consideration, and I speak without reservation in favor
21 of the porposal by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

22 I want to repeat, Mr. Price, that I speak for myself and I
23 want it made plain in the record that I have so stated. And if
24 I seem to emphasize the point, it's because to be of a free and
25 independent mind in Alaska, especially to depart or to diverge

1 from the party line of "gung ho" development is tantamount to
2 something close to treason in official quarters. So on the record
3 once again I speak for myself and not for my institution or my
4 profession. And I think that this gives the lie to the all too
5 smug assertions of State officials and others as to their devotion
6 as to wilderness and conservation values. I quote Mr. Havelok to
7 the effect that, "The State has no objection per se to this
8 wilderness proposal." No, of course, he doesn't have objection.
9 per se. He just has in point of fact each time such a concrete
10 issue arises. And so the new catch phrase, the cliches rapidly
11 becoming part of the official party line here, a multiple use or
12 comprehensive or master planning.

13 I'd like to say in reference to the observations and comments
14 of Mr. LeResche that many of them -- his particular proposal --
15 were probably very well taken, somewhat in a purist vein -- that is
16 to say, they were offered in abstract with reference to, "Why not
17 make this a true wilderness area," in terms of what else it was he
18 had to say. But, I wonder how Mr. LeResche would respond to the
19 question, "But who minds the store while you and others are taking
20 this kind of objective long term look?" And it seems to me that
21 Mr. LeResche must address himself to persons other than those in
22 the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife who I know perfectly
23 well have done the best they can under the circumstances. And, so,
24 what I am suggesting is, that we are properly wise to watch out
25 when such officials and other persons begin to borrow the rhetoric

1 of a conservation movement and all those who are genuinely
2 environmentally concerned. Because it seems to me that's all
3 State policy in regard to such matters has always been, that is to
4 say, you say it, but you don't do anything about it. Rhetoric
5 equals action. And in a sense one can sympathasize, because after
6 all, State administrations and others for many years have been
7 hung up on their rhetoric. To start real planning and other
8 positive action now is to admit not to having done it before.
9 That's the two headed dragon the gentleman talked about before.
10 If you really pursue what your rhetoric tells you to do, then by
11 admission you confess to not having done it before. And somebody
12 asked the question of how can these Alaskans ignore history? Well,
13 it's very simple, if you have two heads. And that is, you want to
14 repeat the mistakes down below because you think of it in certain
15 terms. That is to say, the economic and the financial gain, and
16 you don't mind accepting the mistakes because you figure that other
17 people will pay for them.

18 And so it seems to me that State officials and others would
19 be well advised to weigh their words most carefully. I think many
20 of us are onto them, as are a great many people elsewhere, and the
21 game will not be played on their terms any longer. It seems to me
22 that, Mr. Examiner, after listening to our State officials, present
23 and past, as they've appeared here today, you know why as much as
24 we might like to have it otherwise, we look to the Federal Govern-
25 ment for the protection of this last great wilderness of size in

1 America, this great land of Alaska. And it seems to me that as an
2 indication of their confusion, their instability, and, therefore,
3 it seems to me, their non-credibility, you must recall their
4 slander against Federal agencies, reference, I quote, "Bureaucratic
5 ambitions, unilateral withdrawals, the Federal Government owns,
6 it owns, etc." This is the glacial monster of which the gentleman
7 spoke. Well, it seems to me, appropriate for me, to say a great
8 many of us now understand, if we didn't understand before, that
9 when the Federal Government owns something, we, all the people
10 of America own it together. And we look to you who represent the
11 larger interests of the American people as against the demands of
12 the Chamber of Commerce and pocketbook mentality that is still so
13 very strong here. Which brings me to the further consideration
14 of the spectacle of a group of officials castigating the Federal
15 Government and Federally employed personnel, while both hands are
16 grasping for the Federal dollar. Is anything stranger, and I've
17 heard some strange things, is anything stranger to consider than
18 that a Department of Highways official engaging in such a travesty
19 of good sense and good taste, when his programs perhaps most of
20 all, so overwhelmingly depends upon Federal moneys. And then there's
21 the gentleman who expressed great praise -- a switch -- for those
22 who practiced wise and ecologically conscious management, he
23 said, in managing the Moose Range. And so he argues, keep it as
24 it is. But it seems to me that I can then ask, if these men were
25 so wise and ecologically conscious, and I believe they were,

1 would we not be equally wise to listen to their counsel now and to
2 talk further of such bureaucratic gambits as our State officials
3 have perpetrated today, let's recall the Attorney General's attempt
4 to embarrass the Environmental Policy Act and it's environmental
5 impact requirements. As Mr. Crandall so well put it, "Is this not
6 a hearing on the wilderness act under the wilderness act, and are
7 we not considering the proposal of the Bureau?" It's not a 102
8 impact statement hearing. And this shoddy attempt to embarrass,
9 to discredit the National Environmental Policy Act, which has now
10 become quite obvious, it seems to me, part of the State's party
11 line -- it's been used before -- does no credit to Alaska and is
12 a gross insult to its people. This kind of game playing, it seems
13 to me, has a way of turning on its perpetrators.

14 Does the State, for example, confer with Federal agencies
15 on its various projects? And if you look around here today, how
16 many State officials, with one exception, and I credit him, have
17 been willing to stay here to listen to what many of its citizens
18 have to say on this issue? If you've been active in conservation
19 efforts here in Alaska you know how hard, which is to say
20 impossible, it is to get an audience with our State Administration
21 on subjects such as these.

22 I want now, if I may, to refer to the question of balanced
23 usage in which all uses are given legitimate attention. The refrain
24 goes something like, you know, "Let's study each proposed reservation
25 of land to be sure of a balanced or compromised usage plan in the

1 end." It seems to me analogously that's like saying to the
2 blacks and to the Natives throughout America, "O.K., fellows, it's
3 1970, we've done you wrong over the years, let's now give you an
4 equal opportunity with your white caucasian brothers." Forgetting,
5 of course, the two hundred years of abuse and neglect which does
6 not give them an opportunity to compete equally for whatever it is
7 at issue. So you have to give them a little more consideration
8 if you really want to get them into a position of equality. And
9 it seems to me that's where we are with the issue of environment.
10 Now that the Chamber of Commerce -- Commerces -- and the pocketbook
11 mentalities have become conscious of the fact that it is a serious
12 concern of increasing numbers of people throughout the country,
13 they're willing to consider multiple use or balanced use. Forgetting
14 also the two hundred years of civil neglect to the environment
15 which have so devastated portions of our country elsewhere. So,
16 if you really and truly want to take a balanced view of our
17 environmental situation, where we stand, whether it's in Alaska
18 or elsewhere, you're going to have to give more than equal
19 consideration to environmental values. And it seems to me
20 precisely that was the rational underlying the Wilderness Act.
21 It seems to me that's what the Act was for and that properly that
22 the proposal here today reflects it. I want to comment also
23 briefly on the issue of locking things up which has been discussed
24 by others. There's something very strange about seeing something in
5 common Federal, National, collective ownership as locking something

1 up, but putting it into private ownership as not being locked up.
2 Obviously every clear thinking person understand that private
3 ownership is the most effective way of locking things up there is.
4 But, what is also very disturbing is, that here in 1971 we still
5 talk about somehow if something is in common ownership, that it
6 isn't really owned by anybody. And that, therefore, the private
7 individual has the right, somehow God given, to do as he wishes
8 with it if only people would stop bothering him. It seems to me
9 very important to stress the fact that when something is owned by
10 all of us, it's owned by all of us. It reveals something very
11 seriously missing in the American character, not to be able to
12 obtain satisfaction from the realization that you are one of
13 200,000,000 people -- a Nation-- that owns something collectively.
14 I must say that I find it very, very satisfying indeed to know
15 that I'm one of many people who own the Federal lands in Alaska.

16 On the issue of the proximity of this proposed wilderness
17 area to the largest urban area in Alaska. It seems to me that the
18 prospect of a true wilderness area with its special protections so
19 close to Alaska's population concentration cannot be anything but
20 highly exciting to contemplate. It should capture the imagination
21 of all citizens here regardless of their special interests. One
22 gentleman raised an objection on the grounds that if you classify
23 this kind of area as wilderness, it won't allow the kind of room
24 and opportunity for the overcrowded urban residents, and that this
25 would somehow deurbanize and so on and so forth. Well, quite apart

1 from the very question of the sociological and psycho-analytical
2 character of his analysis, it seems to me this precisely provides
3 that outlet. That safety valve on a long term permanent basis
4 that wilderness classification is most desirable and necessary.
5 It seems to me that if protection isn't kept at a maximum, which
6 this proposal insures, the pressures will continue to build in
7 later years for development of this area, and even if not
8 development itself, then excessive population pressure on the
9 areas if access is too easy. Let's remember what happened and is
10 continuing to happen down below in the areas such as our
11 national parks, Yosemite and Yellowstone, where they're having
12 true -- true population concentration problems.

13 It seems to me also that the specific problems of the cities
14 must be addressed to within the cities -- that is to say, more
15 open space, more recreation areas within urban boundaries. And,
16 one can seriously question whether or not we've even begun to
17 approach that problem here in Alaska. One further reflection on
18 that point, if an urban citizenry doesn't understand the meaning
19 of open space, of wilderness values, as a consequence of its daily
20 encounter with that kind of environment, which is to say, within
21 the city, they will be in no position whatever to treat the
22 wilderness or parks with consideration. That's precisely why you
23 can go in Yosemite Valley and have a smog and a drug and a crime
24 problem. You cannot simply put, untaught, so to speak, urban
25 citizens into a wilderness area and expect to preserve its

1 character.

2 A final issue, if I may. -- well, a second to final issue.
3 On use by just the few, of those who can walk the few miles, those
4 who are able bodied, wealthy, who have the time, and so on. It
5 seems to me that in a sense this issue is quite irrelevant to the
6 point, because some areas must be preserved for themselves, meaning
7 for the protection of their ecological wholeness. But, it seems
8 to me also that we can turn the argument around. That is to say,
9 the argument about a privileged few benefiting from this kind of
10 proposal -- this kind of reserved area. One can ask the question,
11 "How many opportunities are there for people to become State
12 officials?" To be oil industry officials, to be members of a
13 Chamber of Commerce, its presidents and so on. Very few that I
14 know of. There can be only one Governor, one Attorney General and
15 so on. Does this mean then that we ought to abolish those
16 positions because most people cannot enjoy the power and prestige
17 that goes with them? What about art museums? How many people
18 really attend the displays at art museums and so on. How many
19 people go to operas? How many people enjoys the benefits of higher
20 education? Ballparks even. Always a very few. A minority. Do
21 we then argue that we ought to abolish those things? Of course not.
22 But, because in our saner moments we recognize that the numbers of
23 people involved are not the criterion by which we measure whether
24 or not something ought to be. Now, let's suppose that very few
25 people actually do go to enjoy the glories of this proposed

1 wilderness area or any wilderness area. Is that the end of it
2 then? Only those few people enjoy it. Well, I think not, because
3 I think probably the greater value for most Americans lies
4 precisely in the fact that if the area exists, they can dream about
5 it. They can think about going there some day maybe. And even
6 if they don't, they have the pleasure of their dreams. And it seems
7 to me this is far from being an abstract or other consideration,
8 because the function, the realities of dreams and wish in our
9 lives is perhaps more important than anything else that we do.
10 It's part of what it is to be the human animal. And so it seems
11 to me we must have such areas regardless of whether or not two
12 million or two thousand people go there. And it seems to me once
13 again with reference to a place like Yosemite or Yellowstone that
14 I used to love, that how can you think of Yosemite or Yellowstone
15 now and enjoy the thought of what all those hoards of people are
16 doing to those places and what those places have become.

17 And finally on the issue of not having studied long enough
18 or hard enough, as some people have critiqued, this proposal.
19 Quite apart from the dedicated and exhausting efforts of personnel
20 of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, it simply isn't
21 true of such an area as is being considered here. We are not
22 dealing with a proposal that is the same as some grandiose develop-
23 ment project. And the reason for that is that in so classifying
24 this area, we are merely leaving it as it is. We are not proposing
25 basic alterations, and it doesn't require the same kind of treatment

1 or handling as would a major economic project. And most of all,
2 which seems to me most crucial to the issue, Nature has been at
3 work on the Kenai for the millenia; since, literally, time
4 immemorial. It's Nature which established that land bank of which
5 an earlier speaker spoke. And you and I can only draw on it.
6 So it seems to me that we must do so very wisely, as slowly as
7 possible, and in fact, not at all unless we can be sure of the
8 consequences of what we're doing.

9 One of the really strange and curious things about human
10 civilization is -- and it's reflected certainly up here, is that
11 men have learned well enough to recognize the consequences of
12 financial bankruptcy. Is it not time that we learned as well to
13 comprehend environmental bankruptcy?

14 We've learned how to use, to convert, to abuse, we haven't
15 learned how to conserve and preserve. And it seems to me that's
16 precisely what the Wilderness Act was intended to help American
17 people to learn, and that's precisely, it seems to me, what the
18 Kenai Wilderness Proposal faithfully pursues. Thank you very much.

19 MR. PRICE: Thank you very much, Mr. Konigsburg.
20 Cynthia Wentworth?

21 CYNTHIA WENTWORTH: The importance of establishing the
22 proposed wilderness areas on the Kenai at this point in time has
23 become apparent to me as a result of the tremendous change I have
24 seen in Alaska in the past few years. As a lifetime Alaskan, I
25 have grown up taking the defacto Alaskan wilderness for granted.

1 However, no more, as I witness this defacto wilderness rapidly
2 diminishing.

3 As an example, take a place called Bertha Creek in the
4 Turnagain Pass area of the Chugach National Forest, a one and one-
5 half hour drive from Anchorage. This was my family's favorite
6 camping spot when I was a small child. At that time it was not
7 an official Forest Service Campground, which meant we couldn't
8 drive our car right to the camping spot. Thus, we felt wonderfully
9 secluded and removed from civilization as we made our own campground
10 and saw only the creek and the mountains before us.

11 However, since that time Bertha Creek has become an official
12 Forest Service Campground, which means there is now a nice hard
13 surfaced road down to the creek, with several established camping
14 spots and consequent places for campers. This is all well and good
15 Alaska needs new and improved campgrounds in order to accomodate
16 the increasing number of tourists, as well as Alaskans, who prefer
17 to camp in an established campground.

18 However, in so doing, the defacto wilderness character of
19 the area is sacrificed. This is what has happened at Bertha Creek.
20 So many trees have been taken out that our old campsite has lost
21 its character, and is hardly recognizable.

22 We need wilderness areas set aside now so that some of the
23 fine creek and lake sites will be left in their original state.
24 Creating National Forests, Moose Ranges, etc., though they keep
25 the areas from turning into extensions of American suburbia, do

1 not prevent such things as hard surfaced roads, snowmobiles, no
2 all terrain vehicles, the tracks of which I recently observed
3 a hike in the Chugach National Forest.

4 The tremendous beauty of the Kenai area, contrasted with
5 the geographical proximity to Anchorage and the consequent
6 potential for rapid development, make it, to my mind, the first
7 necessary target for preservation. Thank you.

8 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Is there
9 anyone else desiring to make a statement? There being none, I
10 am now going to recess the hearing until Friday at 9:00 a.m. in
11 Kenai. Before doing so, let me remind you the hearing record
12 be kept open until July 26th, 1971, for filing written statements
13 or other material. While the Department of the Interior invites
14 written expression on this wilderness proposal at any time in
15 order to be made a part of the official record, all written
16 expressions must be in the office of the State Director, Bureau
17 of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Anchorage, Alaska, by July 26
18 1971. After that date written entries should be sent to the
19 Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 20240, or the Director
20 of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C.
21 Also, anyone wishing a copy of the transcript should make personal
22 arrangements with the Reporter.

23 I wish to thank everyone for their cooperation in this
24 hearing and since there is nothing further in connection with
25 hearing at this time, it now stands in recess. Thank you.




1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I, Frederick B. Jones , Notary Public and Verbatim Reporter for the B & I Court Reporting Service, 401 K Street, Anchorage, Alaska, do hereby certify:

That on the 23rd day of June, 1971 , at the hour of 9:00 a.m. , the aforementioned matter was reported by me in Stenograph machine shorthand and thereafter reduced to the typewritten record.

That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the aforementioned matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 2nd day of August, 1971..


My commission expires 12/27/71

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

IN THE MATTER OF:

KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE
WILDERNESS HEARING

Kenai, Alaska

June 25, 1971

Kenai Central High School

ROBERT E. PRICE, REGIONAL SOLICITOR, PRESIDING

B & I Court Reporting Service
401 K Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Reporter: Fred B. Jones

1 KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE WILDERNESS HEARING

2 MR. PRICE: It is 9:00 and we are going to begin the
3 hearing at this time. If you will all be seated, please. First
4 let me introduce myself. I am Robert E. Price, Regional Solicitor,
5 Anchorage, Alaska. I have been designated by the Secretary of the
6 Interior to conduct this hearing. Most of you undoubtedly filled
7 out an attendance card as you entered the door. If you have not
8 done so, I would like to ask that you complete one. If those of
9 you who have not filled out cards would please raise your hands,
10 we will distribute them to you.

11 Before I formally begin the hearing, I understand that Mr.
12 Glottfeldy has a statement which he wishes to make.

13 MR. GLOTTFELDY: Thank you, Mr. Price. On behalf of the
14 Mayor and the City Council of the City of Kenai, I wish to take this
15 opportunity to welcome the U.S. Department of the Interior, the
16 Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, and to thank them for
17 coming to Kenai to hold this hearing. I know that it will be a
18 productive hearing and everybody will benefit from it being held
19 here within the locality of the wilderness area proposed. And we
20 would just like to thank you for being here this morning.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Glottfeldy. I should like to
22 thank the City of Kenai for their assistance in making this
23 auditorium available to us today. It is very adequate and we are
24 grateful.

25 As announced in the Notice of Public Hearing issued on

1 April 22, 1971 this hearing is being held to obtain information on
2 relating to the desirability of establishing units of the National
3 Wilderness Preservation System within the Kenai National Moose
4 Range. As background information, I should like to explain that,
5 in arranging for this hearing, notices were sent to the United
6 States Senators and Congressman, the Governor of the State of Alaska,
7 and other elected officials. Replies which have been received from
8 them will be read later and incorporated into the transcript of this
9 hearing. We also sent notices to Federal and State agencies and
10 organizations and individuals known to be interested in the matter.

11 Now for a few words about procedure. This hearing is not a
12 debate, a trial, or a question and answer assembly, but an advisory
13 hearing whereby all interested persons may present statements,
14 written or oral, or other information pertinent to the wilderness
15 proposal we are considering today. If anyone fails to understand
16 the statement of any person, appropriate questions may be asked for
17 the purpose of clarifying such a statement. All questions will be
18 directed to me, and I shall determine whether they are pertinent.

19 This may seem a little technical or strict, but it is intended
20 to facilitate an orderly presentation of views and assure a fair
21 and reasonable opportunity for all to be heard.

22 The Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577, provided the authority
23 and outlined the procedure by which a national wildlife refuge or
24 game range, or a portion of a national wildlife refuge or game
25 range, meeting the necessary requirements, is to be considered for

1 inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This law
2 directed the study and review within 10 years after September 3,
3 1964, of every roadless island and every roadless area of 5,000
4 acres or more within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

5 I wish to point out that eventual inclusion of a game range,
6 or a portion of a game range within the National Wilderness Preser-
7 vation System does not remove the area from game range status. The
8 areas we are considering today within the Kenai National Moose Range,
9 if classified as wilderness, still will be administered as an
10 integral part of the Moose Range. The intent of the Wilderness Act
11 along these lines is clear. The provisions of Section 4(a) and
12 4(b) of the Act state that the purposes of the Wilderness Act are
13 to be within and supplemental to the purpose for which game ranges
14 are established and administered. Also, each agency administering
15 any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving
16 the wilderness character of the area and for such other purposes
17 for which it may have been established as also to preserve its
18 wilderness character. Therefore, the Moose Range will still be a
19 part of the National Wildlife Refuge System but with the added
20 feature of a national wilderness area.

21 After the public hearing, a thorough review will be made of
22 this wilderness proposal, but this is not the last opportunity for
23 public expression. The record of this public hearing and all other
24 information on the proposal will be transmitted to the Secretary of
25 the Interior. After study and consultation, the Secretary will

1 transmit his recommendations regarding the proposal to the President.
2 The President will transmit his recommendations to the Congress.
3 After appropriate consideration, which will include hearings, the
4 Congress will accept, reject, or modify the proposal as a unit of
5 the National Wilderness Preservation System. When, after hearings
6 and study, the proposal is accepted by the Congress, appropriate
7 legislation is transmitted to the President. When signed by the
8 President, the wilderness area becomes a part of the National
9 Wilderness Preservation System. As you can see, there is a compre-
10 hensive review process of each Wilderness proposal of which public
11 hearings and your views are a most important part.

12 Now, I ask Gordon Watson, Alaska Area Director of the Bureau
13 of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, to
14 explain the wilderness proposal to you. Before Mr. Watson presents
15 his statement, however, I should like to explain again that this is
16 not an adversary proceeding. If you want to ask a question in
17 order to clarify a certain point, please feel free to do so. All
18 questions, however, will be directed to me, and I shall determine
19 whether they are pertinent.

20 Mr. Watson.

21 MR. WATSON: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am
22 Gordon Watson, Alaska Area Director for the Bureau of Sports
23 Fisheries and Wildlife. I want to express my appreciation for your
24 interest in coming to this hearing on the Kenai wilderness proposals
25 within the Kenai National Moose Range. I would like to introduce

1 the two gentlemen on my left, Mr. Will Troyer in charge of the
2 wilderness study program through the borough in Alaska, and Mr.
3 Jack Hakila, Refuge Manager of the Kenai National Moose Range.

4 The Wilderness Act, passed by Congress in 1964, directed the
5 Secretary of the Interior to review all roadless areas of 5,000
6 acres or more, and every roadless island within the National Wild-
7 life Refuge System, to determine their suitability or nonsuitability
8 as wilderness. Further, regulations of the Secretary of the
9 Interior published on February 22, 1966, require this bureau to
10 review those areas qualifying for study under the Wilderness Act
11 that (1) possess the general characteristics of wilderness, (2) are
12 reasonably compact, (3) are undeveloped, and (4) are without improved
13 roads suitable for public travel for conventional automobile.

14 The National Wildlife Refuge System is comprised of more than
15 300 units containing nearly 30 million acres. Units of the system
16 are located on lands extending from the Arctic Ocean shores to the
17 islands of the central Pacific Ocean, and from the Florida Keys to
18 Maine. One or more national wildlife refuges are located in each
19 of the 17 major Life Zones of North America. The ecology of each
20 national wildlife refuge differs from any other refuge, although
21 some are similar. Because of these ecological differences, manage-
22 ment objectives of individual refuges are often quite different.

23 Preliminary examination reveals that about 90 wildlife refuges
24 in 32 states and containing nearly 25 million acres qualify for
25 study as wilderness. The wilderness review program in the Bureau

1 of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, of which this proposal is a part,
2 encompasses a wide spectrum of lands within national wildlife
3 refuges throughout the country. Only through careful study and
4 analysis may a proper determination be made regarding whether a
5 national wildlife refuge or a portion of a national wildlife refuge
6 qualifies for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior as
7 wilderness.

8 For your consideration today, we are presenting the results
9 of our study of the Kenai National Moose Range. You have a copy of
10 the brochure which summarizes the study made of this proposal.
11 Copies of the complete study report are in the building outside
12 this room and are available for your use in the building at the
13 hearing. Please leave them in the hall because the number of copies
14 is very limited. A copy of my statement is also available for your
15 information and use.

16 The Kenai National Moose Range, located on the Kenai Peninsula
17 in Southcentral Alaska, was established by Executive Order in 1941,
18 primarily to protect natural breeding and feeding ranges of the
19 Kenai moose and other forms of wildlife. The boundary was revised
20 by a Public Land Order in 1964, and the Range presently contains
21 1,730,000 acres.

22 The Moose Range is divided into two general physiographic
23 types, a mountainous region and a forested lowland. The mountainous
24 region includes extensive portions of the Harding Ice Field and
25 the Kenai Mountains and their foothills, while the lowland is

1 covered by a spruce-birch-aspen forest dotted with over 1,000 lakes.

2 The Range is populated by a variety of wildlife. Approximately
3 7,500 moose, 1,000 Dall sheep, 200 mountain goats, numerous black
4 bear, reintroduced caribou, some brown bear, wolves, wolverine,
5 coyotes, and many other fur-bearers inhabit the area. The unique
6 trumpeter swan, geese, ducks, grebes, loons, gulls, and terns are
7 but some of the 146 species of birds that either nest on the Range
8 or use it during migration periods.

9 The sport fishery resources are extremely important, primarily
10 rainbow, Dolly Varden, and lake trout and five species of salmon.
11 These fish spawn in Moose Range waters, and the salmon produced in
12 these streams contribute significantly to the valuable Cook Inlet
13 salmon fishery.

14 The Moose Range, with its variety of wildlife, scenic and
15 water resources, is probably the most important public-use area in
16 Alaska. For example, in 1968, 23,000 people spent 350,000 recrea-
17 tional use-days on the Range. Camping, fishing, canoeing, hunting,
18 hiking, boating, scenic driving, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling,
19 wildlife observation, and photography are some of the recreational
20 opportunities available. This use is expected to increase in the
21 future.

22 Most of the northern portion is open to oil and gas explora-
23 tion. The Swanson River oilfield produces approximately 30,000
24 barrels of oil per day, and several gas fields have been discovered.

25 The Range, then, is characterized by variable resources and

1 contrasting uses. This diversity creates an extremely complex
2 management unit and requires detailed zoning to accommodate
3 multiple resource needs and public demands. To keep a young hard-
4 wood forest in production to maintain sufficient winter forage for
5 moose will require extensive portions of the lowland habitat to
6 be manipulated. Space is also necessary for current and future oil
7 operations, roads, campground, and administrative facilities. Some
8 species of wildlife, such as Dall sheep, brown bear, wolves,
9 wolverine, and mountain goats, demand a wilderness environment.
10 Others do not. Likewise, hikers, canoers, nature observers, and
11 cross-country skiers demand more solitude than do users of motor-
12 boats, snowmachines, and car-campers. Thus, the wilderness class-
13 ification proposed here will effectively zone the Moose Range for
14 various commercial, recreational, and wildlife uses. A truly
15 multiple use area.

16 Our recommendations to the Director of the Bureau of Sport
17 Fisheries and Wildlife in Washington, D.C., were as follows:

18 In accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act, approximately
19 1,000,000 acres of the Kenai National Moose Range qualify for
20 consideration as wilderness. This acreage is divided into six pro-
21 posed wilderness units.

22 The Andy Simons Unit in the southern portion of the Range
23 contains approximately 840,000 acres. It includes most of the
24 mountains and glaciers within the Range as well as some lowland
25 lake country. The area is extremely scenic, and wildlife popula-

1 tions include several thousand moose, Dall sheep, mountain goats,
2 wolves, brown bear, black bear, and numerous marmot colonies. No
3 roads are located within its boundaries, nor has it been opened to
4 oil and gas leasing.

5 The Swan Lake Canoe Unit lies in the lowland lake forest and
6 contains 40,040 acres. Its numerous lakes are linked by portages
7 providing canoe enthusiasts opportunities for camping, fishing,
8 hunting, and wildlife observation.. Canoeing appears compatible with
9 wilderness objectives, and maintaining it as canoeing wilderness
10 appears to be the highest and best use of the area. It provides
11 habitat for moose; has excellent fishery resources; and abounds with
12 loons, grebes, terns, a few trumpeter swans, and other birds.

13 The Swanson River Canoe Unit also lies in the lowland lake
14 forest at the northern part of the Range and contains 72,000 acres
15 with numerous lake and streams. A canoe system linking 40 lakes is
16 expected to be increased in size. It also abounds with loons,
17 grebes, many waterfowl, shorebirds, and has extensive winter,
18 spring, and summer moose habitat. The wetlands in the southeast
19 portion are extremely important moose calving grounds; and unusual
20 concentrations of moose, shorebirds, and waterfowl gather here each
21 spring.

22 The Mystery Creek Basin Unit borders the Chugach National
23 Forest Boundary north of the Sterling Highway and contains 45,000
24 acres. It is mountainous, bisected by many valleys and streams.
25 It is extremely scenic and offers many opportunities for hiking,

1 wildlife observing, cross-country skiing, and hunting. Large
2 populations of moose and black bear reside in the area during
3 summer and fall months.

4 The 36,000 acre Caribou Hills Unit is located in the south-
5 western portion of the Range. It is a glacial upland plateau and
6 is primarily covered with alpine vegetation and a dense willow
7 growth. The willows provide excellent habitat for moose in summer,
8 fall, and early winter. Brown bear, black bear, and extensive
9 ptarmigan populations also utilize the area.

10 The Elephant Lake Unit near Soldotna contains 10,460 acres of
11 lowland lakes and forest. Its accessibility makes it desirable as
12 a small wilderness area where weekend hikers might enjoy a wilder-
13 ness experience and enjoy the numerous waterfowl and shorebirds
14 which nest in the area. During winter months it will provide
15 opportunities for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and dog-team
16 travel.

17 These areas proposed for wilderness will assure survival of
18 those wildlife species which require a wilderness environment, and
19 provide space where outdoor recreation needs, compatible with
20 wilderness, can be pursued by the public without interference by
21 conflicting interests.

22 Our second recommendation was that the remainder of the Moose
23 Range, approximately 700,000 acres, will not be recommended for
24 inclusion in the National Wilderness System. Most of this land is
25 in the lowlands and will be programmed for recreational and manage-

ment practices not compatible with wilderness. This will include acreage for logging, habitat manipulation, mineral extraction, roads; provide space for construction of recreational, research and administrative facilities; and permit the use of recreational opportunities not compatible with wilderness.

Our third recommendation was that motorized boats and vehicles, including snowmobilies, would not be permitted within all wilderness units. Aircraft will be permitted only on designated lakes on the Andy Simons Unit.

Our fourth recommendation was that six private tracts containing 115 acres and six mining claims containing 240 acres within the Andy Simons Unit are recommended for acquisition.

Our fifth recommendation, surface exploration for minerals within wilderness units would not be permitted, and either the current mineral leases will be canceled, or oil and gas extraction will be permitted only by directional drilling from outside the wilderness boundaries.

There have been several misconceptions expressed in writing and at the Anchorage hearing that I think perhaps should be cleared up for the record. One has to do with the 102 Impact Statement as required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. At the first session of these hearings held in Anchorage, one question raised was that of an Environmental Impact Statement as required under this section of the National Environmental Policy Act. Section 102 of that Act requires that an Environmental Impact

Statement be provided on every proposal having a significant affect on the quality of the human environment. Perhaps it could be argued that because of past administrative policies of the Kenai National Moose Range there would be no environmental change if a million acres were classified as wilderness. That is to say, it is unlikely that any environmental degradation would occur with wilderness designation different than would occur without this change. We do not take this position, however. We take the position that the proposed action specified in the act refers to the recommendations the Secretary of the Interior will make to the Congress for inclusion of as yet an undetermined area of the Kenai Range into the wilderness system. What is being discussed at these public hearings are recommendations which are subject to modification based on these hearings and a review of the hearing record. Final recommendations of the Secretary to Congress may be far different than those we recommended to the Director of the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, and which are the bases for these hearings. Thus, an impact statement prepared prior to or for these hearings may not describe the eventual proposal of the Secretary of the Interior.

A second misconception had to do with fishing and hunting. The management of fish and wildlife within the National Moose Range is currently under the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with joint consideration by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. This would not change with wilderness designation.

1 Multiple use cannot take place on a square mile by square mile
2 basis. Multiple use planning must consider some geographical area.
3 If one examines the proposed uses of the Kenai National Moose
4 Range, the map in back of me shows red areas which we are
5 recommending for wilderness at this time. The yellow areas recom-
6 mend those areas which we believe should be subject to habitat
7 manipulation for wildlife populations and as such were excluded
8 from the wilderness proposal. Also on the map you will notice
9 several red circles which indicate future camp grounds we would
10 like to develop which cannot be developed in a wilderness area.
11 And those areas were excluded from this proposal. The red oblongs
12 represent scenic overlooks that we would like to develop which
13 cannot be developed in wilderness areas and those geographical
14 units were deleted. In addition, the proposed roads have been
15 delineated on this map and those areas deleted to provide for
16 future road development.

17 I thank all of you for coming today, and also those who have
18 expressed their views by letter. I assure you that all oral and
19 written views will be carefully studied before final Borough of
20 Sport Fisheries and Wildlife recommendations are submitted to the
21 Secretary of the Interior.

22 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Watson. In opening the meet-
23 ing for public discussion I ask that all pertinent information be
24 presented as completely as possible. If anyone wishes to summarize
25 their statement for the benefit of those present and submit a

1 written statement for the record, you may do so. In the event that
2 time becomes a factor, I may have to request that you limit your
3 oral remarks. I shall now call on certain persons in order to
4 expedite and clarify the proposal. After they have completed their
5 statements, the meeting will continue to be open to the public.
6 Anyone present who desires to make a statement may do so. I wish
7 to remind you again that statements will not be made under oath
8 and since this is not an advisory proceeding, there will be no
9 cross examination. . Anyone desiring to question a person making
10 a statement for clarification purposes only will direct their
11 questions to me. If I deem them pertinent, I will request the
12 person making the statement to answer the question. In order to
13 permit the conduct of the meeting and oral comments become a matter
14 of record, I ask that all speakers come to the microphone to make
15 their statements. This has several advantages, but principally
16 allows everyone in the room to hear and the Recording Secretary
17 to take down what you have to say. I ask you to give your name and
18 address and the interest which you may represent. You may, of
19 course, represent yourself. I ask you to speak slowly and distinctly.
20 If you have a written statement you may elect to read it for the
21 record or leave it for the record. It has equal effects either way
22 so far as the record is concerned.

23 First, are there any representatives of the Congressional
24 delegation present that wish to make a statement for Senator
25 Stevens for Senator Gravel or Congressman Beiqch? Are there any

1 representatives of the Governor? Are there any State Legislators
2 present who wish to make a statement? I understand that the
3 chairman of the Kenai Peninsula Borough is here. Mr. Navare.

4 MR. GEORGE NAVARE: I am George Navare, Chairman of
5 the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I wish to thank you for this
6 opportunity to present our view point.

7 I would like to preface my remarks this morning by noting
8 that while I may disagree with specific proposals relative to
9 wilderness areas, I am not in disagreement with the purpose of
10 the 1964 Wilderness Act. That is, recognizing increasing
11 population settlement pressures on the country, the State, and
12 the Kenai Peninsula, it is imperative that such growth and
13 development not alter all areas leaving no land in its natural
14 condition.

15 I have, therefore, spent a considerable amount of time
16 reviewing the Kenai Wilderness Proposal and, this morning, I would
17 like to offer my comments on three aspects of this proposal.

18 First, I would like to point out and object to the apparent
19 lack of coordination and cooperation in comprehensive planning
20 for open space preservation, use, and development between the
21 Federal Government, State Government, and agencies within the
22 Federal Government.

23 Secondly, I would like to examine the effects of this Kenai
24 Wilderness Proposal on Fish and Wildlife management, and, finally,
25 I will comment on the Wilderness Society's alternative proposal

1 for wilderness areas on the Kenai.

2 Regarding the lack of coordinated planning for open space
3 preservation, use, and development, I would like to present this
4 map exhibit showing the general Kenai Peninsula Borough area
5 and the many Federal and State land holdings and proposals for
6 such. I will present this.

7 MR. PRICE: It will be accepted into the record if you
8 so desire.

9 MR. NAVARE: I'd like to point out that all the colored
10 areas are under -- are under some Federal or State management.
11 Their proposals are running mix match. We have -- the light blue
12 is the proposed wilderness area, the dark turquoise there is the
13 Moose Range boundary, the dark blue over here is the Forest Service
14 extending into the Forest Service here with a State Park here --
15 Chugach Park -- State Fish and Game reserve there, a proposed
16 reserve here, State, and the Illiamna-Cook Inlet Reservation here
17 with the other State Park, leaving very little development area
18 and apparently no coordination between the State agencies and the
19 Federal agencies or the agencies within the Federal Government.
20 I will leave that map as part of the record.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you.

22 MR. NAVARE: I think it is quite obvious in examining
23 this map that the Federal Government and the State Government have
24 been going in their own separate directions in approaching a
25 legitimate aim of open space preservation, with the Federal

1 Government having the added honor of doing such in a piece meal
2 basis. Under such circumstances, I am certain that the accomplish-
3 ment of a rational open space system will be met in less than a
4 satisfactory manner, leaving only the residents and visitors to
5 Alaska to suffer.

6 I, therefore, recommend that prior to the establishment of
7 any wilderness recreation or open space reserve by the Federal
8 Government, that they, through an appropriate organization, not
9 only look at the Kenai Peninsula or Southcentral Alaska, but the
10 entire State of Alaska with an eye towards developing a
11 comprehensive coordinated Alaska open space plan. I might note
12 that this recommended approach is exactly the same approach that
13 Uncle Sam, through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the
14 Department of Housing and Urban Development, requires of State
15 and local government before they will participate in the
16 implimentation of any open space planning efforts.

17 Believing the Federal Government's approach to be correct,
18 it seems to me that they too should follow the same process in
19 the establishing of an Alaska open space system.

20 Moving onto my second point, I would like to comment on this
21 specific wilderness proposal, especially as it relates to Fish
22 and Wildlife management. The Kenai Wilderness Study proposal
23 intimates that much of the justification for these wilderness
24 areas is in another study that revealed that one-third of the
25 out-of-state tourists and one-fourth of the Alaskans that visited

1 the Moose Range did so because of its wilderness characteristics.
2 I admit this seems like a considerable force for the justification
3 of such wilderness proposals. But, on examining the cited study,
4 I discovered that two-thirds of all the public believes the Moose
5 Range should be managed primarily for wildlife purposes. Further-
6 more, the same cited study pointed out that policy statements at
7 all levels of the U.S. Government placed wildlife management as a
8 first priority consideration of the Moose Range. With these
9 desires and priorities in mind, is the wilderness designation
10 via the 1964 Wilderness Act called for? I understand that under
11 emergency circumstances such as earthquake or fire, no problems
12 would exist in initiating steps for wildlife habitat rehabilitation.
13 This solves part of the wildlife management problem. What effects
14 would the wilderness classification, however, have on the necessary
15 day to day decisions in wildlife management? I am not a wildlife
16 biologist, but one doesn't have to be to realize that by placing
17 sixty percent of the Moose Range in wilderness classification, Fish
18 and Wildlife management efforts will be neglected.

19 Obviously such a situation would be inconsistent with the
20 wishes of two-thirds of the people, as well as policy statements
21 of the Federal Government.

22 Finally, I would like to comment on the Wilderness Society's
23 proposal for expanding the wilderness areas by noting that if
24 such proposals are accepted, they would compound the Fish and
25 Wildlife management problems. Furthermore, their proposal, if

1 accepted, could prove disastrous to the residents of the Kenai
2 in that they would severely limit transportation corridor
3 utilization on the Peninsula by effectively killing, (1) the
4 Tustumena Lake Loop Highway; (2) the Resurrection River Valley
5 Highway; and (3) the Feeder System, if not the Turnagain Arm
6 Crossing itself.

7 While one or more of these corridors may require closing
8 in the interest of open space utilization, certainly not all of
9 these corridors should be closed.

10 In summary, I am hopeful that the Federal Government will
11 recognize the need for comprehensive planning before making any
12 long range decisions or commitments relative to open space
13 preservation. Furthermore, until such a study is complete, I
14 would recommend that the Moose Range continue in its present
15 status as a Fish and Wildlife Refuge under the auspices of
16 the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. An examination of
17 their practices to date shows that it is entirely possible for
18 them to administratively manage the Moose Range, recognizing and
19 providing for both intensive recreational and wilderness needs.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Navare.
22 Next I am going to call on the officials of State agencies. Mr.
23 Gilbreth, you may go first if you wish, or whatever order you wish.

24 MR. O. K. GILBRETH: Mr. Chairman, members of the
25 Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, I am O.K. Gilbreth, Jr.,

1 Chief Petroleum Engineer of the Division of Oil and Gas,
2 Department of Natural Resources, for the State of Alaska. Our
3 office is in Anchorage. I am presenting this statement on behalf
4 of the Department of Natural Resources. Since the State receives
5 ninety percent of the oil and gas revenue derived from Federal
6 lands in this state, it has a vested interest in the proposed
7 wilderness area land classification.

8 We strongly oppose the establishment of the wilderness areas
9 as outlined. It should be clearly understood that we do not object
10 to the formation of wilderness areas, but where there are beneficial
11 multiple uses, we do object to the dedication of large areas for a
12 single purpose as is proposed here. We further object to the
13 classification of large areas of land without an in-depth study
14 to determine the best land use for the public benefit. It appears
15 that only a superficial analysis has been made in this case to
16 justify a wilderness area classification. The basic criteria in
17 evaluating a wilderness area is the ease of access to its exterior
18 boundaries. It is apparent, therefore, that when the directive
19 came down to study all existing withdrawals to determine the
20 suitability of the wilderness unit, very little in-depth study was
21 undertaken. It is our opinion that most of the criteria advanced
22 in substantiating the withdrawal, that is, fishing, game habitat,
23 canoeing, hiking and so forth, could well be said of nearly all of
24 Alaska when access is achieved.

25 Those activities that are permitted within a wilderness unit

1 are so limited that only a very few will be able to enjoy the area
2 As you are well aware, it is intended that no motorized ground or
3 air travel will be permitted within the area and this limits the
4 enjoyment of the area to those who are capable of hiking or those
5 who can afford to travel on horseback. It appears to us that
6 under the existing withdrawal and in the light of the restrictive
7 use that has been permitted in the past by the Bureau of Sport
8 Fisheries and Wildlife, adequate management tools exist now to
9 achieve the objectives used to justify creation of the wilderness
10 area. In this particular case, we see little, if any, benefit to
11 be derived by the withdrawal, but we do see a great loss to the
12 public by being too restrictive by classifying it as a wilderness
13 area.

14 The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for
15 land management, hardrock mining and oil and gas exploration and
16 production. So far as we are able to determine, no contact was
17 made with anyone in our department regarding a study of possible
18 activities or use for these purposes. From the standpoint of land
19 management, we believe the classification is premature. Single
20 use dedication of land without prior detailed study violates the
21 principles of proper land management. In this case the superficial
22 land studies apparently have been made and were directed exclusively
23 to determine the wilderness values to the exclusion of all others.
24 Wilderness values should not be the sole criteria for determining
25 the best land use for public benefit.

1 Turning now to mineral potential, it will be noted that
2 the wilderness areas are bounded on the east by the highlands, and
3 this is the only area which might have a favorable hardrock
4 potential within the Kenai Peninsula. In the eastern portion of
5 the Andy Simons Proposal lying in the mountainous areas, we are
6 faced with the exclusion of any exploration for hardrock potential.
7 This, however, is the only way that we can determine whether or
8 not any potential does exist. It can be assumed from past
9 experience that if the area does become a wilderness and if the
10 State is the abutting landowner, pressures will be applied by the
11 Federal Government to create a buffer zone to protect the wilder-
12 ness.

13 Development of public recreational facilities in the Hardin
14 Icefield which is adjacent to the Andy Simons Proposal may be
15 prevented by establishment of the wilderness area. It is our
16 understanding that the Forest Service has set this aside as a
17 recreational area and studies are being made for development of
18 facilities for snowmobiles, small off-the-highway vehicles,
19 shelters and concessions.

20 From the standpoint of oil and gas possibilities, we have
21 prepared an Exhibit 1 which is a map of the Kenai Peninsula
22 showing the proposed wilderness areas in yellow -- Mr. Chairman,
23 I would like to present this for the record.

24 MR. PRICE: It will be accepted for the record, Mr.
25 Gilbreth.

1 MR. GILBRETH: In general, this is a map similar to
2 all the other maps showing the areas, but we have included on this
3 map along the eastern edge a black line showing the apparent
4 eastern edge of the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin which would mark
5 the eastern extremities, in our opinion, of oil and gas possibilities
6 for the hearing. We have colored in existing oil fields in red,
7 existing gas fields in green. And I will comment on each of the
8 areas. Everything west of the dark line on Exhibit 1 contains
9 sedimentary rocks which are favorable to the accumulation of oil
10 and gas. It will be noted that the sedimentary basin includes
11 all of the lowlands on the Kenai Peninsula, but excludes the
12 highlands and the mountainous area. These lowlands have an
13 excellent potential for oil and gas.

14 Due to the critical energy shortages facing the nation we
15 see an increased need for the clean, sulphur free gas and oil being
16 produced on the Kenai Peninsula. Recently in public hearings
17 before the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Committee, testimony
18 indicated that power generation companies on the west coast of
19 the United States are seeking up to four trillion cubic feet of
20 additional gas supply from the Kenai Peninsula. Just as a matter
21 of interest to you, I believe our present gas reserves are estimated
22 in the order of six to seven to eight trillion, so they're looking
23 for a very substantial source of eventual gas. We see an ever
24 increasing demand for Alaskan oil and gas to supply the remainder
25 of the nation.

1 There are fourteen sedimentary basins in Alaska. The Cook
2 Inlet Basin is one of the most promising for future discovery of
3 oil and gas since the presence of hydrocarbons has been proved
4 and sedimentary traps exist for the accumulation of oil and gas.
5 On Exhibit 1 you can see that the oil and gas fields generally
6 occur in a northeast-southwest trending alignment in this area.
7 This exhibit shows that several oil and gas fields have been found
8 on the Peninsula. The gas fields have not been developed because
9 a market has not existed in the past. The demand is increasing
10 and there will be a critical need for this gas in the very near
11 future. Formation of the proposed wilderness units will preclude
12 development of reserves over a large part of the area that is
13 favorable for oil and gas production. We urge you to more carefully
14 consider these possibilities. We believe a current study of energy
15 needs would not result in closing these areas to all future oil
16 and gas development.

17 The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has indicated
18 that any future oil development of the proposed wilderness areas
19 would be done by deviated holes from outside the area. I would
20 like to point out to you that it is possible to drill only
21 approximately as far horizontally as you drill vertically. This
22 means that if a search is being made for an oil and gas reservoir
23 occurring approximately 10,000 feet deep, the hole can be deviated
24 horizontally only approximately 10,000 feet. Since anticipated
25 reservoirs in this vicinity would occur at this depth or shallower,

1 it would not be possible to explore further than two miles inside
2 the proposed wilderness areas from any point outside. A look at
3 your map on the wall will readily disclose to you that vast areas
4 within the proposed withdrawal could not be explored at any time
5 in the future.

6 There are some areas included in the proposal which have
7 poor oil and gas possibilities and from this standpoint alone we
8 would not object to their inclusion. Where the possibilities are
9 good, however, we do object to their inclusion.

10 The attached Exhibits numbered 2 through 7 are copies of
11 the maps you have provided for these hearings. On these we have
12 placed the location of oil and gas wells drilled in the past and
13 in some cases, our estimate of the thickness of the sediments
14 favorable for oil and gas accumulation that might be found. Mr.
15 Chairman, those exhibits are attached to the write-up.

16 With regard to the individual areas, the proposed Elephant
17 Lake Wilderness Unit shown on Exhibit 2 contains about 10,460
18 acres or a little more than sixteen sections. It is in the fairway
19 of a prime exploration and development area, although no wells have
20 been drilled within the proposed boundaries. The Beaver Creek Gas
21 Field is immediately north of the area, and four wells have been
22 drilled, one slightly more than a mile north of the boundary. The
23 Beaver Creek Unit has been formed to promote orderly development
24 of oil and gas possibilities in an orderly manner, and the northern
25 portion of this proposed wilderness area extends into the Beaver

1 Creek Unit area. In all probability, the unit boundaries will be
2 reduced at some later date, but geological evidence was presented
3 to the United States Geological Survey to justify formation of
4 this area initially and until additional development does take
5 place, the weight of technical evidence indicates a large area
6 favorable for the accumulation of oil and gas. The West Fork Gas
7 Field is one and one-half miles east of the proposed unit area,
8 and the Sterling Gas Field is about two miles southwest. A dry
9 hole was drilled between the West Fork Field and the proposed
10 wilderness unit boundary. However, this does not condemn the
11 wilderness area as being non-productive. The Swanson River Oil
12 Field is about five miles north of this area. The oil and gas
13 potential of the area is considered to be excellent.

14 The proposed Mystery Creek Basin Wilderness Unit, over on
15 the east side. This proposed wilderness unit is shown on Exhibit
16 No. 3 and contains about 45,000 acres. There has been no
17 exploratory drilling on or near the area. The proposed area
18 straddles the eastern edge of the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin.
19 Where sedimentary sections exist, they probably will occur at
20 shallow depths. The area may be too far removed from the source
21 beds to be considered for significant exploration. The oil and
22 gas potential in this area is considered to be poor.

23 The proposed Swanson River Canoe Wilderness Unit. This
24 proposed wilderness unit contains 72,000 acres. There has been
25 exploratory well drilled within the proposed unit and three

1 immediately outside the area. All had shows of oil or gas, but
2 were plugged and abandoned as being non-commercial. These four
3 wells are not considered to have condemned the area. The
4 sedimentary section in this area should be greater than 10,000
5 feet except in the extreme eastern part. The stratigraphy indicat
6 that potential reservoirs can exist under the wilderness unit.
7 The small number of exploratory holes that have been drilled are
8 inadequate to properly evaluate the area, but we consider the
9 possibilities to be good.

10 The proposed Swan Lake Canoe Wilderness Unit. This proposed
11 wilderness unit shown on Exhibit No. 5 contains 40,000 acres in
12 which one exploratory well has been drilled and another well has
13 been drilled about two miles northeast of the area. Both wells were
14 dry holes, but had shows of oil and gas. The thickness of the
15 sediments under this proposed area appear to be between 10,000
16 and 15,000 feet. This is a very thick and favorable section when
17 considering drilling oil and gas wells. Most of the Cook Inlet
18 Basin Fields are found in a similar environment. Swanson River
19 Field is about three miles west of the proposed area and this
20 field currently has produced more than 117 million barrels of oil.
21 In this field the oil reservoir is about 10,500 feet deep, but gas
22 sands occur between 3,000 and 6,000 feet. The Swanson River Oil
23 Field is one of the giant oil fields in the United States. The
24 oil and gas potential of this proposed area is considered good.

25 The proposed Caribou Hills Wilderness Unit. This proposed

1 wilderness unit shown on Exhibit 6 contains about 36,000 acres.
2 Most of the acreage has been opened to leasing for oil and gas.
3 There have been no wells drilled within the area or the immediate
4 surroundings. The nearest exploration has been about six miles
5 to the west and about eight miles to the southwest. The information
6 from these wells do not appear to be pertinent to the proposed
7 unit. The oil and gas potential for this area is considered to
8 be fair.

9 The proposed Andy Simons Unit. This proposed wilderness
10 unit shown on Exhibit No. 7 contains about 840,000 acres. There
11 have been no wells drilled within the proposed area, of course,
12 since there's been no leasing. A line connecting the east end of
13 the Tustumena Lake and the east end of the Skilak Lake is the
14 approximate eastern edge of the Cook Inlet Sedimentary Basin, as
15 you can see on Exhibit 1. Northwest of this line the sediments
16 thicken rapidly and should be more than 10,000 feet thick within
17 the proposed wilderness boundary. About three miles north of the
18 proposed wilderness unit a well drilled 13,890 feet of sediments.
19 There were shows of oil and gas encountered, but tests indicate
20 that they were not present in commercial quantities. The oil and
21 gas potential of the northwest portion of this unit is considered
22 to be good.

23 In summary, I would like to reiterate that we do not object
24 to the classification of wilderness areas, but where there are
25 beneficial multiple uses, we do object to the very large areas of

1 land being dedicated to a single purpose use without adequate
2 study and evaluation of the public needs. Thank you.

3 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Mr. John
4 Warner.

5 MR. JOHN WARNER: I am John Werner, Deputy Commissioner
6 of the Alaska State Department of Economic Development.

7 I am here to protest the establishment at this time of the
8 wilderness areas proposed within the Kenai National Moose Range.

9 I am aware that these proposals are made as a direct result
10 of the provisions in Public Land Law 88-577, Sections 3(A) (B) and
11 (C), which sets out that "National Forests," "National parks,
12 monuments and other units of the National Park System, and every
13 such area of, and every roadless island within the National
14 Wildlife Refuges and Ranges," are to be considered for wilderness
15 classification categories."

16 As a result of this legislation, over twenty-six million
17 acres of land already reserved for parks, monuments, and wildlife
18 refuges and additional millions of acres of national forest land
19 in Alaska are being surveyed and that proposals for establishment
20 of wilderness areas encompassing thousand of acres are coming thick
21 and fast.

22 Proponents of these actions assure us that establishment
23 of a wilderness does not lock up its resources. Assuredly, these
24 people have not studied the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964,
25 Public Law 88-577. The definition of "wilderness" given in this

1 law sets out, "That wilderness is, an area where the earth and
2 its community of life are untrammelled by man; where man himself
3 is a visitor and does not remain." A thorough examination of
4 this definition and adoption of its restrictive intent by an
5 administrator of a wilderness area would be such that he could
6 prohibit any human activity within the area which disturbed the
7 life cycle of its lowliest form. For a human to crush a flower,
8 break a twig or slap a mosquito could be "verboden".

9 Because the concept in this definition is so restrictive,
10 the 88th Congress was careful to define the purposes, background
11 and basic principles behind this legislation in House Report 1538.
12 On Page 3617 of the U.S. Code for the second session of the 88th
13 Congress, 1964, Volume 2, it states, "In approaching the
14 development of specific legislation, the Committee was determined
15 to act in the national interest with due regard to regional and
16 local interest." They further stated, "Areas should not be
17 considered for inclusion in the Wilderness System until completion
18 of a thorough review in which all interested parties have an
19 opportunity to be heard." It is to meet these requirements that
20 the present hearings are being held.

21 "While uses not incompatible with wilderness preservation
22 should be permitted in areas within the System, currently authorize
23 uses that are incompatible should be phased out over a reasonable
24 period of time," are recommendations covered in paragraphs 2 and
25 3 of "Basic Principles," Page 3617 of this House Report. Hence,

1 while hiking, skiing, canoeing and like activities are considered
2 permissible, they must be restricted to a limited number of
3 people if the integrity of the wilderness is to be maintained
4 within the meaning of the definition of "Wilderness" within the
5 law. By no stretch of the imagination can one claim that
6 establishing a "Wilderness" is preserving the resources of the
7 selected area for the use of the public. It is rather restricting
8 the use of such areas for the enjoyment of a small number and
9 at a cost in other benefits for the greater number of individuals.

10 It is only where this fact is recognized and admitted by
11 the proponents and the public is made aware of the true intent of
12 the Act that a proper and just evaluation of alternate uses can
13 be made.

14 The Department I represent has been directed by law to
15 promote those programs and efforts that will enhance the economy
16 of the State so that her inhabitants may be assured of the
17 opportunity to earn at least enough income to provide food,
18 clothing, housing and to educate the children.

19 The sources from which the "goods" necessary to accomplish
20 this lie in the resources of the sea and land. These resources
21 must be developed wherever found without waste, with proper care
22 and regard for other resource values present in order to meet the
23 needs of the people.

24 For this reason, we are generally opposed to the creation
25 of wilderness areas in Alaska and point out specifically that:

1 (1) Most of the land in Alaska has not been adequately explored
2 to determine the resources which may underlie the earth's surface,
3 so it is impossible, at this time, to even guess what the highest
4 and best use for any area would be. Without accurate information,
5 it would be unwise to even attempt to assign a best use determination
6 to any area. (2) Existing parks, monuments and Wildlife Ranges
7 encompass more than sufficient acreage for the use and enjoyment
8 of Alaskans and for the development of tourism, without removing
9 from them, for "restrictive use and protection," large blocks of
10 wilderness. (3) The impact is not so severe on these areas as
11 to preclude protection of the wildlife by existing regulations for
12 the time needed by the State to secure more detailed information
13 of its resource base and to plan wisely to meet the needs of the
14 people.

15 We object to the Kenai Wilderness Proposal (1) because it
16 would remove from Alaska's inventory of minerals and land resources
17 six blocks of acreage totalling 1,400,000 acres. This represents
18 sixty percent of the 1,730,000 acres of the Kenai Moose Range.
19 It also removes from development, by people of Alaska and the
20 Kenai Peninsula, almost one-third of the resource base for their
21 area, which extends from Kachemak Bay to Turnagain Arm, and lies
22 west of the Kenai Mountains. (2) Because a controlled harvesting
23 of the mature spruce should be permitted, so that both man and the
24 moose would benefit. We are opposed to the suggestion in the
25 Wilderness Study Report by the U.S. Department of the Interior,

1 which suggests "controlled burning" to benefit the moose for
2 Range development. A hazardous and air polluting program.

3 (3) The salmon fishery in the area could be developed into a
4 multi-million dollar industry as claimed in the Study, instead of
5 the present one which cannot even support the local fishermen
6 attached to the industry. But entry into these areas must be
7 permitted with protection from natural as well as human hazards
8 in order to enhance the salmon spawning streams, develop fish
9 hatcheries and control nursery areas. (4) We need to construct
10 access roads, campsites and other tourist facilities to make the
11 area more accessible. We need resorts to handle tour groups of
12 fifty or more persons who have the means to come and enjoy the
13 scenery and outdoors, but lack the time or ability to hike into so
14 large an undeveloped area. (5) The Peninsula area, including much
15 of the lowland included in the Wilderness Proposal, is only one
16 of three areas of the State where soil and climatic conditions are
17 favorable for cultivation and the raising of domestic livestock.
18 These uses should certainly have precedence over "Wilderness" as we
19 enter a decade of increasing food demands.

20 According to the 1970 Census of Population, published by the
21 U.S. Department of Commerce, the population of the Kenai-Cook Inlet
22 area was 14,250 with 5,251 persons under seventeen years of age.
23 If we are to provide opportunities for gainful employment for these
24 children who will be entering the workforce in years to come, and
25 who hopefully will want to continue living in their home area, we

1 do not feel that further restrictions on land utilization will
2 be in their best interests. The Alaska State Department of Labor
3 reports that the number of people employed on the Kenai declined
4 by nearly 1,400 between 1969 and 1970, with an increase in
5 unemployment from 10.2% to 14.4%. We feel that additional
6 restrictions on land utilization will be a deterrent to reversing
7 this trend.

8 We feel that the language used by the Department of
9 Interior in its Wilderness Study Report is, in many cases,
10 misleading and biased. To cite only a few examples; in the preface
11 a statement refers to the salmon industry as a multi-million dollar
12 industry, while, in actuality, the dollar value to the fishermen
13 is only slightly above one million.

14 Page 2, Paragraph 3. The statement that "commercial
15 exploration has already significantly altered the wilderness
16 quality of much of the area" is misleading. A person walking
17 a hundred yards into the trees and bush from almost any point on
18 a roadway could become completely lost.

19 Page 14, Paragraph 2 implies that fishing is the major
20 industry on the Kenai and that the Kenai is the major tourist
21 center. The superlative of "tourists flocking to Alaska in ever
22 increasing numbers" would imply an influx which is not true. While
23 tourism is expanding, to use the word "flocking" is similar to
24 over kill.

25 Page 17, last paragraph, according to the Department of

1 Fish and Game, the sheep population is 3,000 rather than 1,100
2 and the kill by hunters last year was eighty-three.

3 Page 32, Paragraph 3. The paragraph states that very little
4 of the area is favorable for mineral development. The basis for
5 this statement could be questioned.

6 Page 33, Paragraph 3. The statement that facilities and
7 materials left from old mining activity is aesthetically displeasing
8 to the hiker should be challenged. Many people deliberately walk
9 long distances to explore the remains of old mining operations.

10 Page 34. Recreation. This section generalizes this
11 situation in all of Alaska, but implies that it also applied to
12 the area under consideration. Paragraph 1 refers to the Aleuts,
13 Eskimos and Indians who still practice their traditional arts
14 and music as did their ancestors. In all areas of Alaska, it is
15 probably the least true on the Kenai.

16 On Page 35 the author uses the terms "Alaska residents" and
17 "visitors," but in the last paragraph he states that in 1965,
18 287,000 visitors used the area. This implies that these visitors
19 were non-residents, which is not true.

20 On Page 37 where reference is made to a study by Dr.
21 Steinhoff, the portions of his report, favorable to the purpose
22 of the author, were accepted at face value. Where the report
23 did not agree with the purpose, the report was considered slightly
24 biased.

25 Page 56, Paragraph 2. The statement that canoeing demands

1 a roadless wilderness atmosphere to maintain a high quality sport.
2 Does this mean that many miles of wilderness must be maintained
3 on each side of the travel route? Would the highest land use be
4 served by a canoe route if valuable minerals or oil deposits were
5 under the ground?

6 Page 60, last sentence. We question the basis for arriving
7 at the conclusion "In the long term, future wilderness areas on
8 the Moose Range should be an asset to nearby communities."

9 In conclusion we would like to call your attention to the
10 fact that the Secretary of Interior is charged with developing,
11 in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, a program for
12 mineral surveys of wilderness areas on a planned, recurring basis
13 consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation. There
14 does not appear to be any existing comprehensive mineral survey
15 of the proposed area.

16 Section 4 (D) (2) of the Law allows prospecting on national
17 forest land for minerals. If such activity is carried on in a
18 manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environ-
19 ment. This is somewhat ambiguous, but probably assay work with a
20 bulldozer, or road building for diamond drilling would not be
21 considered compatible. It probably will require development of
22 new exploratory techniques, including remote sensing, to prospect
23 without surface disturbance. This could effectively halt most
24 exploration work in the proposed area in the near future.

25 Section 4 (d) (2) and (3) of the Wilderness Act discusses

1 special provisions regarding exploration and extraction of mineral
2 resources in designated wilderness areas of National Forest lands.
3 There is no specific mention of lands administered by the U.S.
4 Department of Interior in these subsections. National Forest lands
5 are under the Department of Agriculture.

6 "Effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in lands designated
7 by this Act as Wilderness Areas are withdrawn from all forms of
8 appropriation under the Mining Laws and from disposition under all
9 laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto."
10 This last paragraph in the law would preclude from public benefit
11 any minerals which might lie within the wilderness unit unless
12 they were known and developed before the deadline date. It is
13 impossible to assess the value of conflicting uses in a case of
14 this kind when information on the value of some of the probable
15 resources cannot be made.

16 In this respect, the Kenai Wilderness Proposal does not
17 seem to comply with Section 102 of the National Environmental
18 Policy Act of 1969 in that "alternatives to the proposed action,"
19 "the relationship between local short term uses of man's
20 environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long term
21 productivity," and "irreversible and irretrievable commitments
22 of resources which would be involved," are not discussed.

23 The Kenai Proposal does not seem to utilize a systematic,
24 interdisciplinary approach which will insure the integrated use
25 of the natural and social sciences in decision making which may

1 have an impact on man's environment.

2 The point is, the Federal Government is proposing to
3 classify certain portions of the Kenai Moose Range as wilderness
4 areas without a reasonable inventory of all resources, including
5 minerals and petroleum, which would be excluded from extraction,
6 and apparently without fully weighing the consequences of this
7 action. Thank you.

8 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. I am going
9 to call a ten minute recess now and after the recess we'll begin
10 with the testimony of the general public.

11 (Whereupon a ten minute recess was called in the hearing.)

12 MR. PRICE: We are about to recommence the hearing.
13 We are scheduled to recommence the hearing at this time with the
14 testimony of organizations. However, I've had a request from one
15 individual who wants to testify earlier since he has a pressing
16 engagement and if there is no objection from the organizations,
17 I'd like to call at this time Mr. Talley.

18 MR. B. B. TALLEY: I am B. B. Talley of Anchor Point.
19 The record should show that I am speaking as an individual.

20 Mr. Chairman, because the issues we discuss have become
21 controversial and much propaganda has been put out about it, this
22 presentation is longer than it would be otherwise, and I hope you
23 will bear with me.

24 I recognize that you are not a group of outsiders who have
25 come here to tell us what we should do with something that is our

1 You are men experienced and knowledgeable in Alaska, many being
2 long time residents, well qualified to plan for the wise use of
3 the natural resources under your charge.

4 So that the record may be clear, I would first point out
5 that this meeting has to do with the Kenai National Moose Range.
6 It is a "National Moose Range," not an area under control of the
7 State. It belongs to all fifty states, not exclusively to Alaska,
8 to which I first came in 1940, and of which I am proud to be a
9 citizen and a resident, nor along to the Kenai Peninsula where I
10 make my home.

11 Therefore, what we consider here, and what you must consider
12 in making your recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior
13 and to the Congress of the United States, needs to be weighed in
14 the balance of the national good, and not only for today, but
15 for all time to come. We must not lose sight of the fact that
16 the views presented to you here, or elsewhere, by representatives
17 of some distant community far removed from the Kenai Peninsula,
18 deserves the same consideration as, for example, those of my
19 friends of the Anchorage and the Kenai Chambers of Commerce, or
20 the representatives of some organized group, some vested interest
21 or some individual living in this immediate area.

22 How much better it would be if these presentations could
23 be submitted to you anonymously, so that you could not identify
24 the proponent, and would have to consider each presentation solely
25 on its merits, rather than have to consider also whom the proponent

1 might be. It should be the truth and the truth alone that you
2 seek, and when you find it, you should base your recommendations
3 on it without fear or favor.

4 I recognize that this manner of presentation is impossible
5 but I do ask that you consider what is presented rather than who
6 presents it, or the status, the power or the influence of the
7 group or individual represented by such presentation. In considering
8 what is presented, I would ask further that you analyze it carefully
9 and discard the irrelevant, eliminate from consideration that which
10 favors some special group to the exclusion of the rights of others
11 and come up with an honest determination of what is best for the
12 overall good, not the local good only. Always remembering what
13 you decide and what you may recommend may be irrevocable.

14 For example, should those areas of the National Moose Range
15 with which we are concerned today be opened to the construction of
16 roads, camps, etc., and for the use of motor vehicles, they would
17 be permanently lost as wilderness areas. And the wild game
18 presently living in these areas under natural conditions might be
19 permanently lost. Once an area is opened for such purposes, there
20 is no turning back.

21 On the other hand, if you preserve and use these areas as
22 wilderness areas as your plan proposes, they can, at any time in
23 the future, be opened and developed should the circumstances at
24 that time so require.

25 We are witnessing rapid changes in Alaska. The sudden

1 increase in permanent population with its industrial growth, the
2 large number of military personnel stationed here, the influx of
3 tourists, and the advent of and the wide use of all terrain vehi
4 for hunting, all require extraordinary actions if we are to
5 preserve some of our wilderness and guarantee the perpetuation o
6 our wildlife resources.

7 It has been charged over the radio and in the press that
8 to preserve these areas as wilderness areas would be to return t
9 "colonialism," whatever is meant by that as applied to Alaska.
10 That is not even a good slogan. Yet, that is one of the argumen
11 we hear over the radio and read in the press. Does McKinley
12 National Park represent "colonialism"? Of course not. And neith
13 does your proposal.

14 In further reply to this ironic charge, it often seems tha
15 we need some higher authority with more mature judgment than some
16 of those in charge of managing some of our natural wildlife
17 resources if we are to perpetuate our wildlife resources for the
18 use not only of ourselves, but of succeeding generations.

19 There are groups and individuals, some here today, who wan
20 to see the National Moose Range opened to the use of snowmobiles
21 for the hunting of moose. You recall, perhaps all too well, that
22 last winter representatives of one of our State Departments went
23 directly to Washington, over the head and against the recommendat
24 of your local manager, and succeeded in opening a portion of the
25 National Moose Range to the use of snowmobiles for hunting

1 antlerless moose. One of them told me gleefully how many antlerless
2 moose had been killed in the National Moose Range, and I talked
3 with others who had worked to get the range opened to hunting with
4 snowmobiles and was shocked at their defense of such a wasteful
5 and unsportsmanlike practice, not only in the National Moose Range
6 but also what occurred along the Glenn Highway during the caribou
7 season as well. If protecting our game against such irresponsible
8 action is "colonialism," then I'm for it. We know your views on
9 such matters and we are glad you are here. We want you to have an
10 authority which cannot be circumvented so easily as it was in the
11 case just mentioned.

12 Returning to the broad issue, it is to be noted that under
13 wilderness designation hunting and fishing will be permitted as
14 before. Only the means of getting into the area will be restricted.
15 Motorized vehicles, except airplanes on certain lakes, will not be
16 permitted in the wilderness areas. Travel within the wilderness
17 areas will be by canoe, horseback and on foot. That is not very
18 restrictive and it will preserve so much. It will preserve these
19 areas in their natural state, and will guarantee the perpetuation
20 of the game living in these areas, and Heaven knows, from the
21 present practices of killing game outside these wilderness areas
22 we need them as refuges where the game will have a chance to
23 survive and to restock the areas outside.

24 I use an all terrain vehicle for going into and coming out
25 of areas where I hunt. I don't need it to go further back into

1 antlerless moose. One of them told me gleefully how many antlerless
2 moose had been killed in the National Moose Range, and I talked
3 with others who had worked to get the range opened to hunting with
4 snowmobiles and was shocked at their defense of such a wasteful
5 and unsportsmanlike practice, not only in the National Moose Range
6 but also what occurred along the Glenn Highway during the caribou
7 season as well. If protecting our game against such irresponsible
8 action is "colonialism," then I'm for it. We know your views on
9 such matters and we are glad you are here. We want you to have
10 authority which cannot be circumvented so easily as it was in the
11 case just mentioned.

12 Returning to the broad issue, it is to be noted that under
13 wilderness designation hunting and fishing will be permitted as
14 before. Only the means of getting into the area will be restricted.
15 Motorized vehicles, except airplanes on certain lakes, will not
16 be permitted in the wilderness areas. Travel within the wilderness
17 areas will be by canoe, horseback and on foot. That is not very
18 restrictive and it will preserve so much. It will preserve the
19 areas in their natural state, and will guarantee the perpetuation
20 of the game living in these areas, and Heaven knows, from the
21 present practices of killing game outside these wilderness areas
22 we need them as refuges where the game will have a chance to
23 survive and to restock the areas outside.

24 I use an all terrain vehicle for going into and coming out
25 of areas where I hunt. I don't need it to go further back into

1 the wilderness areas you would set aside to preserve at least some
2 small chance for game to survive. I doubt if I shall go far into
3 these wilderness areas on foot, but I have friends who shall.
4 Father, mother, son and daughter shoulder their packs and hike
5 back for weekend campouts, and for longer stays as time permits,
6 and there are many others who do this. And there will be more
7 if this proposal goes into effect and becomes a reality.

8 These areas are reasonably accessible and they should be
9 preserved for this type of recreation. There are vast areas in
10 the National Moose Range where motor vehicles are permitted, and
11 where people may camp more luxuriously. You are not disturbing
12 them in your proposal, and we, who normally use a camper or a
13 trailer should not begrudge the hiker who enjoys a more rustic
14 solitude.

15 In conclusion, if we designate these areas as wilderness
16 areas now, they can always be opened and developed if the need
17 requires, which it does not at present. If we open them now,
18 they will be forever lost as wilderness areas.

19 Your choice has been wise and the areas you have selected
20 should be preserved as wilderness areas under the restrictions
21 you have outlined in your excellent "Kenai Wilderness Proposal
22 for the Kenai National Moose Range in Alaska." Thank you.

23 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Before
24 beginning the testimony of the organizations, I have received one
25 wire from an organization which I shall now read into the record.

1 "U.S. Department of the Interior. Attention: Hearing Officer.

2 The Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Native
3 duly assembled at Point Barrow, Alaska, on June 21, 1971,
4 unanimously adopted the resolution of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe
5 in opposition to the creation of a national wilderness within the
6 Kenai National Moose Range. Our Native organizations in Alaska
7 are consistent in requesting no further changes in land
8 classifications pending settlement of the Land Claims issue. Let
9 to be submitted for the record regarding our opposition to your
10 present consideration and expressing full support for decisions
11 of our tribal groups. Harry Carter, Executive Director, Alaska
12 Federation of Natives."

13 Mr. James Fisher, Kenai Peninsula Chapter, Alaska
14 Conservation Society.

15 MR. JAMES FISHER: Mr. Hearing Officer, my name is
16 James E. Fisher, president of the Kenai Peninsula Chapter, Alaska
17 Conservation Society. This is a non-profit corporation, organized
18 in Alaska, affiliated and operating in coordination with the
19 Alaska Conservation Society. Since our organization in 1965,
20 the Chapter has commented on many environmental issues. The
21 first priority of our organization, and the primary motivation
22 for its formation, is advocacy of the designation of wilderness
23 areas on the Kenai National Moose Range.

24 I would also indicate that the expanded recommendations
25 referred to as the Wilderness Society recommendations are in fact

1 the recommendations and proposals of the Kenai Peninsula Chapter
2 of the Alaska Conservation Society and we, of course, will adopt
3 and advocate those later on.

4 The designation of Wilderness Areas is planning of land
5 for the present and for the future. The types of planning
6 illustrated by the designation of these proposed wilderness areas
7 are similar to uses of other publically owned lands for national
8 parks, State parks, and other park type dedications which are
9 almost without exception the only land use planning actions
10 implemented by any government, Federal, State or local. If the
11 opponents of this designation are successful, within ten years,
12 and I mean ten years or less, those opponents would agree the
13 public interest would have been best served by the designation
14 which we are urging today.

15 Some justifications for the proposed designation are;

16 (1) A designation of wilderness areas is a forthright
17 acknowledgment of the primary use to which the land should be
18 placed so that it may be preserved as our heritage-birthright,
19 source for spiritual rejuvenation, in an evermore complex modern
20 world, and as one of the highest quality recreational resources.
21 Too often the "multiple use" concept has been used as a screen
22 for economic exploitation, which has relegated the public
23 esthetic-recreational-education interest to a very poor second.

24 (2) The oil exploration, development, and other activities
25 are clear demonstration for the need of protections afforded by

1 wilderness status. Without commenting on the merit of the decision
2 to drill for oil on the Moose Range, it should be noted that the
3 oil exploration activity was authorized very easily and quickly
4 and without any public hearings or consideration of recreational
5 values. (Emphasis on the recreational and esthetic values following
6 authorization for oil exploration as an apparent salvage measure.)

7 (3) That the need for the additional protection of
8 wilderness status is essential has been illustrated by the clamor
9 of State agencies opposing the designation for one reason or the
10 other. While such clamor is based upon justifications related to
11 the special responsibilities of the agencies, it could be noted that
12 the main concern appears one of jurisdictional anxieties.

13 (4) One final illustration of need is provided in the
14 transcript which I am presenting for filing with the record of the
15 hearing. That transcript describes abuse, consisting of maiming
16 or killing wildlife with motor vehicles, in that example, snowmobiles.
17 Reading from the pertinent portions and from the Court's statement:
18 "But ever since I've been down here -- and meaning on the Peninsula
19 friends of mine have been telling me about individuals on snowmobiles
20 machines who have been running -- he started to say caribou --
21 running coyotes and wolves down on the big lakes. They get them
22 outthere, herd them till they're exhausted and run them down. I
23 been hearing about how snowmachiners inadvertently are killing
24 the moose on the range by running them till they can't move so they
25 can take their picture. All of this is, of course, leading to

1 the -- headed toward the extinction of game on this peninsula."
2 And then a statement by the individual in question. "There has
3 been a lot of coyotes and stuff run down, about 20 of them, with
4 snowmachines that I know of last year, including a couple wolves
5 Since motorized vehicles would be prohibited in the wilderness
6 areas, such abuses would be minimized, if not entirely prevented

7 On other matter that has -- that I wanted to expand on
8 in my outline is -- was stated by the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of
9 the Alaska Conservation Society in connection with a public news
10 release which was published just this week in a local publication
11 and was referred to on the radio. "Concern over lack of availability
12 of the proposed wilderness areas is most perplexing in view of
13 their dedication to public use. They are not being made available
14 for the private, speculative gain of any individual or business
15 By comparison, almost the entire north side of the Kenai River
16 its mouth to the Moose Range is in private ownership, which does
17 "lock up" this land so that the public does not have access to
18 the public Kenai River. On the other hand, the proposed wilderness
19 areas will be available for public use forever.

20 While the administration as wilderness areas is primarily
21 based on esthetic reasons, ironically the fame of the wilderness
22 areas would probably be of substantial and inexhaustible monetary
23 benefit to communities in all parts of the Kenai Peninsula. The
24 proposed wilderness areas are planned for future use in practically
25 the only fashion that the Federal and State Governments have

1 historically considered land for future utilization for public
2 park-type use. These uses will not be for our grandchildren. The
3 will be for our children and will become apparent within a decade.

4 One other matter before I close this very brief introductory
5 statement and that is a letter which I received very, very recently.
6 As a matter of fact, I received it just yesterday. It's addressed
7 to the Kenai Peninsula Chapter, Alaska Conservation Society.

8 "Gentlemen, last evening, June 21st, 1971, assembled in regular
9 monthly meeting, the delegates of the Federation Clubs representing
10 some five thousand sportsmen in Undaga County in Central New York
11 State, discussed the Kenai Wilderness Proposal and the additions
12 proposed by conservationists. Based on our rather meager knowledge
13 of this area and our very extensive and long studied problems of
14 our own Adirondack Forest Preserve, and the strong need to protect
15 this area in our state, we feel a strong affinity toward the
16 proposal to save a little more of what is so rapidly disappearing,
17 the wilderness that was the backbone of our country.. The
18 assembled delegates voted unanimously in support of the proposal
19 and urged those in position to make determinations . To remember
20 that those of us in the Lower '48 still look to Alaska as the Holy
21 Grail of future generations. Remember and learn from our mistakes
22 You have the opportunity to save and conserve while what we did
23 was to pillage and spoil, and today we live to regret it. We
24 strongly urge that the proper decisions and legislation will result
25 from the hearings scheduled so that the Kenai Wilderness becomes a

1 reality. For the Federation, Robert R. Ribberger, Secretary."

2 Knowledge of the personalities of people environmentally
3 involved can be helpful to the U.S. Congress in analyzing our
4 credibility, so I would advise that I am a lawyer, and have lived
5 and practiced on the Kenai Peninsula for ten years. My
6 environmental concerns are long standing. These concerns have
7 increased in intensity and comprehensiveness to include all of
8 the environment, rather than some of the narrower aspects.

9 For the main presentation of the Kenai Peninsula Chapter,
10 Alaska Conservation Society, I introduce Dr. Calvin M. Fair, the
11 first president of our Chapter. He is now vice-president and
12 chairman of the Wilderness Committee. He could be described as
13 one of the most knowledgeable laymen about the overall Kenai Peninsula
14 environment.

15 I am filing with you, Mr. Hearing Officer, the documents
16 I have utilized and, in addition to that, I am filing appended to
17 my outline an example of the shrubbery as it can be effected by
18 all terrain vehicles -- in this case a snowmobile -- that was
19 taken in 1971 earlier this spring.

20 MR. PRICE: They will be accepted for the record, Mr.
21 Fisher. Dr. Fair.

22 DR. CALVIN FAIR: I'd like to submit these maps.

23 MR. PRICE: They will be accepted for the record.

24 DR. CALVIN FAIR: Mr. Hearing Officer, I am Calvin Fair
25 of Soldotna, Alaska. I appear today for the Kenai Peninsula Chapter

1 of the Alaska Conservation Society, a non-profit conservation
2 organization. I serve as the vice-president of this Chapter.

3 The Chapter is dedicated to the cause of assuring that
4 scenic, recreational, wildlife, fishery and wilderness values
5 will be adequately protected in the development of the Kenai
6 Peninsula for the present and the future.

7 I have been active in conservation organizations for the
8 past several years, and have had considerable experience in
9 enjoying the great outdoors, especially these areas we are
10 concerned with today.

11 As conservationists we are the frequent subject of our news
12 media. Conservation is a cause that we are all for as long as it
13 concerns controls on polluters or industry far from home, but it
14 is different when the issues are local, as they are here.
15 Conservation then suddenly becomes "extremism." Locally, we
16 want painless conservation. Conservation that costs us nothing
17 in terms of inconvenience, whether it be to our big industrial
18 complex, our towns and cities or merely local land development
19 and exploitation. The real extremists are those who seem to want
20 all of each available resource exploited for present use.

21 At this time we are here to contemplate the Kenai National
22 Moose Range, portions of which are being considered as an important
23 addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

24 The Biblical meaning of wilderness was "a desert". It was
25 a hostile environment, a last refuge for outcasts. To the pioneer

1 the wilderness was an adversary. Only after it had been largely
2 subdued could the surviving portions be enjoyed. Wilderness, though
3 not thought of today as a desert, is still considered by many
4 people as a land that is good for nothing else, in fact, a wasteland.

5 The wilderness lands that remain today have been spared
6 mostly because they are considered wastelands. They have been
7 isolated from the progress of civilization by their inaccessibility.

8 Wild lands in our nation have been calculated to be no more
9 than some 2% of our total land mass. We need to preserve this
10 remaining 2% to serve as a measure of understanding what we are
11 doing to the other 98%.

12 Our future generations must live by the decisions we make
13 today. Is the present generation capable of deciding all of the
14 future needs of society? Some of these decisions, such as those
15 which call for immediate utilization of all resources, should be
16 deferred.

17 It is difficult to justify wilderness to those who have not
18 acquired or hope to acquire an appreciation for it. It must be
19 experienced, psychologically or physically to be real.

20 Robert O. Anderson of Atlantic Richfield Company has said
21 that, "Earth, like a spaceship, carries limited expendables. When
22 they are gone, they are gone. There are no more, and there is no
23 way to create more." This certainly applies to our remaining
24 wilderness areas, because once they are changed or destroyed, man
25 with all his technology has not the power or genius to recreate them.

1 From an editorial in the July 31st, 1968 copy of the
2 Anchorage Daily News, I read, "Alaska's wilderness works a spec
3 magic on those who challenge it to hunt, fish, hike, ski or in
4 pursuit of any other form of recreation or adventure."

5 "Wilderness planning and development has generally moved
6 along in a relaxed and rarified atmosphere, the kind of atmosphe
7 that can exist only where pressure is absent, but now the pressu
8 is building. Pressure for mineral resource discoveries; pressur
9 for planned industrial developments; pressure from an enlarging
10 nation."

11 "The worst mistake we could make would be to assume the
12 wilderness is big enough and wild enough to absorb, without
13 irreparable damage, all the demands that will soon be placed upon
14 it."

15 The wilderness that involves us here is still public dom
16 belonging to all the American people. The entire nation is con
17 about it and the many forces that tend to alter or change it.
18 Wilderness is for all the people and not for exploitation by any
19 individual or group of people.

20 David Brower has described wilderness as land management
21 by the creator. The very best management. "Wilderness is for
22 people -- all the people who are willing to put one foot after
23 another and go where the trails go. Wilderness is for people,
24 few at a time, for ages without end."

25 The cry of "locking up the land" is heard over and over

1 whenever mention is made to preserve some of our wild lands, and
2 yet these same people do not oppose distributing parcels of our
3 public lands to individuals or groups who in turn, through use and
4 misuse, "lock them up" from the people forever.

5 Wilderness is needed for many reasons, some of which are:
6 education and scientific purposes; the original order (Executive
7 Order 8979) in 1941 states the Range is to provide an opportunity
8 to study moose in its' natural environment. Alteration of the
9 Range in any way removes it from this natural classification.
10

11 Our scientists have accused us of being careless and
12 thoughtless in stewardship of the land. They say we are endangering
13 future generations because of our self-interest today.

14 Wilderness is needed as a retreat from the pollutants of
15 our technological society, not the least of which is noise pollution.
16 Wilderness gives us the gift of silence which is indeed a rare
17 heritage.

18 Wilderness is needed for quality recreation on a sustained
19 basis. The major recreational uses of the range include fishing,
20 hunting, photography, nature observation, skiing, hiking and
21 camping. Aldo Leopold has said that "Wilderness recreation is
22 valuable in proportion to the intensity of its experiences, and to
23 the degree to which it differs from and contrasts with workaday
24 life. By these criteria, mechanized outings are at best a milk
25 and water affair.

Mechanized recreation already has seized upon nine-tenths

1 of the woods and mountains; a decent respect for minorities should
2 dedicate the other tenth to wilderness."

3 People use the land and they should, but this should be done
4 with a concern for not only the land itself, but for the rest of
5 the people, present and future.

6 Wilderness is needed for renewal of spiritual man. It is
7 these spiritual values that are the most difficult to defend.
8 Association with wilderness helps us to become more human, it helps
9 to simplify our lives so that we may see life's purpose more
10 clearly.

11 John Muir, father of our National Park Service, puts it this
12 way, "Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, overcivilized people are
13 beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home;
14 that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountains, parks and
15 reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and
16 irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

17 Physical wilderness need not be available to all persons
18 that they may enjoy it. Some of us are enriched by the knowledge
19 that it exists, whether or not we will ever view it or tread upon
20 it. We may find pleasure and satisfaction by associating,
21 either personally or through the written word, with those who have
22 traveled therein and relate their experiences to us. In this way
23 wilderness can touch the hand of many through the hand of the mere
24 one. The idea of wilderness, alone, is a sustaining influence,
25 and we all live a little less as each wild area is invaded, altered

1 and destroyed.

2 Wilderness is needed for wildlife habitat. Wilderness areas
3 are wildlife reservoirs which often aid in the natural stocking
4 of more accessible areas that are heavily used by sportsmen. In
5 addition, it is known that some wildlife requires wilderness type
6 habitat for survival.

7 Wilderness is needed to assure the vital watershed
8 protection for numerous unspoiled rivers, streams and lakes.
9 Virtually every stream, river, lake and estuary in the nation is
10 polluted to some degree and getting worse. The same is true for
11 many of our local waters, with individuals, towns, cities and
12 industry all sharing in the guilt.

13 One cannot help but notice the plea for action in the May
14 13, 1971 issue of the Cook Inlet Courier. It stated, "Water,
15 water, everywhere and nary a drop to drink!" "Development of
16 the water of the Kenai River is the keystone on which development
17 of the entire area rests. Kenai's present plants (industrial)
18 are absorbing all the fresh water presently available. Demand
19 for expansion is denied by the fresh water limits. Kenai will
20 dehydrate for lack of that precious water of the river."

21 The proposed wilderness areas on the Moose Range offer
22 assistance to this region for the very thing they seek, clean water.
23 From wilderness comes steadier and more dependable water supplies;
24 on it lies a less vulnerable snowpack. We desperately need
25 watershed protection to keep man's busy selfish world healthy. We

1 cannot long survive without our water.

2 The commercial salmon fishery is one of this State's major
3 industries. It is totally dependent upon maintaining the high
4 quality and purity of spawning streams and lakes.

5 If you have forgotten what clean water looks like, let me
6 read from a letter written by a relative of mine. It was written
7 during the Civil War from a place called Cherry Run, Virginia,
8 and dated July 19, 1864. While camping on the bank of the
9 Potomac River he wrote, "I am in Virginia, but I look over the
10 river into Maryland. Yesterday I waded over and got some milk
11 but got my pants wet in the bargain. But the weather is so hot
12 and dry that I did not mind that. The water is the clearest I
13 ever saw. I could not tell the difference in its depth by sight
14 between one foot and four feet. You need not laugh, but just
15 come here and I'll prove it to you." Imagine what the intervening
16 few years has done for the once great Potomac?

17 This Chapter wishes to endorse the Wilderness Proposals
18 for the Moose Range as set forth by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries
19 and Wildlife. Further, we support the present over all management
20 practices of the Bureau.

21 Management of the proposed wilderness areas will in no
22 substantial way be changed, yet these lands will be better protect
23 for the American people. It was a deep concern for this American
24 public and the wildlife of our country that prompted the reservati
25 of these areas initially.

1 We must remember that wilderness is a public resource and
2 the public shares custodial responsibility with the managing
3 agency. Because of the concern for this responsibility our
4 Chapter feels compelled to state some disagreement with the Master
5 Plan which will serve as a future management guideline. We
6 question the need for all of the proposed road systems and
7 campgrounds. Roads along Tustumena Lake with connecting campgrounds
8 on the lakeshore are specific examples. The corridor allowing
9 for construction of the Fox River Road to Homer and the
10 northern extension along Cook Inlet for the Turnagain Causeway
11 represent basic differences in planning philosophy.

12 The Range is badly in need of intensive zoning. Wilderness
13 classification will in part do this. Compatible and incompatible
14 uses need to be planned for before improper utilization can occur.

15 The Range improvement program presently static since the
16 last large fire must be thoroughly reevaluated. Our Chapter would
17 like to see the area south and west of Tustumena Lake removed
18 from this consideration. Instead, we propose this area be included
19 as part of the wilderness system.

20 The Wilderness Act requires that wilderness areas be managed
21 by the administering Federal agencies "for the use and enjoyment
22 of the American people in such a manner as will leave them
23 unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness and, to
24 provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation
25 of their wilderness character." This clearly is not in line with

1 the fears and accusations of those who loudly proclaim that
2 wilderness means "locking up the land."

3 Agency management as well as those of us who share the
4 management concept are confronted and confounded by the principle
5 which says, if wilderness is inaccessible, there is no use; if it
6 is too accessible there is no wilderness. How do we use wilder-
7 ness without using it up?

8 We have come a step forward today in securing for the people
9 a basic right of participation in their own affairs. A right which
10 was apparently denied them in 1958 when the northern lowland
11 portion of the Moose Range was opened by the Secretary of the
12 Interior to oil and gas leasing, exploration and development.
13 At that time there were no public hearings held to determine what
14 the voice of the people really called for. This opening came
15 about simply as a result of political and industrial pressure.
16 Our Chapter is grateful to our government and to the Bureau for
17 providing us with the opportunity to exercise this basic right
18 in a meaningful manner.

19 At this time and with the help of maps, I would like to
20 point out the areas where our Chapter differs somewhat with the
21 Bureau's proposals.

22 The Andrew Simons Unit. We feel that the Bureau has a good
23 proposal here. However, we believe the Unit can be improved
24 substantially by adding all of Tustumena Lake as well as the
25 timbered portion south and west of the lake which contains the

1 drainages of Nikolai Creek and the headwaters of Crooked Creek.

2 This would, in effect, combine the Caribou Hills and Andrew
3 Simons Units into one, adding some 146,600 acres to the proposal.

4 We disagree with the Bureau's plan for a road between the
5 Andrew Simons and Caribou Hills Units, as well as the proposed
6 wildlife lookouts on the edge of the Caribou Hills Unit. We feel
7 the road and the lookout could better be placed outside of these
8 combined units, thereby preserving the integrity of the area. A
9 road here would be a desecration.

10 These units if combined offer a game sanctuary unmatched by
11 nearly any other single unit within our State. Much of the wildlife
12 within these boundaries require a relatively large, unmolested
13 refuge for their wellbeing and survival.

14 The last of the Kenai's famous trophy size moose call this
15 unit home. Only here in substantial numbers do they now remain.

16 The lakes, rivers and streams of the combined units are
17 critical to the management, protection and perpetuation of a major
18 portion of the Cook Inlet salmon stocks.

19 Our Chapter favors the use of motorboats and airplanes on
20 Tustumena Lake, realizing that to curtail these modes of travel
21 would unnecessarily hamper the regions accessibility.

22 One campground on the Kasilof River near the outlet of
23 Tustumena Lake already exists. This serves as an excellent access
24 point and could be enlarged if needed. Additional campgrounds
25 scattered along the lakeshore would only serve to dilute the quality

1 of this magnificent country.

2 We would be remiss to mention Tustumena Lake and not touch
3 upon a recent court battle between the Bureau and the State of
4 Alaska involving the oil rights under the lake. In that contest
5 the Federal Government has confirmed its right to manage the lake
6 as an integral part of the Moose Range. Oil exploration and
7 development on or along this lake would likely mean ruination of
8 it as a recreation center and a commercial fish nursery. Wilderness
9 designation would preclude similar incompatible invasions of Lake
10 Tustumena in the future.

11 Mystery Creek Basin Unit. Our Chapter suggests one small
12 change in the Bureau's recommendation for this Unit. We believe
13 a one square mile addition should be considered on the north-
14 western corner to give greater protection to the Chickaloon River
15 watershed.

16 Swan Lake and Swanson River Canoe Units. Our Chapter
17 recommends some change in the Bureau's proposed Canoe Units.
18 The canoe routes comprise a system presently not duplicated anywhere
19 within our State. This system is one of lakes as opposed to other
20 routes made up mostly of rivers and streams. The routes promise
21 to be one of the major recreational attractions in the State, as
22 population growth continues and the tourist visitation increases.
23 Locally, the economic impact will directly reflect this increased
24 use.

25 Because these are primarily lake systems, future expansion

1 is not only possible, but highly desirable. The best opportunity
2 for this expansion exists north of the Bureau's proposed Swanson
3 River Unit. This area is ideally suited, containing numerous
4 lakes, appearing like jewels in a dense forest setting. The area
5 also maintains a dense population of trumpeter swans, loons and
6 other waterfowl. If included, it would extend to Point Possession
7 and provide the only wilderness area with any shoreline on Cook
8 Inlet.

9 The Chapter feels that the headwaters of Swanson River
10 should be included on the western side of this Unit, this being
11 an excellent fishing and canoeing stream.

12 Several small additions have been proposed along both the
13 Swan Lake and Swanson River Units to provide a better buffer to
14 commercial and recreational developments.

15 Because we feel that the marsh and muskeg lowland between
16 these Units is an area critical to the Ranges' wildlife, we propose
17 to add this area, thereby uniting both Canoe Units into one larger
18 unit. This region serves as a major moose calving area and support
19 a substantial winter population of the high country moose that
20 leave the deep snow of the mountains in search of winter browse.
21 It affords a large measure of watershed protection for both the
22 moose and Chickaloon Rivers and currently finds favor with a
23 portion of the Peninsula's growing caribou herd.

24 There has been little oil development interest in this area
25 since the initial exploration and development of the Swanson River

1 Field.

2 We think the present Swan Lake Road which serves as access
3 points for both canoe routes is adequate and contend that no
4 further road extensions are necessary or desirable.

5 The Chapter's combined additions would add approximately
6 80,000 acres to the Bureau's proposal.

7 Our Chapter suggests that the U.S. Forest Service consider
8 a wilderness or roadless classification for the headwaters of
9 Dike and Thurman Creeks which are within Forest Service lands
10 and border the proposed Mystery Creek Basin Unit.

11 The Russian River drainage system deserves this same
12 consideration from the Forest Service.

13 These are very important watersheds and their protection
14 appears desirable and essential for continued high quality water.

15 To briefly summarize our thoughts, let us ponder these
16 words by Aldo Leopold who wrote, "Ability to see the cultural
17 value of wilderness boils down, in the last analysis, to a question
18 of intellectual humility -- the shallow-minded modern who has lost
19 his rootage in the land assumes that he has already discovered
20 what is important."

21 Wallace Stegner says that, "Something will have gone out of
22 us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed;
23 if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books
24 and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining wild
25 species into zoos or extinction; if we pollute the last clear air

1 and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through
2 the last of the silences."

3 The land is a basic resource and the way we treat it will
4 determine largely the quality of life our future generations will
5 have. Wilderness can assure this land quality.

6 Sam Wright, well known resident of the Brooks Range, sums
7 it up nicely when he says, "Where so much of contemporary life is
8 dribbled second-hand through many fingers, the only place where
9 life remains unequivocally first hand is in the wilderness."

10 "What we save now is all we will ever save." I thank you
11 for the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society.

12 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Doctor. Mary Miller.

13 MARY MILLER: I am Mary Miller, secretary of the
14 Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society. I am
15 also a member of the American Ornithologist's Union, The American
16 Birding Association and a contributor to Audubon Field Notes. I
17 feel that it is none too early to set aside wilderness areas even
18 here in Alaska, although some people may feel that we still have
19 all the land for wildlife that is necessary.

20 Bird sanctuaries in other states often offer the only
21 protection against human encroachment, protection from commercial
22 development and against destruction by thoughtless acts.

23 I was told this week of a case where a Lesser Sandhill
24 Crane was found dead on its nest with a bullet hole through its
25 body. This particular nest was adjacent to Kalifonsky Beach Road

1 and as population pressures increase, these incidents will happen
2 more frequently. The Bald Eagle, a protected bird under our
3 statutes, is still being shot and hawks and owls are shot merely
4 because they are birds of prey in many people's minds. It does
5 not entirely guarantee a species safety to place it on an endangered
6 or protected list. We need to insure habitat away from those who
7 do not value their right to live, and I feel that the person who
8 is willing to hike for miles off the beaten roads to enjoy nature
9 is not too apt to deliberately shoot a bird for the fact that it
10 is something to kill.

11 The Kenai National Moose Range does support many species
12 of nesting waterfowl. The one that attracts the most attention
13 is the Trumpeter Swan, a bird that was once on the road to
14 extinction, but returned to safe population levels by your own
15 agency.

16 The Aleutian Tern is a bird found only within Alaska and
17 breeding populations have been found on the Kenai Peninsula.
18 Curlews, plovers and pipits nest in the high alpine areas of the
19 proposed Andrew Simons Wilderness Area, with all three species
20 of ptarmigan also found there. Waterfowl and many small birds
21 are common throughout the proposed lowland wilderness areas and
22 provide interest and enjoyment to those who travel through the canoe
23 trails.

24 I hope that these proposed areas within the Kenai National
25 Moose Range will be incorporated into the Wilderness System, not

1 only for the bird life within them, but to ensure that those of us
2 who want to enjoy the privilege of being in unspoiled wilderness
3 will have the right to do so in the years to come.

4 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Drew O'Brian.

5 MR. DREW O'BRIAN: My name is Drew O'Brian and -- and
6 I've lived on the Peninsula for about four years now. And I
7 speak for the -- representing the Alaska Conservation Society and
8 myself as a hiker and a camper. And I am very much in favor of
9 the wilderness areas as they are proposed. And I have been
10 fortunate enough to hike and canoe and enjoy probably about ninety
11 percent of the areas and I -- I would like to say I would like to
12 see them become wilderness. And not for myself and not for my
13 children, but for their children and for the generations that will
14 come, that are all aware that the South '48 is being gobbled up
15 by development. And I'd just like -- I'd like to leave something
16 to the folks that come. Thank you very much.

17 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. O'Brian.
18 Margaret Mullen.

19 MARGARET MULLEN: Mr. Chairman, I am Margaret Mullen
20 and wholeheartedly support the Wilderness Proposals of the Kenai
21 Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society.

22 When I first walked unto the Kenai Peninsula and selected
23 a homestead at the mouth of Soldotna Creek red salmon were abundant
24 there. Now, there are none spawning in this creek. You see, the
25 homesteaders increased and so did their appetite for fish, the

1 construction worker and the tourist soon learned of the good and
2 accessible fishing at Soldotna. The highway crossed it upstream
3 and interrupted the journey of the salmon. This was but twenty-
4 five years ago. This creek as a spawning bed of the great Kenai
5 River salmon was adversely effected by progress. Progress came,
6 but the reds lost out.

7 On more recent hikes into the nearby proposed wilderness
8 areas I have had the thrill of seeing creeks again with salmon
9 spawning. This is reassuring to me. If these creeks can escape
10 so-called progress, then I know future generations can enjoy fish
11 and fishing from these protected areas. I have observed that the
12 fisherman who makes a little effort to get to a good spot will be
13 a good sportsman. I plead that these wilderness areas are absolute
14 necessary for the fisheries habitat.

15 Back packing happens to rate high on my list of outdoor
16 activities. With many of my friends of assorted ages I have covered
17 most all of the established trails within the proposed wilderness
18 areas. So far we have found no locks. Quite the opposite. The
19 place is wide open, no fences, no gates, no walls, or no keep-out
20 signs of any kind.

21 I hope everyone present some day can sit on top of Knickanorka
22 and watch the dall sheep with their lambs. This is above Indian
23 Creek on Tustumena Lake, but the panorama includes the sight of
24 Indian Creek Glacier, the Homer Spit and Caribou Hills, the lowlands
25 of the Peninsula and the ever beautiful Alaska Range. It is silent

1 but for the wind, the water and the birds. Not a mark of man in
2 sight, but the action is there while you rest. The moose continue
3 to browse and the black bear are to be seen. It is all yours and
4 all mine after a hike up Emma Lake trail and it is inforgettable,
5 inspiring. This is the ultimate in re-creation. From the oldest
6 to the youngest members of our parties, each vows to return soon
7 again. I plead that these wilderness areas are absolutely necessary
8 for the renewal of man.

9 Our young people are rightfully disturbed because we, the
10 establishment, are so avariciously using every resource throughout
11 our very small world. Wilderness is an extremely valuable resource.
12 With my family and within these proposed areas we have enjoyed
13 hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, sleeping out under
14 the stars, berry picking, swimming, canoeing, identifying the
15 flowers and birds therein, ice skating and cross country skiing.
16 They are champions of the wilderness now bringing their children
17 to these wilderness areas for the same. I plead that these
18 wilderness areas are absolutely necessary for the finest in family
19 recreation.

20 Remember that life is for living, not just for making a
21 living. Thank you.

22 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. I believe
23 that ends the testimony of the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the
24 Alaska Conservation Society. Do you have anyone else, Mr. Fisher?

25 MR. JAMES FISHER: No, Mr. Hearing Officer. Apparently

1 the other two that we had hoped to have here did not arrive.

2 MR. PRICE: Jack Hession.

3 MR. JACK HESSION: Mr. Price, members of the panel,
4 ladies and gentlemen, I am Jack Hession, Alaska Representative of
5 the Sierra Club. My home is in Anchorage, and I have lived in
6 Alaska since 1968, most of that time in Fairbanks. My statement
7 today is on behalf of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club and of
8 the Sierra Club nationally. Here in Alaska there are presently
9 over 400 members, most of whom live in Anchorage, Juneau and
10 Fairbanks. Nationally we number approximately 125,000.

11 I appreciate this opportunity to testify on one of the
12 most important national wildlife refuge units to be considered
13 by Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation
14 System. As Mr. Watson stated, "About 90 wildlife refuges in 32
15 states and containing nearly 25 million acres qualify for study
16 as wilderness." Of the Kenai National Moose Range total acreage
17 of 1,730,000 acres, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has
18 recommended that 1,040,000 acres be considered for inclusion in
19 the National Wilderness Preservation System. Thus the size of
20 the Kenai Wilderness in relation to the other national refuges
21 gives the Kenai Wilderness national as well as state significance.
22 The tremendous variety of wildlife present in the Kenai, in
23 contrast to some other national refuges established to afford
24 protection for a single species or a few species, combined with
25 its superb wilderness setting, endows the Kenai National Moose

1 Range with State, national and even international significance.

2 Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, the people of the United
3 States, through their representatives in Congress, will ultimately
4 decide how much of the Range shall be made part of the National
5 Wilderness Preservation System. We commend the Bureau of Sport
6 Fisheries and Wildlife for its wilderness proposal and urge that
7 additional acreage be added in order to unify and expand four of
8 the proposed wilderness units. The Swanson River and Swan Lake
9 Wilderness Canoe Units should be combined to form a single unit
10 of 192,000 acres. Similarly, the Caribou Hills Wilderness Unit
11 should be united with the Andy Simons Wilderness Unit through the
12 addition of all refuge lands south and west of Tustumena Lake.
13 Tustumena Lake itself should also be made part of this enlarged
14 Andy Simons Unit. A square mile addition is also recommended for
15 the Mystery Creek Basin Wilderness Unit. These proposed additions
16 would add 80,000 acres to the unified Wilderness Canoe Unit, and
17 146,000 acres to a combined Andy Simons-Caribou Hills Unit. Our
18 reasons for recommending these additions are those set forth by
19 the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society,
20 and it is not necessary to repeat them here. The Sierra Club,
21 many of those members are thoroughly acquainted with the areas
22 under discussion, and after consultations with the Alaska
23 Conservation Society, concurs in these recommendations which
24 represent a consensus of Alaskan and national conservation
25 organizations.

1 As the Wednesday hearing in Anchorage made clear, opposition
2 to the Bureau's wilderness proposal is based on existing and
3 potential benefits to these opponents if the present status of
4 the Refuge remains unchanged. For example, oil and gas interests
5 are opposed because National Wilderness System status for a
6 substantial portion of the Range would preclude oil and gas leasing
7 in these areas. Left in its present status, political pressure
8 in the future could result in opening up additional areas of the
9 Range to oil and gas leasing, as happened in 1957 to the northern
10 half of the Range. The Wilderness Canoe Units proposed are
11 presently covered by oil and gas leases, some of which, we
12 understand, have expired, and some of which are in the process of
13 expiring. We recommend that the Department of the Interior refrain
14 from renewing these leases pending Congressional consideration of
15 the Kenai Wilderness Proposal.

16 We recognize this fundamental incompatibility between
17 wilderness values and the exploration and exploitation of oil and
18 gas. We feel that the need for further oil and gas production
19 on the Range has not been demonstrated, and that therefore the
20 superlative wilderness and wildlife values incorporated in the
21 Wilderness Proposal should take preference.

22 To consider another example of opposition based on the
23 advantages of the status quo, the Department of Highways testified
24 Wednesday in Anchorage that adoption by Congress of the Kenai
25 Wilderness Proposal would block two proposed highway projects

1 within the boundaries of the Andy Simons Wilderness Unit, namely
2 a Tustumena Lake Loop Road and a highway from Seward to Kenai via
3 the Resurrection Creek-Russian River drainages. We oppose these
4 proposed projects as unnecessary intrusions upon a National
5 Wildlife Refuge. Existing road access to Kenai, Seward, and
6 Tustumena Lake is adequate.

7 Another example of opposition based on a preference for
8 the status quo is the Department of Fish and Game's objection
9 primarily because wilderness system designation would "seriously
10 reduce the option of practical management." Practical management
11 refers to the Department's desire to maximize the moose harvest
12 and to manipulate fishery habitat where necessary, for example,
13 rehabilitation of anadromous fish streams.

14 On the issue of how to harvest the moose, the Bureau's
15 wilderness proposal brings into focus the difference in management
16 philosophies between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
17 the Bureau. ADF&G prefers a maximum sustained yield, while the
18 Bureau has managed a portion of the moose population for quality or
19 trophy hunting. Lowland areas are managed by the Bureau for the
20 production of meat animals, while the foothill and mountain areas
21 are managed for trophy animals. We agree with this management
22 policy, which would continue under wilderness designation.

23 However, in pursuit of its goal of maximization of the moose
24 harvest, ADF&G succeeded in opening portions of the Range to
25 snowmobile hunting, over the objections of Bureau personnel in

1 Alaska. When the two agencies disagreed over the use of snow-
2 mobiles for hunting, ADF&G took the matter directly to the Interior
3 Department in Washington, which overruled its own Bureau in favor
4 of ADF&G.

5 National Wilderness System protection for the proposed
6 wilderness units would strengthen the Bureau's hand in managing
7 for quality as well as quantity. Hunting by snowmobile would be
8 prohibited within the wilderness units; access would be by foot
9 or horse only.

10 We feel that ADF&G's management philosophy has no place in
11 the Kenai Moose Range, or in any other wildlife refuge system
12 units in Alaska. The Department's testimony, when weighed against
13 the national interest in the preservation of the Range for the
14 primary purpose for which it was originally established, namely
15 the perpetuation of the Kenai moose as a trophy animal, suggests
16 that the dual system of management authority for the national
17 wildlife refuges in Alaska should be reviewed.

18 Snowmobile and other off-the-road vehicle users also
19 realize the implications of the Kenai Wilderness Proposal. At
20 present, use of these machines is restricted to portions of the
21 Range during the antlerless moose season. Retention of the status
22 quo for the Range leaves open the possibility of future additional
23 incursions into Range areas now off limits. Again, we feel these
24 forms of travel should be restricted to non-wilderness portions of
25 the Range and not be allowed for hunting.

1 I would also like to take this opportunity to comment in
2 general on the Egan administration's opposition to this Kenai
3 Wilderness Proposal. This is the second major wilderness area
4 to be opposed by the administration. Last month a 145,000 acre
5 addition to Kachemak Bay State Park was vetoed by the Governor.
6 Yet Wednesday, in Anchorage, the Attorney General said the state
7 does not object to wilderness areas per se, nor to a wilderness
8 area on a portion of the Kenai National Moose Range. Instead, he
9 said the state supports "preplanned" wilderness. Further, he said,
10 "good faith" has been shown by the state in its acceptance of
11 Secretary Morton's recent extension of the land freeze, the creation
12 of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and enactment of
13 a bill setting up the state half of a proposed joint state-federal
14 land use planning and classification commission. Inadequate
15 planning and agency coordination were given by the Attorney General
16 as the administration's chief reasons for opposing the Kenai
17 Wilderness Proposal, and we've heard this same thing here this
18 morning.

19 However, the administration had no choice in the matter of
20 the land freeze extension, there is serious doubt as to whether the
21 new Environmental Conservation Department will be able to perform
22 effectively, as we've heard this morning, and the state's half
23 of the proposed joint state-federal land use commission carries
24 no financing, and originally did not even carry any provision for
25 mandatory public hearings or participation in commission

1 deliberations by the Alaska legislature. Where the environment
2 is concerned then, what we have had from the Egan administration
3 is lip-service. As for wilderness, considering the
4 administration's veto of a wilderness addition to Kachemak Bay
5 State Park, its opposition here to the wilderness classification
6 of one of the nation's outstanding wildlife refuges, and an overall
7 disregard for the Alaskan wilderness in its handling of the
8 TransAlaska pipeline question, is it any wonder that Alaskan
9 conservationists distrust the administration and seek national
10 support for the protection of those values that brought most of us
11 to Alaska?

12 Therein, I think, lies the importance of the Wilderness Act.
13 It is the means whereby a national asset, in this case the Kenai
14 National Moose Range, can be accorded national consideration and we
15 hope national protection.

16 Thank you for this opportunity to express our views on the
17 Kenai Wilderness Proposal. This concludes my formal statement,
18 Mr. Price. I would like to make a few short comments. One in
19 regard to Chairman Navare's suggestion that perhaps the entire
20 Kenai Peninsula is locked up with these various withdrawals. On
21 the contrary, at the moment there are no designated wilderness
22 areas on the Kenai Peninsula. While the Egan administration is
23 in office you will probably not see a Kachemak Bay wilderness
24 portion, the Forest Service's wilderness proposal is in the study
25 stage only at the moment. Another comment regarding comprehensive

1 planning, we hear this time and time again. It is a shibboleth.
2 And a nationally known expert on land planning and classifications
3 noted in Anchorage Wednesday that to date the State has not
4 contributed a damn thing to planning of a joint nature. That is a
5 quote.

6 I would also like to echo Mr. Talley's emphasis on national
7 values. There seems to be an assumption here that this land
8 belongs to the State. Quite the contrary. And the Sierra Club
9 feels very strongly that this is indeed a national matter, as
10 well as, of course, a State matter.

11 Finally the often repeated notion that wilderness is
12 accessible only to those few people who are able to hike a few
13 miles, I consider an insult to all Alaskans. It is an insult to
14 the tradition, the history of Alaska and should be recognized for
15 such. I am just sick and tired of hearing that kind of statement.
16 Alaska is a place of unique quality and we should respond
17 accordingly. Thank you very much.

18 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Betty Warren.

19 BETTY WARREN: I am Betty Warren. I speak as a private
20 citizen and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Kenai
21 Chamber of Commerce. I will try to make this a little bit short.

22 I feel that the general public does not stand today where it
23 stood ten years ago or even last year with regard to our environment.
24 It seems to me we must live and learn and learn from our mistakes.
25 We are learning and must continue to learn to live with and in

1 harmony with our environment. Many people must have progress to
2 assure their making a living, and I do not consider the word
3 "progress" a dirty word, because many of us need this so that we
4 can feed ourselves, house ourselves and educate our children.
5 What must be done is to educate both business interests, which
6 includes oil companies, and the general public in the wise use
7 of our natural resources.

8 We are just now standing on the threshold of learning to
9 live ecologically. Children are now studying ecological
10 environment in our schools. And this is quite new. It's only
11 been about the past two years this has been in our schools.

12 Oil companies are also learning to use and yet save our
13 resources. They too have been -- are becoming more educated as to
14 what they must do and what they must live with to continue to
15 use these.

16 I am not personally protesting wilderness areas as such,
17 but I am protesting locking up over a million acres. This is
18 entirely too much. As our state grows in population, the need
19 for development of our natural resources will become more imperative.
20 Until the Kenai Peninsula and the State do a complete land use
21 study and until the Native Land Claims are settled, this action is
22 premature.

23 I would like to add that not all Americans or Alaskans
24 work in sedentary jobs and therefore do not necessarily feel the
25 need to take a walk on their free time. This does not diminish

1 their love of nature. And while it may be true that some six
2 months pregnant women and some people in their seventy's can walk
3 up mountains, they are in a distinct minority. Our mature citizens
4 would generally be denied access and use due to their inability
5 to back pack into the proposed wilderness. And, therefore, I feel
6 it would be a discrimination to not have access for the senior
7 citizens who have contributed so much to our land. And these are
8 not only Alaskans, but Americans generally in the United States.
9 Many of them come to our area in campers, and I know the Wally
10 Byron caravan that came to our city last year had many elderly
11 citizens in there who could not enjoy some of the scenic
12 loveliness we have in the state if it was inaccessible. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. James
15 Hastings.

16 MR. JAMES HASTINGS: My name is James Hastings and I
17 am representing the Alaska Chapter of the American Petroleum
18 Institute, Division Supply, Box 1204. And we'd like to thank you
19 for the opportunity to present our position here today, Mr.
20 Chairman.

21 "United States Department of the Interior. Bureau of
22 Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Gentlemen: The Alaska Chapter of
23 the American Petroleum Institute wishes to go on record as being
24 against the proposals currently submitted for Wilderness Areas
25 within the Kenai National Moose Range. The points enumerated below

1 should be considered before establishing the extent and location
2 of wilderness areas within the Moose Range.

3 1. The need for Wilderness designation for such extensive
4 areas of the Range has not been demonstrated.

5 2. Presently authorized regulatory procedures, short of
6 Wilderness designation, available to the U.S. Bureau of Sport
7 Fisheries and Wildlife, are adequate to manage the range in an
8 appropriately wild state.

9 3. The Wilderness concept does not meet the principle of
10 multiple use of such acreage. Multiple use, we feel, is in the
11 overall public interest.

12 4. Wilderness use, by its inherent restrictions, will limit
13 utilization of the majority of the Range to a favored few and
14 will penalize the average citizen.

15 5. Some of the land proposed to be included is already
16 under leases for other purposes and is not truly untouched wilder-
17 ness.

18 6. Future national needs may make it necessary to develop
19 other resources within this area. Wilderness classification will
20 be difficult and cumbersome to change to permit such development.

21 7. The needs of local area residents are not best served by
22 the restricted usage permitted in these proposed wildernesses. An
23 inordinately large percentage of the entire Kenai Peninsula Borough
24 area is already reserved for recreational purposes.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to state our position.

1 Very truly yours, Alaska Chapter, American Petroleum Institute,
2 Division of Supply, by James C. Hastings. Committeeman."

3 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Hastings.
4 George Miller.

5 MR. GEORGE MILLER: My name is George Miller. I am
6 president of the Kenaitze Indian Group here in Kenai and director
7 of the Alaska Federation of Natives. I'd like for the record to
8 say that we'll submit a written statement at a later date today,
9 but I'd like to make a few comments regarding the proposals of
10 this wilderness area. In general we are opposed to the proposal
11 of this wilderness area. We feel we have a direct interest in
12 these lands. We are Indians. We have several Indian villages
13 in this area. We'd like to withhold any wilderness area
14 establishments until the land claims is settled. We would consider
15 establishing a wilderness proposal beyond the two thousand foot
16 level. And we need further studies and more direct communications
17 with Indian groups of the area, including the Alaska Federation
18 of Natives.

19 On the lowlands, we feel the planning stage of this unit
20 has not -- no direct communication with the Indian groups and --
21 well, we feel there should be further studies, and if there is a
22 proposal, we'd like to keep it beyond the two thousand foot level.

23 And that is a brief statement I have and we have a written
24 statement proposed here at a later hour. Thank you.

25 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Miller.

1 Your written statement will be later incorporated into the record.
2 John Stephens.

3 MR. JOHN STEPHENS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Board,
4 ladies and gentlemen, I am John Stephens. I have the Alaska
5 Pioneer Canoers Association. This is a profit organization. Our
6 main interest is promoting canoeing in Alaska. I have established
7 down here at the mouth of the Moose River this business and for
8 about four years -- four summers now we have been in operation. We
9 have been renting canoes to people from the various states of the
10 United States. Also some from Hawaii and also people from Europe.
11 We also operate guided canoe trips. My wife assists me in taking
12 people through the canoe systems here on the Kenai Moose Range.

13 The Swanson River Canoe System and the Swan Lake Canoe System.
14 And without going into a lot of political argument or debate, I
15 would simply like to give you a few stories, very briefly, of some
16 of the people that have utilized this canoe system.

17 A few years ago, as I said, when I first went into business
18 I was renting canoes and I rented canoes to some people from Texas.
19 Some oil men. And they went through the system. And this very same
20 weekend I rented some canoes to a family of four. A man and his
21 wife, a child of about four years old, and they were backpacking the
22 other child on their backs. Now, at the end of the trip, either
23 Sunday or Monday, when they came out, the men came out first and
24 most of them, except for one, was complaining very bitterly about
25 having to pack the canoes and having to drag themselves through this

1 canoe system. About two hours later this family came through.
2 They came up the hill, trudging. They still had the baby on their
3 back, and they came up the hill, they had smiles on their -- on
4 their faces and they had all kinds of comments about what a
5 wonderful time they had on this canoe trip along with their little
6 children. That is one incident. Another incident that same year
7 was a man that came into my place of business. He was limping.
8 He had his wife with him. And he said he'd like to rent a canoe.
9 I was a little bit hesitant because he informed me that he had a
10 very bad back situation and that this back situation had been with
11 him all winter long. I said, "Well, how are you going to pack
12 the canoes? This is a portage system?" He said, "Well, we'll
13 get them over the portages somehow." They rented the canoe for a
14 week. A week later and the time that he had designated to come
15 out, approximately, he and his wife arrived. They both had smiles
16 on their faces. And my place of business at that time was right
17 near the bridge at the mouth of the Moose River and the Kenai.
18 There was a hill, oh, probably twenty yards and he packed the
19 canoe up the hill on his back. Now, his bad back had been healed
20 during the trip out in the wilderness.

21 Now, that was a few years ago. Last year my wife and I
22 took a group of fifty youths from New York. This isn't an uncommon
23 situation. There were also seven adults as counselors. These
24 people were from Great Neck, New York. They were with the Trails
25 West tour group. Those young people, ranging in the age of -- let's

1 see, about fourteen through eighteen, signed up with this Trails
2 West in New York. They took a bus, they traveled all through
3 Alaska -- the Mt. McKinley area -- and they wound up their trip
4 on the canoe trails. Our prime interest was to show these people
5 how to camp in the canoe system. How to cook over an open fire,
6 how to canoe and how to fish. And I would like to relate at this
7 time one particular boy that happened to travel in our canoe. He
8 was from Harlem. And he was not one of the rich kids that was with
9 this group, but he was sponsored by the people of his community.
10 They sponsored him. He was about fifteen years old and he was a
11 very enthusiastic young man. He could hardly wait to get his
12 fishing gear out and hardly could wait to get in some time fishing.
13 There were other things that had to be done. Back packing into
14 the area first, but he was an enthusiastic young person.

15 If you could see the faces of some of these people that we
16 take through the trails and some of the people that we rent canoes
17 to, I don't think there would be the debate that we have today.
18 Instead of the debate, I think we would be saying, "How soon can
19 we get this area designated as a wilderness area?" And, "How
20 much more area can we get for these young people?" These people
21 aren't going to be shooting drugs. These people are going to be
22 interested in outings, because they've had experience. Some of
23 these people were people who had never been on canoe trips or any
24 trip before. One young lady said as she was flipping pancakes,
25 "If my mother could only see me now." In the home that she'd come

1 from they were waited on hand and foot. Out there she was flipping
2 pancakes. Thank you.

3 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Harry
4 Crandall.

5 MR. HARRY CRANDALL: Mr. Hearing Officer, ladies and
6 gentlemen, Department of the Interior officials, I am Harry
7 Crandall of the Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C. I am here
8 today in support of the Alaska Conservation Society, Kenai
9 Chapter's proposal of the Kenai National Moose Range.

10 I have a little aside here, I wrote this statement on the
11 plane and some of it in the car coming over here this morning, and
12 I have a little trouble reading reading, let alone reading my own
13 writing, so if I get a little stalled up, I hope you will stay
14 with me.

15 At this public hearing in Kenai today and at the hearing in
16 Anchorage earlier this week, the citizens of Alaska and the entire
17 country are being asked to express their individual views, in
18 person or in writing, on a wilderness proposal of the Bureau of
19 Sport Fisheries and Wildlife within the Kenai National Moose Range.

20 The Wilderness Society compliments the personnel of the
21 Alaska area office of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
22 for the development of a splendid wilderness proposal, but urges
23 and fully supports the inclusion of additional acreage as purposed
24 by the Alaska Conservation Society and the Kenai Chapter of the
25 Alaska Conservation Society in the final recommendations that you

1 will be reviewing at the conclusion of this hearing.

2 Before describing these modifications to the proposed
3 wilderness, I believe it is pertinent to briefly discuss for the
4 record why we are gathered here today. Perhaps I can give you a
5 little bit different perspective than some of the folks have given
6 previously. First of all, we are here today because the Wilderness
7 Law requires it. The Wilderness Law was enacted in 1964 by the
8 Congress of the United States and it set forth certain principles
9 by which some of our public lands will be forever administered.
10 The Law established a National Wilderness Preservation System
11 within the National Forests and it defines wilderness as, "An
12 enduring resource of the American people." It contains detailed
13 criteria as to what types of public land areas qualify for review
14 for admission into the Wilderness System and it lists procedures
15 by which these qualified hearings will be reviewed, including
16 public hearings. It limits reviews of wilderness to the National
17 Forests, National Wildlife Refuges and the National Parks. It does
18 not include the public domain lands administered by B.L.M., nor
19 does it include military reservations and other kinds of public
20 land. So, we have in the Wilderness System a potential of perhaps
21 around two percent of the fifty states' land area -- the Federal
22 lands within the fifty states. About two percent that could ever
23 be admitted to the Wilderness System. So, two percent of our state
24 is what we are really talking about, of which this is a part, of
25 course.

1 The Act also sets a deadline of September 3rd, 1974 to
2 complete these reviews and for the Secretary of Agriculture and
3 Interior to finish up the job of recommending certain qualified
4 areas to the President and the President to the Congress for
5 enactment into law. Now, framers of the Wilderness Act recognized
6 that due to diversities, geographical disparities, ecological
7 differences and so forth, that the law had to be flexible enough
8 to accommodate a wide variety of land types. The flexible nature
9 of the law is pretty well documented in its Section 2(c), which
10 states that wilderness must be five thousand acres or more, or it
11 may be less than that, if it's practical to preserve it as
12 wilderness.

13 And then we have in Section 4(C), they recognize that
14 vehicle use, structures and roads and similar intrusions, which are
15 temporary in nature, are permissible in emergencies. And in
16 Section 4(E), which permits continued use of motorboats and aircraft
17 where their uses have become established prior to including an
18 area in the wilderness system.

19 Now, this would apply to Tustumena Lake, you see. The law
20 sets criteria for this kind of thing. In addition, the law states
21 that the Wilderness Act is supplementary to the primary purposes
22 for which an area was established and is administered. Now, this
23 is set forth in the Bureau's brochure, but I'd like to explain it
24 a little bit, if I may. See, this is an important part of the law
25 in that it insures that the laws under which the National Forests,

1 the National Parks, the National Wildlife Refuges -- in this case
2 the Kenai National Moose Range -- that these laws remain primarily
3 the law under which the authority -- under which the Moose Range
4 was established. For example, the Administrative Procedures Act.
5 And that it also assures that the wide variety of purposes for
6 which these public lands were established would not be jeopardized
7 by a wilderness, but would continue with the added feature of a
8 National Wilderness, so in a sense we are talking about adding
9 another use to a multiple use area, aren't we? So, let us
10 briefly analyze this section.

11 First of all, the Kenai National Moose Range was withdrawn
12 from public domain by executive order of President Franklin D.
13 Roosevelt in 1941. This action actually elevated the area to a
14 special status equal to the national monuments in the National
15 Parks System. And recognized that it was of such national
16 importance and national in character to deserve this special
17 recognition. Thus, the Moose Range was established to benefit
18 Americans everywhere. The principle feature of the land so with-
19 drawn was its wilderness wildlife, including the Kenai moose. In
20 the establishing order it states that the purpose for establishing
21 the Range was to protect the -- and I quote -- "Breeding and feeding
22 range of the Kenai Moose and other native wildlife, most of which
23 require a natural or a wilderness condition in order to survive."
24 So, designation as wilderness will assure that the purpose for which
25 the Range was established will not be compromised by administrative

244
1 action. Rather it would take an act of Congress to do so.

2 A case in point was the decision in the late 1950's by
3 a weak kneed Secretary of the Interior, succumbing to political
4 pressure, to classify and open the northern portion of the Range
5 to oil and gas exploration. You can rest assured that the
6 Wilderness Society and other national conservation organizations
7 will resist all new leasing in the Range or an enlargement of the
8 area presently subjected to leasing, by insisting that the
9 Environmental Impact Statement requirement of the National
10 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 be strictly adhered to, and
11 including review at public hearings here in Alaska and in Washington
12 D.C.

13 Of course, areas of the Moose Range included in the
14 Wilderness System will not be subjected to pressures. Still,
15 regardless of what has happened with oil and gas and other
16 activities, most of the Range is still pristine wilderness,
17 meeting all of the mandatory requirements of the Wilderness Law.

18 And I'd like to -- to kind of get a little detail here.
19 The Wilderness Act is the law of the land. It contains mandatory
20 review provisions, among them being that the Secretary of the
21 Interior shall review every area of five thousand acres or more
22 and every roadless island within the National Wilderness
23 Preservation System, and recommend to the President his
24 determinations and recommendations on the suitability of such
25 areas as wilderness. And the President in turn will recommend

1 to Congress. Now, these are mandatory review requirements of
2 the law of the land. And they can't be compromised.

3 Now, if I can find my place where I was reading from my
4 writing here. So -- so, this natural pristine wilderness land
5 in its continued management in a natural condition, which was the
6 original purpose of the area, which a wilderness when established
7 by law, will be supplemental to -- you see, the Act says it will
8 be supplemental to. It says, "Natural lands and the purpose for
9 which the area was established will be supplemental to." It adds
10 this legislative protection.

11 Now -- and it's also not generally known, I don't believe,
12 that the national -- in the national wildlife refuge system there
13 are very few areas to which the mining laws apply. The Kenai
14 Moose Range has been withdrawn from the provisions of the mining
15 laws. And it was not the intent of the Wilderness Act to
16 subsidize the mining industry by providing free information
17 gathered by geological surveys within an area that is not subject
18 to the mining laws. So, that is the reason that Section 4(D)
19 of the Wilderness Act does not apply. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries
20 and Wildlife is not required to have a report on the minerals
21 within the Kenai National Moose Range.

22 And I'd like to have a little aside here regarding Native
23 Land Claims, because George came up here and made what I felt was
24 a pretty good statement. The Wilderness Society has been supporting
25 the Alaska Natives in their strive for self-determination. We have

1 supported them in hearings at both the House and Senate and
2 Congress of the United States, so when I say this, George, it is--
3 I hope you folks will take it as -- in the way that it's meant,
4 and that is that because of the time involved here, I think it's
5 rather obvious to all of us that the Native Claims issues are
6 going to be settled in -- certainly this Congress, and the few
7 requirements of the Wilderness Act will likely take much longer
8 than that, so even if this area was included, I think the Native
9 Claims legislation would be paramount even to Wilderness. I
10 think probably the Congress of the United States would say so,
11 but go ahead and write for the record. O.K. Wilderness, some
12 folks have said a lot better than I here, is the highest form of
13 land dedication which mankind has yet devised.

14 The values of wilderness aren't viable, but they are, never
15 the less, real. Designation of a significant portion of the Kenai
16 National Moose Range as wilderness would assure that the multiple
17 resource values inherent in the Range would be preserved. One
18 of these values would be the wilderness resource itself.

19 When people are planning, and the Bureau itself has turned
20 out a master plan of the area, because they are in conflict with
21 the local people, we have Federal and State planning commissions.
22 As a matter of fact, the Native Claims legislation may be amended
23 to include this, but when a person is planning or a group of
24 planners are planning, they should first identify your wilderness
25 and natural areas and then determine the other developments, because

1 the wilderness and natural areas are really the most valuable
2 land that we have.

3 So, the Wilderness Society supports the recommendations
4 of the Alaska Conservationists and the Alaska Chapter to enlarge
5 the proposal of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. And
6 I think these folks have done a splendid job and there is no sense
7 in going into detail. So, in closing, I think it is important
8 for all of us present to understand the Kenai Moose Range is one
9 of America's great national treasures. Like Grand Canyon,
10 Yellowstone, Yosemite National Park and Okefinokee in Florida.
11 The Kenai National Moose Range and its status is a deep continuing
12 concern and interest of long standing by hundreds of thousands
13 of people throughout the United States. And it's just that, a
14 national treasure. It's not an unclassified domain, a park, or a
15 playground. It's a great national area of national significance
16 and interest, and designation as wilderness of significant portions
17 of this magnificent area would help preserve and protect it for
18 the enjoyment and use of the generations yet unborn. Thank you
19 very much.

20 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. We have one
21 more witness representing an organization and after we hear from
22 him, we're going to recess for lunch. Mr. Russell.

23 MR. H. J. STEINER: Mr. Hearing Chairman, Mr. Russell
24 had to leave and he asked me to read the resolution.

25 MR. PRICE: Fine. If you'll identify yourself for the

44)
1 record.

2 MR. H. J. STEINER: I am H. J. Steiner, a member of
3 the Board of Directors of the Kenai Chamber of Commerce of which
4 Mr. Russell is the president. And we have a resolution adopted
5 by that body that we'd like to read into the record. 'Whereas,
6 the Kenai Peninsula Moose Range, located in southcentral Alaska,
7 was established by Executive Order in 1941 to protect the natural
8 breeding and feeding ranges of the Kenai Moose and other native
9 wildlife, and

10 Whereas, this 1,730,000 acre range of wilderness should
11 be accessible for all citizens to view and enjoy in its natural
12 state, and

13 Whereas, the inclusion of the Kenai Wilderness Proposal
14 into the National Wilderness Preservation System would take
15 1,040,000 acres of this moose range and allow access to it by
16 those few individuals who could hike several miles, and

17 Whereas, there are now sufficient safeguards, regulations
18 and controls in effect to protect this range and preserve it in
19 its natural state,

20 Be it hereby resolved that the Board of Directors of the
21 Kenai Chamber of Commerce categorically oppose the inclusion of
22 the Kenai Wilderness Proposal into the National Wilderness
23 Preservation System. Signed, Tom Russell, President, Kenai
24 Chamber of Commerce."

25 MR. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Steiner. We'll stand in

1 recess until 1:30.

2 (Whereupon the noon recess was taken in the hearing.)

3 AFTERNOON SESSION

4 MR. PRICE: We are going to begin the hearing again.
5 Art Davidson.

6 MR. ART DAVIDSON: My name is Art Davidson. I am the
7 Alaska representative of Friends of the Earth and speaking today
8 on behalf of the twenty-two thousand members of this organization.
9 And I am also speaking for my family, my wife who grew up on the
10 Kenai Peninsula, and my children who like other children will
11 inherit the Moose Range, the Kenai Peninsula and Alaska after those
12 of us in this hearing room have passed on.

13 The wilderness brought me to Alaska seven years ago, but
14 at the time I didn't think of it as wilderness. I saw it as
15 vast forest, fast flowing streams, rivers, mountain sheep and
16 bears and eagles and swans and other wild creatures. And whatever
17 the particular mountain, valley or stretch of sea coast, the
18 natural character of the land is what attracted me, and became a
19 part of me. In the remote places among the creatures that we now
20 call wilderness, I found solitude and also companionship, and found
21 a few questions that I had not yet learned to ask. And it is this
22 wilderness temperment, so to speak, of the land in Alaska that
23 keeps me here. I was very fortunate in being able to experience
24 some of the remotest mountains in the state. My friends and I
25 searched out hidden glaciers and mountains that had never before

1 felt the foot of man. And through climbing expeditions and trips
2 by myself I was able to live for a while in areas that are as fine
3 a wilderness as any land left on our spaceship earth. I found
4 for me experiencing wild places involves three types of experiences.
5 First, the anticipation and contemplating the wild country I will
6 visit or that I want to visit or I know will be nice to visit,
7 even if I can't personally visit it. And, secondly, there is
8 actually visiting the wild area. Camping there, hiking, canoeing
9 and what not. And, thirdly, remembering the experience. Remembering
10 the wild area and knowing that though I might be in my office or
11 in my car or at a meeting like this hearing, those places, those
12 trees and flowers, those waterfalls, those birds and animals are
13 still right now out there and still undisturbed. And I suspect
14 that all of us travel more in our minds than on our feet. And I
15 know I've enjoyed many fabulous trips to the Arctic Islands, the
16 south Pacific, to corners of the Brooks Range, Antarctica and
17 other places that I may never set foot. I mention these ways in
18 experiencing wild areas of the earth, because in considering the
19 planning of a wilderness area, I think it's important too to
20 remember that the actual number of visitors represents only a
21 small part -- really a very small part of the people enjoying a
22 wilderness area. I found to that through my letters and
23 conversations about Alaska wilderness areas, my parents, both of
24 whom are in too poor of health to even hike on a general trail --
25 my parents enjoyed these wild places and though my parents will

1 never go, and I am not likely to return to many of the places I've
2 been in Alaska, we both feel -- feel very good in knowing that
3 those wilderness places I have visited or dreamed about visiting
4 are still wild and unpolluted and untraveled. And through reading
5 and seeing photographs, through my own experience in writing,
6 taking motion pictures, I've learned the values and experiences
7 of wilderness can be communicated and shared with people who will
8 never visit the wilderness areas. So, when considering whether to
9 establish a wilderness area, I think we have to consider the
10 many armchair wilderness travelers who use and have a right to
11 wilderness every bit as much as a back packer or canoeist. I have
12 heard it said that we should open up the Kenai Wilderness Area
13 to roads and snowmachines so that everyone can enjoy it. But,
14 everyone cannot travel there by car or snowmachine, any more than
15 everyone can hike to the wilderness. And in attempting to give
16 the wilderness to everyone by allowing roads and motorized vehicles,
17 the wilderness itself is destroyed, thus depriving the wilderness
18 traveler, the armchair wilderness traveler, and even the motorized
19 visitor a wilderness experience.

20 At this hearing I've heard many Alaskans express the value
21 of wilderness, so rather than take time trying to express what
22 wilderness things mean to me, I'd like to share some thoughts on
23 land use planning with relationship to this Kenai Wilderness
24 Proposal and other land management situations in Alaska. So, it's
25 been mentioned at these hearings that some quantity of oil and gas

1 might lie under some of the grounds purposed by the Bureau of
2 Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, wilderness status. It's been
3 suggested that a national energy crisis, a shortage of fossil fuel
4 a lack of domestic oil and gas reserves, requires that all gas
5 and oil that might be in the Moose Range be extracted. I'd like
6 to comment that there are alternatives to this proposition. For a
7 short term America's distilling needs could be met without the use
8 of any Kenai Peninsula oil if the oil import quota system were
9 revised to allow more foreign oil to be used in the United States.
10 Indeed, if the import quota were dropped, it would most likely
11 not be economically profitable to develop further oil production
12 on the Kenai at the present time. In dropping the quotas it would
13 allow more domestic oil to remain unused, stored in the ground
14 where it would be available in time of emergency or in the future
15 when petroleum becomes scarcer throughout the world. Although the
16 quota acts somewhat as a subsidy for the oil companies operating
17 within the United States, dropping the quotas would save American
18 consumers an estimated eight million dollars a year they now pay
19 in higher gasoline prices. In the long term petroleum requirements
20 in the United States it is important to remember that oil is not a
21 renewable resource. Once used it is gone. The reserves of oil
22 are not vast. They are even limited in Alaska. At the present
23 rate of consumption it will not be many years before these reserves
24 are exhausted. The policy of solving oil shortages by finding and
25 extracting more oil as fast as the law allows is obviously self-

1 defeating. The faster the oil reserves are developed, that is
2 included, the sooner the non-renewable resources will be gone.
3 In the process of depleting the world's oil reserves, many of the
4 world's last vestages of wilderness will also disappear. An oil
5 field is just not compatible with a wilderness area. So it is
6 then that if we extract the oil simply because it's there and can
7 be used, we will eventually end up with no oil and very little
8 wilderness.

9 In the forward to "Earth and the great weather, the Brooks
10 Range" David Prow posed the decision we have to make in regard to
11 oil and wilderness. He said, "By presently letting our present
12 momentum sweep us along with it, we can grind through the world's
13 last wilderness by 1984 at the latest. Just the undisciplined dash
14 for energy can by itself obliterate the wilderness, so dash on then,
15 find the energy and spend it, but what to do for an encore? The
16 recoverable fossil fuels will be gone, so we will use less energy,
17 not more. We will return to ways of getting by with the energy the
18 sun gives us each day, instead of exploding and distilling our way
19 through the energy path that the earth took four billion years to
20 acquire. Do we return to those ways while the world still has a
21 wilderness in it, or do we postpone the inevitable turning, until
22 we have severed outright and irrevocably those unbroken connections
23 from the beginning of life the wilderness has so far preserved?
24 Do we really want to repudiate the evolutionary force? These are
25 questions that we're asked to match and not have much trouble

1 answering. In asking these questions and making our decision
2 on the Kenai National Moose Range, I hope we decide to establish
3 wilderness on the Kenai Peninsula regardless of what petroleum
4 might lie underneath the ground. Since there is not expected to
5 be a great deal of petroleum underneath the Moose Range, it should
6 be an easy decision to make. And it might, judging from the broken
7 economy oil brought to Kenai, which I was sad to observe this
8 morning while driving passed the closed down buildings on my way
9 to this hearing -- it might be a relief for some of the local
10 residents.

11 It's been suggested at these hearings that land use planning
12 on the Kenai Peninsula provide -- should provide opportunities
13 for all types of outdoor recreation, including motorized
14 recreation activities, including snowmobiles, trail biking and
15 motorboating. Well, I agree and personally my family has both a
16 Jeep and a motorized boat which we enjoy using and which we feel
17 there should be places to use. But, fortunately, the Kenai
18 Peninsula abounds in opportunities for us to use these machines,
19 and I have observed that there are many, many opportunities for
20 snowmobilers and trail bikers. As a representative of Alaska
21 Outdoor Recreation, Inc. pointed out at the Anchorage hearing on
22 this Wilderness Proposal, he said a large part of our state has
23 been opened up for enjoyment for all by these motorized people
24 creating trails where necessary. Many of these trails and byways
25 aren't shown on official maps, because these maps are ten or

1 twenty years old. Since abundant opportunities for motorized
2 recreation has developed rapidly on the Kenai Peninsula, I think
3 it's time to recognize the need to develop land management areas
4 out of the wilderness areas, where people can enjoy their outdoor
5 activities without interference from motorized noises, like noisy
6 machines, the elimination of areas of remoteness because of easy
7 access by motorized vehicles, because of track marks on the land,
8 and the increased litter which accompanies the presence of members
9 of motorized recreationists.

10 Establishing a large wilderness area on the Kenai Moose
11 Range would be a step towards balancing opportunities between
12 motorized and non-motorized encroachment.

13 Some of my most enjoyable moments on the Kenai Peninsula
14 have been spent in discovering and contemplating the traces of
15 Native people who first settled the Kenai and lived here for
16 centuries before Cook made his historic voyage and discovery of
17 Cook Inlet. But, as fascinating as the old village sites and
18 Native history of the Kenai maybe, they are not as meaningful to me
19 as the living traces of these first people on the Kenai. And just
20 as our land classifications and laws were set to protect the
21 artifacts of ancient people, I think they should respect and
22 protect the living remnants of ancient people. This is especially
23 appropriate today on the Kenai, because the caucasian settlers
24 who established our present system of government and land manage-
25 ment system helped produce a healthy culture of scattered remnants.

1 The city of Kenai, I'm told, once was built on the site
2 of Skitut village which was taken from the Indians. Before the
3 coming of the white men Native villages were found in the Caribou
4 Hills, Swanson River, and Kenai Lake, Chickaloon Flats and many
5 other places. A Native woman has told me that she's seen the
6 B.L.M. burn down thousands of native Alaskan villages on the Kenai.
7 She herself has experienced white men blocking her access to her
8 personal land with the use of access laws. I don't know of
9 anything that can be done to erase past injustices inflicted upon
10 the Kenai Natives. We certainly can't recreate their civilization,
11 but I think there are a couple of things that we can do on the
12 Kenai, and in the Moose Range specifically, which will not only
13 honor the cultural heritage of the Kenai, but allow it to live
14 instead of crumbling away to nothing but a few artifacts. The
15 Moose Range and the proposed wilderness areas can honor the rights
16 of those Natives having fishing and hunting sites by allowing them
17 to retain use of them. And this right wherever justified should
18 not be extinguished upon the death of the present occupant, because
19 this would be a case of cultural genocide, ending it at the death
20 of the present generation. But, it should be passed on to the
21 children of the present Natives as long as they use the sites in
22 the traditional ways of their people. And this would, of course,
23 preclude the use of motorized vehicles like snowmachines.

24 Secondly, for just Native Land Claims settlement, I think
25 it should be recognized that the State of Alaska has an obligation

1 to contribute to the settlement of this tentitively approved land
2 the Kenai Peninsula, and, thirdly, we can recognize how the land
3 and waters of the Kenai were a part of this country's original
4 culture. In contrast to the perspective of Western civilization
5 which places man outside of nature -- of the user -- the Native
6 civilization generally recognized man as a part of nature. The
7 two were inseparable. And since the land and the people were
8 merely one, you could allow this area to live by allowing the
9 natural history on the Moose Range to live unmolested and
10 untrammelled by our utilitarian uses of management. This does not
11 mean creating a wilderness area, but recognizing the wilderness
12 character of the land by classifying much of the Moose Range
13 the wilderness area. It is clear that the mountains and rivers
14 and lakes and valleys of the Kenai were part of the Native spirit.
15 A part of the Native's cultural spirit and source, and regardless
16 of the number of Natives alive in Kenai today, we can grant that
17 spirit and source life by declaring a wilderness area large enough
18 to protect the forests and waterways and wild creatures of the
19 Kenai. If we do this we will also be granting life to our own
20 white man's cultural and spiritual source.

21 At the Anchorage Kenai Wilderness Hearing Alaska's Attorney
22 General John Havelock argued for land use planning on the Kenai
23 and elsewhere in Alaska. I agree. Since my wife and child on
24 a Kachemak Bay homestead, and even since I came to Alaska seven
25 years ago there's been a great many changes in the land, on the

1 Kenai and throughout the state. Most of them have been unplanned.
2 Roads, cities, oilfields and many other things which I like --
3 which I like, most people depend on, have appeared. We also, all
4 of us, whether we recognize it or not depend on wilderness country.
5 We depend on it for life's support system in Alaska, and the
6 rejuvenation of renewable resources like trees, fisheries and
7 forest recreation, and also for our spiritual orientation, a need
8 which is often as difficult to recognize and express as it is
9 fundamental. To balance our wilderness needs with our other
10 needs, I think it is essential to approve in concept and adopt the
11 plan of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's proposal
12 for wilderness area on the Kenai National Moose Range. I differ
13 with John Havelock, Attorney General, when he says in Alaska
14 wilderness is not in a precariously short supply. It is the
15 prevailing condition of vast areas of the state. First, in this
16 age of space ship earth we have learned that we cannot pick out
17 one part of our planet and consider it by itself. And considering
18 the earth, let's say just the United States, it is painfully clear
19 that wilderness is in very short supply. And, of course, the
20 Moose Range is Federal land, belonging to all the people of
21 America, owned as much by Nebraskans, South Carolinians as by
22 Alaskans. And, secondly, even within Alaska wilderness is in
23 precarious short supply. Areas designated and protected as
24 wilderness are practically non-existent in Alaska, even though
25 the State's wilderness heritage is greatly treasured by its

1 citizens. There is considerable land in the State which is still
2 wild and natural, even though it's not yet been designated as
3 wilderness. However, when we add up all the forests which are
4 scheduled to be cut, and all the projected roads and all the
5 sought after oilfields and mining operations, we find there is
6 really not an awful amount of land in Alaska which might remain
7 wild.

8 For the Friends of the Earth and Alaska and throughout the
9 world, I want to express support for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries
10 and Wildlife's Kenai Moose Range Wilderness Proposal, and support
11 the additional proposals sought by the Alaska Conservation
12 Society and others, but most of all I want to urge adoption of
13 an attitude and policy which I feel is basic and essential in
14 approaching land use planning on the Kenai and throughout Alaska.
15 The Attorney General stated a need for comprehensive land use
16 planning in Alaska. I think this is an extremely worthy objective.
17 To be comprehensive such planning must include consideration of
18 all public lands. If consideration of this Kenai Wilderness
19 Proposal is to be incorporated in overall land use planning, we
20 should also include all proposals, like Native Land Claims,
21 proposed highways and pipelines, within this planning; to be
22 consistent and effective in such comprehensive planning, all
23 tentatively approved State and selected lands should be included
24 in the planning. It should be considered just as they are called,
25 "tentatively approved." to be completely reviewed and finally .

1 approved or disapproved in comprehensive planning. Naturally,
2 this implies that the State should immediately discontinue land
3 disposal such as new highway right-of-ways and open to entry --
4 and discontinue spending any revenues collected from tentatively
5 approved state lands until such master planning is completed. The
6 Federal Government should then in turn discontinue disposal of land
7 whether by sale or lease, permitted or otherwise, until the
8 planning is completed. The land freeze itself should be continued,
9 not only to the conclusion of the Native Land Claims settlement,
10 by Congress, but throughout the planning period. In context with
11 such planning, wilderness classification should not be so much a
12 designation to be reached after planning, but a factual designation
13 reached at the outset of planning. We must remember that we cannot
14 create a wilderness area. We can only recognize and protect it.

15 Today there is a considerable amount of land in Alaska which
16 is in a state characterized as wilderness. And we should recognize
17 this wilderness as a natural character of the land in respect that
18 all planning proceed in this recognition and respect. All
19 wilderness areas in Alaska, all areas not presently occupied by an
20 on-going private developer should immediately receive this
21 recognition to protect its natural character and integrity. Any
22 change in this status which is in fact the state of the land,
23 would have to be proposed and judged on its merits in perspective
24 with comprehensive and on-going land use planning. Effectively
25 this approach recognizes what we have today and allows us to

1 carefully decide what changes we want to make for tomorrow.

2 In the absence of this approach, which we are now living
3 with, we are using willy-nilly what we have today and are being
4 swept into a future land use situation in which the only thing
5 of which we can be certain is most of what we have today will be
6 changed.

7 As for the Kenai National Moose Range, if we are to attempt
8 this meaningful and comprehensive land planning we must classify
9 all land in the Range which is not directly occupied by develop-
10 ment, such as a private house, or road, or oil production
11 facility, as wilderness or natural area. A proposal for any use
12 of land in the Range would then be proposed through studies and
13 public hearings and judged on its merits. This is what we are
14 considering in this Wilderness Proposal today. Thank you.

15 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Are there
16 any other representatives or organizations who have not yet
17 testified? There being none, we are going to proceed with the
18 testimony of individuals, but prior to beginning that, I have one
19 letter to read into the record from an individual. Addressed to
20 Mr. Gordon W. Watson. 'Dear Mr. Watson: I protest the Andy
21 Simons Wilderness Unit, as I own property on the northeast shore
22 of Tustumena Lake and do not want to be included in the Wilderness
23 Unit.

24 I propose that you withdraw my property from this unit. At
25 this time I would like to go on record that if the Andy Simons

1 Wilderness Unit proposal is approved, that I do not want my
2 property to be acquired by this Act. Sincerely, Francis R. Blake."
3 Tom Corr.

4 MR. TOM CORR: I'm Tom Corr and I am representing
5 myself as an individual. I work for the Kenai National Moose
6 Range, and some of you think I'll be biased, and you're right.
7 I am. But, bear with me.

8 This refuge was set aside in 1941 for the undisturbed --
9 a natural undisturbed refuge of which six units today are being
10 proposed as a wilderness unit. And if these areas become wilder-
11 ness areas, they will not effect the sportsman to a great extent.
12 They will effect motorized vehicles. There will be none. Hunting,
13 fishing, canoeing, camping and all other recreation will be
14 allowed. The main restrictions will be on development and industry.
15 All people will have equal rights in this area.

16 Here are some of the reasons why I'm in favor of the units
17 becoming wilderness areas: One, to preserve a multi-million dollar
18 salmon industry of the Kenai Peninsula. Forty percent of all the
19 salmon on the Peninsula spawn on the Kenai National Moose Range.
20 And you say, "Well, that's all right. That is good. We can take
21 and have our oil wells and whatever and not effect salmon spawning."
22 That may be true. But, if you'll look at the west coast, the east
23 cost, Scotland and some of the northern countries like Finland,
24 wherever there's been industrial development, the salmon have
25 stepped aside and taken a second place.

1 The second thing is, to protect endangered species and
2 all other animals. The trumpeter swan, which was on the endangered
3 list a few years ago, is one of the prime examples. Another animal
4 that is fast becoming extinct and may be on the endangered list
5 is the bald eagle.

6 My next one will surprise some of you. And this is to help
7 the economy. And you say, "What?" And I say, "Yes." You look
8 at towns in Oklahoma and Texas where oil was a big thing. You
9 look at them today, forty years later. What are they? Nothing.
10 Nothing. Poor towns. They can talk about one time when we were
11 rich and a few people did get rich, and a few people in this room
12 got rich too, but that's not everybody. In fact, that is a very
13 few majority.

14 Another thing is we could set aside a reserve for a national
15 emergency if we leave the oil and the minerals here. This is kind
16 of like putting money in the bank, and all of us know that is a
17 good idea. Put money in the bank. That's a good idea. Right?
18 All right.

19 The last is to reserve a place for all of us to enjoy the
20 outdoors with equal rights. And to me -- for a conclusion, I'd
21 like to say, to me the Kenai National Moose Range is like the goose
22 that lays the golden egg. And a lot of us here would like to kill
23 the goose and get all the eggs. The golden eggs. But, it don't
24 work that way. You see, she lays an egg once every year. Her
25 salmon come in and spawn and replonish a multi-million dollar

1 salmon industry of the Cook Inlet. And her moose have calves
2 which grow into big moose and meat for our freezers, and the
3 recreation that all of us will enjoy for years and years to come.
4

5 This refuge and proposed wilderness area will be laying
6 golden eggs long after the oil and minerals would be gone, for my
7 grandchildren's grandchildren and your grandchildren's grandchildren
8 to use, enjoy and love. Thank you.

9 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Corr.
10 James Arness.

11 MR. JAMES ARNESS: I have been a resident of this
12 area for twenty-three years. I am kind of interested in some of
13 these younger people going on about, "Don't have oil. Don't have
14 this. Don't have that." And I couldn't help but look around
15 the room here, if we hadn't had this oil, we wouldn't have a dentist
16 here. We wouldn't need him. Twenty-three years ago we didn't
17 need a dentist. Twenty-three years ago a lawyer would have gone
18 broke in this town. We had possibly three Fish and Wildlife
19 people -- maybe four -- in the summertime. Every one of you is
20 here because of oil. All of your friends are here because of oil.
21 Now, I am not here to defend oil as such, but I don't believe that
22 this should be carried to such an extreme, you know, that we hate
23 that product, because it paid for the seat you're sitting in,
24 indirectly.

25 I can remember back when -- oh, not twenty-three years ago
even, you know, the thought of putting a road in the Moose Range

1 was, you know, pretty terrible. Now, that road got there because
2 Standard Oil had an oil deposit. There was a dollar to be made
3 there. There was a rub off for everyone in this room, and, by
4 golly, they got the road in. Now, the outcome of that road is
5 there is a Swan Lake, there is a canoe trail out there, and every
6 day there is all kinds of people out using that area. It hasn't
7 hurt a thing. I won't say there hasn't been some spills. Maybe
8 there have, I don't know. I don't spend any time right around that
9 drilling area where the work was done, so I can't say. But, there
10 is bound to have been some. Anybody that drinks coffee spills
11 coffee sooner or later.

13 I know that fellow that was up here -- the one before the
14 last -- he was going on about mountain climbers and, you know,
15 everything is nice and -- out in the woods. I wonder if he saw
16 Time magazine, the June 17th or June 21st issue. There was an
17 article in there about the garbage on Mt. McKinley left behind
18 by mountain climbers. They lay it on pretty strong, and personally
19 I don't believe the full article because I think it's been laid on
20 strong, but the gist of it is, these people maintain they were up
21 there. They had to quit at -- oh, at some level. They didn't make
22 it to the top. They turned around and come back and at the 17,000
23 foot level there was so much garbage they couldn't pack it out.
24 Left by climbers previously. Now, this man made the statement that
snowmachiners leave trash out there. I think everybody that goes
out in the woods drops something -- purposely leaves something.

1 And perhaps a snowmachiner does leave something out there. I am
2 a snowmachiner. I am here to speak for them. And after listening
3 earlier I had a presentation, but that long lunch give me a chance
4 to kind of go over it from the hearing this morning.

5 Normally, a public presentation is made in the affirmative
6 manner. When a governmental agency attacks the recreational
7 majority, nothing affirmative can be said. In the last few years
8 our concept of a person being innocent until proven guilty has
9 suffered a severe setback. Our so-called environmentalists and
10 conservationists have taken it upon themselves to point the finger
11 of guilt in all directions, either by direct assault or innuendos.
12 I think some of us saw it here this morning when Mr. Fisher laid
13 it on snowmachines because he knew of eight coyotes that had been
14 run over by them and two wolves. That man is a lawyer. He knows
15 the law better than I do. All he had to do was take and swear
16 out a warrant.

17 I don't back anybody that does harm to animals or anything
18 else, but every time you hear this, I have to take it with a grain
19 of salt. Much the same as I took it with a grain of salt when
20 I read it in Times about that mountain of trash. I don't believe
21 it's right. There was possibly some trash there. And, you know,
22 as Mr. Fisher said, you know, that these snowmachines run over the
23 coyotes. I think I could toss one back that -- probably I am
24 doing the same as he is when I do this, but I would say there is
25 not enough coyotes out there to run over. The campers and the

1 hikers have burned so much of it down there is no room for rabbits
2 and coyotes live off of rabbits. So, you know, I got my lick in
3 there.

4 This is an attempt to show someone guilty -- going back to
5 this people being guilty until they prove themselves innocent.
6 This is an attempt to show someone guilty and place the burden
7 of proof of innocence on the parties involved. Our local
8 conservation group has shamefully accused oil interests in Cook
9 Inlet of vast spillages. Has pointed the finger at snowmachine
10 operators. The Fish and Wildlife Service has blocked a well
11 established trail from north Kenai to Soldotna. They spent and
12 are spending much money to keep snowmachines off the Moose Range,
13 while in Michigan, Wisconsin, New York and other states, money is
14 being spent to improve snowmachine travel in State and National
15 Parks. One figure alone in the State of New York, seventeen percent
16 of all snowmachines are sold -- are sold in the State of New York
17 and they have right at two thousand eight hundred miles of snow-
18 machine trails in the State Parks and National Forests in New York
19 State. Think about that. That is a snowmachine trail almost from
20 here to San Francisco if it was all in one line. Now, that shows
21 what they are doing back there.

22 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been ordered by
23 Congress to review every roadless area of 5,000 acres or more for
24 consideration as a wilderness area. Congress did not mean that Mr.
25 Troyer should spend money to promote a wilderness area. Congress

1 meant that areas that were not being used should be put into
2 wilderness areas before they were used for some other purpose.

3 Mr. Troyer has stated publically that the Caribou Hills
4 has very little snowmobile use. This is untrue. A lie that is
5 meant to sway public opinion for reserving this area. The main
6 reason -- the only reason people go in there is to hunt in the
7 fall and all winter long ride snowmachines. Mr. Troyer has stated
8 publically that moderate use is made of the Elephant Lake area.
9 What does he mean by moderate use? This is another untruth since
10 Mr. Troyer's attempt again is to show little snowmachine use. Mr.
11 Troyer has stated publically that snowmachines are prohibited above
12 timberline because of dangerous snow and storm conditions,
13 particularly on the Harding Icefield. Referring to dangerous
14 conditions on the Harding Icefield is the ultimate in deception.
15 I operated snowmachines on the Icefield last summer. Our main
16 business was with tours from twenty-six different states and they
17 had not one problem. Mr. Troyer has not complied with the orders
18 of Congress and his actions should be investigated. In his
19 capacity in preparing this report he has overlooked the fact that
20 he is a public employee. He has interjected his own philosophy
21 into this which centers on hiking and camping. Mr. Troyer
22 apparently dislikes snowmachines and is apparently using an Act of
23 Congress to pursue his own aims.

24 Only two roads penetrate the existing Moose Range. These
25 roads were built by oil interests and have been truly a benefit to

1 the entire area. If those roads had not been built, that area
2 would have been locked up right now. If Mr. Troyer succeeds in
3 closing these other areas, no more roads will be built. This is
4 truly non-use instead of multiple use of natural resources. Mr.
5 Troyer's campaign has been supplemented by the Kenai Peninsula
6 Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society. This organization
7 stated during the pipeline hearings that -- that is the Prudhoe
8 Bay to Valdez pipeline hearings, that three-tenths of one percent
9 of all product shipped in Cook Inlet had been spilled. This means
10 six hundred barrels a day. Now, the facts bear out that one
11 barrel of oil will create a slick one square mile. Now, this is
12 if it's raw -- or, rather, if it's crude. It won't cover a square
13 mile. If it's diesel it will cover a -- more than a square mile.
14 Now, if they are dumping that much oil they are covering six
15 hundred square miles per day, or another figure for you to think
16 about, this is equivalent to a tanker that can haul two hundred
17 thousand barrels discharging the whole load overboard once a
18 year. Now, the oil companies aren't going to lose that much oil.
19 This is another lie which must invalidate any further statements
20 made by that group as regards this matter..

21 I am not opposed to wilderness areas. I am opposed to
22 people who are in the public trust changing facts to promote
23 personal ideas or gains. Areas that are in public use, that have
24 a historic background of public use, must not be changed to
25 wilderness areas since that is not the intent of Congress. I

1 would suggest Mr. Troyer start over, follow the dictates of
2 Congress and find wilderness areas, but do not convert multiple
3 use sites as he is now promoting.

4 As a final word, many of you remember I was in the
5 snowmachine business. I say I was, because I sold that business
6 about four years ago. I say snowmachines -- I was in the
7 recreation vehicle business. I got into that business because
8 the Kenai Peninsula is the number one recreation place of Alaska.
9 I got into that business because recreation is bigger business
10 than oil. I am not with that organization. I sold it. I am
11 merely speaking as an individual.

12 I'd like to -- I'd like to say one more thing as long as
13 I'm objecting to everything. I would like to place an objection
14 to the Chair for letting so many people from the Conservation
15 Society speak in their behalf, instead of just letting one of them
16 speak and the others wait their turn like the rest of us.

17 MR. PRICE: Your objection was read into the record.
18 Thank you very much for your statement. Emily Benner.

19 EMILY BENNER: My husband and I are here from California
20 on a short vacation, of which we are taking a day out to sit here
21 instead of being out in your beautiful country because of strong
22 feelings of the importance of wilderness. Don't sell it short.
23 Wilderness is the greatest asset you have. In California we know.
24 The population pressures down there are something. But, I've been
25 seeing the population pressures up here. We have been coming up,

1 well, seven or eight years now and it's something. We came down
2 Sunday night and there was really a solid stream of traffic. Lots
3 of campers, trailers, lots of them with boats and canoes on them.
4 We spent last night out at Silver Lake. We counted at least two
5 dozen cars out there in the campground and an average of six
6 parties a day signed into that register at Swan Lake. People
7 are going into the wilderness. This talk of wilderness being
8 limited to a few certainly is not true in California. There are
9 at the moment 2,000 people climbing Whitney a year and they expect
10 it to get up to 4,700 within -- by 1975. That is a fourteen
11 thousand foot peak. In Evolution Valley, two days travel from
12 Road Ends there are three hundred people a day. These are knap-
13 sackers. Families with little children with their sleeping bags
14 and their dehydrated food. You can get in the back country now.
15 You don't -- you don't have to be twenty and strong, an Atlas.

16 We see a big change in life style. Some of this has been
17 mentioned here. It is away from the competitive materialism and
18 toward a mind expansion, a sensitivity towards a human man instead
19 of a technological robot. The times are changing.

20 Alaska represents freedom and expansion, but one man's
21 freedom only goes so far that it doesn't invade another man's
22 freedom. This world is too small to act without considering effect
23 on others. Man has the technological know-how to kill himself off
24 and his whole planet. And that is a big difference.

Man needs wilderness to put himself back in proper

1 relationship to his world. To restore his humility and wonder and
2 awe that comes from being in this terrific country. To explore
3 and expand his physical, mental and moral being. Thank you.

4 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mrs. Benner.
5 Gordon Benner.

6 MR. GORDON BENNER: I am Gordon Benner from Berkeley,
7 California. I am speaking here as an individual, but my views
8 will reflect my association with the Sierra Club. I am on the
9 Outing Committee of the Sierra Club, specifically chairman of the
10 Alaska Outings. I am in charge of all the outings planned by the
11 Sierra Club to Alaska.

12 I am here as a user of wilderness and to tell you what we
13 want to use wilderness. And that I know many people who want to
14 use wilderness. We recognize wilderness values ourselves --
15 myself and the people that I go on trips with, just as the nation
16 has recognized wilderness values in the Wilderness Bill passed in
17 '64 with the support of the Senators and Congressmen from Alaska.

18 We know that in the Lower '48 the wilderness areas are
19 under severe recreation pressures and we need more space. We do
20 look to the wilderness areas of Alaska as a place to come. A Holy
21 Grail as was mentioned at one point.

22 I might mention as a second point some of the economic
23 factors to Alaska involved in these outings. In 1968 the Sierra
24 Club ran a trip into the Kenai that spent some time on the canoe
25 trails and then moved down to the area behind Tustumena Lake.

1 This involved a two week trip. It involved renting canoes, food
2 for a number of people, charter, getting into Tustumena Lake
3 and out. In 1969 we ran a two week trip in the Glacier Bay area
4 chartering a boat. In 1970 again a two week trip in the Glacier
5 Bay area and a two week trip in the Brooks Range area. Again
6 this summer we have a trip in Glacier Bay, in the Brooks Range
7 and starting next Sunday my wife and I will be leading a two week
8 trip in Prince William Sound. On that trip we will be spending
9 between two thousand and twenty-five hundred dollars for charter
10 facilities in Prince William Sound. It could also be mentioned
11 that everybody who comes on our trips to Alaska also frequently
12 spend other time in Alaska traveling around. And all this is part
13 of the tourism economy. I think that recreation is good business,
14 but these people who come from the Lower '48 to Alaska for
15 recreation are looking for wilderness, because that is the unique
16 thing that Alaska has to offer. And I hope you preserve as much
17 as possible. Thank you.

18 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Benner.
19 Mary Evans.

20 MARY EVANS: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, my
21 name is Mary Evans. I live at Box 1621, Star Route A, Anchorage
22 Alaska. I am testifying as an individual.

23 I was at the hearing Wednesday in Anchorage and I am
24 disappointed with some of the things I heard from the leaders of
25 our State. Where has all our idealism gone? I thought it

1 emanated from the wilderness, but we seem to be busy destroying
2 that.

3 The spokesman for the State of Alaska explained that he
4 opposed the establishment of wilderness areas as long as a
5 comprehensive land use plan had not been developed. He did not
6 mention, however, whether the State is working on such a plan,
7 nor has it seemed to me that the lack of that plan has hindered
8 the State's interest in the pipeline.

9 The oil interests have explained that the Wilderness Areas
10 contain valuable oil reserves. Oil is a non-renewable resource.
11 It is going to run out sooner or later. Wilderness is also a
12 non-renewable resource. Why do we have to jeopardize and destroy
13 one resource in order to obtain another resource -- one which we
14 would not need to obtain at all if we began to develop alternatives,
15 such as electric cars?

16 Wilderness, since it can last forever, is going to prove
17 more valuable in the long run than oil, which is quickly used.

18 Several speakers have expressed the view that it would be
19 a great blow to all of Alaska if the Federal Government were
20 allowed to manage our land. I myself am not so sure that this
21 would be a bad thing. So far, Alaska appears to be making the
22 same mistakes the Lower '48 has already experienced, while we should
23 be well aware of the consequences. Why don't we build townhouses
24 instead of creating urban sprawl in Anchorage? Why don't the oil
25 companies save natural gas instead of burning it off in Cook Inlet?

1 At least the Federal Government is aware of the precedents.

2 A speaker today explained that we must remove the resources
3 from the Wilderness Areas in order to provide for future generations.
4 I am a member of one of the future generations, and I would rather
5 have wilderness than minerals and oil that will last only a few
6 decades.

7 Many people, especially representatives of snowmachining
8 interests, feel that wilderness status would close off the area to
9 all but a few "hardy souls." I have seen grandmothers, housewives,
10 mothers with babies on their backs, a friend of mine with a torn
11 muscle in her leg, hordes of children, and young people all in these
12 areas, and none of them have ever seemed to by any the worse for
13 their exposure to solitude, bird songs, peace and solitude. Simply
14 because the majority of the population is overfed and underexercised.
15 does not mean that it is right, and it is certainly not a reason
16 to deny exercise to the rest of the population. It is also not a
17 reason to continue this condition. If everyone gets out and tramps
18 around in the woods, it would not harm anyone, and a few people
19 might discover somethings they did not know existed.

20 This land is not only Alaskan's. It is American's. It
21 belongs also to those children in Harlem who have never seen a
22 mountain; to grandparents in rocking chairs; to all those people
23 who are not Daniel Boone, but who have imagination and who can dream.
24 What would happen to our future Daniel Boones without a trail to
25 blaze? Or to the next generation's Thoreau without a Walden?

1 what would happen to our national spirit with nothing left to
2 dream about? Thank you.

3 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Michael
4 O'Meara.

5 MR. MICHAEL O'MEARA: My name is Michael O'Meara. I am
6 a resident of this state. I am a teacher for the Greater Anchorage
7 Area Borough.

8 On Wednesday of this week I attended the initial hearing
9 on the Kenai Wilderness Proposal and testified on behalf of the
10 Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club, an organization of concerned
11 residents of this state. Today I'd like to submit further testimony,
12 but this time on my own behalf, independent of any organization or
13 group.

14 It's my opinion that this Proposal is well conceived and I
15 favor it in its entirety. Hopefully, additional areas suggested by
16 conservationists for inclusion in the proposal will be given
17 consideration. It is felt that these would help to maintain the
18 integrity of the areas involved and would make long range
19 administration of them more effective.

20 On Wednesday of this week as I heard testimony on this issue
21 it became clear that with one exception what is represented by
22 these hearings and truly at issue in this and similar confrontations
23 is a battle between two opposing value systems. This can be easily
24 observed if one reflects upon the nature of those supporting or
25 opposing either this or other environmental issues.

1 First, let us consider those who oppose it. There is the
2 State of Alaska, understandably concerned with acquiring more
3 lands and through their exploitation, greater revenues. This is
4 the same State Government that once was willing to reduce funds
5 to education while offering to build a multi-million dollar road
6 for industry not even resident to this State. There are various
7 Chambers of Commerce, groups of merchants and professionals
8 devoted understandably to the expansion of opportunities for
9 greater business profits. There are the representatives of

10 mechanized recreation who fear limitation of hobbies in which
11 they have substantial funds invested. Now, let's look at who
12 supports this proposal and others of its kind, not only here but
13 throughout the nation. Individuals and non-profit organizations
14 of citizens who in no way stand to gain financially or politically
15 from such classifications. Men who are students of the biological
16 and social sciences who recognize the potential wealth of
17 knowledge of the psychological, sociological, cultural and
18 physical gains inherent in such areas.

19 Young people are aware of the diminishing open space. They
20 are concerned and in favor also. They're aware of staggering
21 population increases, descimation of wildlife, pollutant
22 concentrations in sea and sky, proliferation of cramped, morally
23 degrading cities and things like Viet Nam. The opposing value
24 system should become clear, personal, financial or political gain
25 for a limited and powerful minority is valued by many of this

1 measure's opponents. While the general enhancement in the quality
2 of life and the maintenance of the maximum of opportunity for
3 intellectual, cultural, aesthetic, spiritual and physical growth
4 and wellbeing for all human beings is valued by many proponents
5 of measures such as this. There's much to be lost or be gained
6 by people holding either value system, but I ask that you attempt
7 to evaluate which can be justified in a nation which claims to
8 be governed by and for all its citizens, young, old, rich, poor,
9 black, red or white. While the value systems I've described seem
10 to be those of direct conflict, I do not wish to imply that all
11 people hold one or the other. It has been my experience that too
12 many in our nation hold no set of values and so are easily
13 manipulated by anyone who's a good enough salesman. This in fact
14 appears to be what has been done for far too long throughout our
15 history and that until recently those people in control of wealth
16 and political power were able to control the population by
17 telling it what to think, how to live and who to dispise. Recent
18 concern on the part of many of the people of this nation over
19 environmental degradation indicates that perhaps this is changing.
20 The whole reason for this current clash between value systems
21 rests with this apparent new consciousness. One can only hope
22 that more people will tire of being exploited and manipulated along
23 with our land.

24 Earlier I spoke of an exception in this war of philosophies.
On Wednesday a woman spoke on behalf of her people, the Native

1 population of this land. Opposition to this proposal was indicated
2 by her, but what she really seemed to oppose was not the concept
3 of wilderness. She asked that we question the justice of our
4 deliberations over a land which is in essence taken from a people
5 without compensation. I cannot see how this can be justified.

6 The original American was pushed into places that no one
7 else desired, but not annihilated. And anyone today who pleads
8 for wilderness must feel an affinity and a responsibility to
9 these people. It is my hope that in the final classification of
10 this and other lands as wilderness, thorough consideration be
11 given to the needs and the rights of these Native people.

12 It is my hope also that conservationists and the Native
13 people throughout this country recognize and work together for
14 those things which they both value.

15 In the foregoing it has been my aim to clarify the essence
16 of the debate over wilderness. While there may not be a right or
17 a wrong position, there are two basic philosophical views
18 represented and each must attempt to find justification within
19 the framework of our political system, our national morality and
20 our times. As stated, I favor this proposal for wilderness
21 classification and so I reject as unjust, archaic and incompatible
22 with democratic government and our times a concept of financial
23 or political gain, or recreational license of the few at the
24 expense of the many.

25 In my closing remarks I'd like to offer evidence of the need

1 for the classification of this and other areas as wilderness by
2 the Federal Government. Since becoming a state, Alaska has had
3 difficulty dealing with the responsibilities of statehood, growth
4 and development have been viewed as a panacea for our problems,
5 and this, I feel, has somehow caused many of us to overlook the
6 real assets of this harsh land. As well as our reasons for coming
7 here in the first place. While some came only to make their
8 fortune, I can't help but feel that most came here for wilderness,
9 it's freedom and solitude as well. It seems, however, that those
10 who came for fame have gained control of the State Government and
11 now pursue the old ways that have indisputably laid waste to
12 most of our earth. Upon reflection, past and present action by
13 the State Government should give clear indication that if given
14 its way, the wealth of our nation's last wild land would be
15 quickly removed from the hands of the citizenary and apportioned
16 to the minority. now in possession of wealth and political power.

17 The Federal Government is our only hope for sane management
18 of unspoiled lands in Alaska. It has been said by some in the
19 State's business community that to restrict commercial development
20 in any way is not in the best interest of the people. It seems
21 that this was said when labor unions first began to form. When
22 men worked a sixteen hour day, six or seven days a week. When the
23 company store made over three hundred percent profit on those
24 forced to buy there. When women and children worked along with men
25 for a fraction of the pay. When no compensation was given for

injury on the job and when a man like Jay Goule could say, "The public be damned." Let us question the motive of business. The people testifying for mechanized recreation seem to oppose wilderness on the grounds that it will somehow limit to a minority those who will benefit from the area. The intimation was that few Americans are ambulatory and that anyone that has a substantial sum can invest in a vehicle designed only for recreation. The great number of snowmachines, all terrain vehicles and four-wheel drive automobiles and trucks in ownership in local Boroughs was cited as a reason against wilderness classification. And I'd like to quote from testimony made. "In a study just completed we've determined through the Department of Revenue, that is, motor vehicles, and local dealers that there are in the Mat Su, Greater Anchorage and Kenai Boroughs over 25,000 registered snowmachines, plus another 48,000 unregistered, approximately 10,000 four-wheel drive vehicles, 9,700 motorcycles and 2,000 dune buggies, ATV's and track vehicles other than snowmachines. With a total of 166,000 persons living in these areas according to the official census, the ratio of mechanized off-the-road vehicles to population is 1 to 1.77. That is, for every 1.77 persons in this area there is one off-the-road mechanized recreational vehicle, not including powered boats." If anything, I would think that the thought of upward of 103,000 mechanical beasts chewing away across the Moose Range would be magnificent justification for wilderness, notwithstanding other considerations. In the same testimony it was

1 suggested that -- and I would like to quote again -- "Furthermore,
2 we believe that hikers, cross country skiers, canoers, etc., can
3 enjoy these lands together with all other factions without
4 destroying the topography and wilderness image if a careful program
5 of planning is implemented."

6 This is tantamount to saying that while no areas should
7 be excluded from mechanized recreation, no place should be provided
8 for those people seeking relief from an over mechanized world.
9 This is the type of thinking that might maintain that all city
10 traffic, that is, automobiles, trucks, pedestrians and even
11 aircraft, might mingle on the same street surface.

12 In summary, I'd like to ask that you please consider the
13 source of the opposing views of this measure. Weigh their obvious
14 motives against the human needs of this State, our nation and
15 the world. Consider that the environment upon which we all depend
16 for our very existence has almost been destroyed. Try to see
17 that with you rests some hope for us and our children. Please
18 classify and protect this land wilderness for the benefit of all
19 of us. Alaska's Native people, the conservationists, the sportsmen,
20 the business men. We all need this. Thank you.

21 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. George
22 James.

23 MR. GEORGE JAMES: Mr. Hearing Officer, ladies and
24 gentlemen, I am George James, a private citizen. I feel like a
25 lamb in a wolf's den. The last time that I came to a meeting that

1 approached anything like this was at a school hearing. I went
2 there to ask a few questions. I almost got throw out.

3 I live here in Kenai. The first thing I would like to do
4 is welcome all those people that came so many miles to help make
5 a decision on land that effects us all. I have seen people from
6 California and many of our other states, and I welcome you to
7 Alaska.

8 I first came to Alaska in 1928. I was just about big enough
9 to put in some of your pockets. And except for ten years when I
10 was a very young boy, I have lived in Alaska ever since. About
11 thirty-five years. I feel very qualified to talk as an Alaskan
12 for Alaska. Most of this thirty-five years that I've spent in
13 Alaska has been not living in the cities. For many years I worked
14 in the construction business building roads through our wilderness.
15 Roads that so many of you in this room deplore today. Roads
16 that have made it possible for you to come here. Made it possible
17 for the gas and oil that's being exploited out from underneath
18 the Kenai Peninsula today.

19 However, in having lived so near this wilderness and within
20 it for many years, I have to agree that setting aside wilderness areas
21 and a great many of them in many large acres has to be done, if,
22 and only if, that is the highest use of that land. If it is not
23 the highest use of that land, then it's pure folly.

24 As to the proposed wilderness areas, I do not feel that
there's been enough thought and study gone into this proposal to

1 make a decision that concerns over one million acres of public
2 land. I have watched a half a million acres burn on the Kenai
3 Peninsula -- or very near it -- in 1947. I was as near as from
4 here to that chair from the place where it started from another
5 man's cigarette. And it ruined or nearly ruined a half a million
6 acres. You can do the same thing in this room today. You can
7 ruin land by the improper use of it. Already about sixty percent
8 of the Kenai Peninsula has been placed under some form of
9 governmental control. Myself and many others feel that control
10 exists today to preserve the land for future generations. I am
11 told by the Fish and Wildlife Service -- no discredit to those
12 gentlemen that do the job there -- they do a fine job, but I am
13 told what I can do on that land, how I can do it, when I can do
14 it and exactly where I can do it. What more do you ask?

15 As to the specific areas the proposal encompasses. It's
16 been well conceived to lock up a major portion of the Kenai
17 Peninsula for the use of a few rather than the many. It's been
18 alluded that this is an untrue statement. That this makes it
19 available for many. True. It does. But, there is many people
20 that don't want to go out there. In excess of eighty percent of
21 the people don't want to go into your wilderness and I think you
22 better consider those people.

23 Alaska has many areas that are as suitable for wilderness
24 as the Kenai Peninsula. And I have seen it from the Aleutian
Islands to near Fairbanks. There is an area -- and I'm going to

1 digress from my written statement here -- there is an area on
2 Omnak Island -- the fact is, it would be the northeastern half
3 of Omnak Island, an area about forty miles long and somewhere
4 around thirty-five miles wide, that is as beautiful an area as
5 you ever hoped to see. It is something that probably not over
6 another person in this room has seen. It should be made a
7 wilderness. It is volcanic in origin. One of the largest volcanic
8 craters in the world on it. Something that compares favorably
9 and compares with the Grand Canyon and the giant redwoods of
10 California.

11 I feel that areas within the State that are suitable for
12 wilderness areas should be set aside as rapidly as the proper
13 studies that can determine that this is the highest use of that
14 land can be made. How can you or anybody else say that this
15 wilderness land is the best use when it may -- it may be, and I'm
16 not saying that it is and I'm not defending anybody, but it may
17 be locking up one of the largest gas fields in the world. We don't
18 know that it is not. We only know that it could be locking it up
19 for -- and you say, "Sure. During a national emergency we can
20 unlock it." Baloney. They don't unlock anything once it gets
21 locked up. It stays locked up. The high quality product that
22 comes from the Kenai gas can protect vast areas of the nation from
23 the high air pollution that it now enjoys. I am sure they must
24 enjoy it. They keep doing it all the time. One of the most
25 effective ways of combating air pollution is to use a high quality

1 gas. The highest quality gas in the world comes from the Cook
2 Inlet area. You want to lock it up. Breathe your air in Los
3 Angeles. I don't mind. I'd rather have the wilderness in Alaska.

4 I do not, and I don't think anyone here in Alaska, is
5 advocating the placing of any of the Kenai Moose Range in private
6 hands, but what I do advocate is to maintain a status quo until
7 at least the following conditions are met; (1) The Native Land
8 Claims are settled. If our Native people have any claim to any
9 of this land, that should be considered prior to anything else.
10 They were here before us. You can argue that they weren't, but
11 check on your birth date and you'll find out that you're not right.
12 You can be assured that they do not intend to spoil it. They have
13 been here for 10,000 years. It's their home. I'm married to one
14 of them and dog gone proud of it. They are not going to spoil
15 this land. (2) Detailed studies have been conducted to determine
16 just what is the best use of not only the proposed wilderness
17 areas, but of the entire Moose Range. Any study group -- pardon
18 me. Any study group should be independent of the controlling
19 agency and should be required to consult all interested groups.
20 For an example, the Borough, the State, the Native groups, cities,
21 conservation groups. I'd like to point out that the testimony
22 given here today by the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Club, Friends
23 of the Earth and the Kenai Conservation Society point out a
24 difference of opinion with that of the Fish and Wildlife Service.
or Not that there is anything wrong with a difference of opinion. It

1 happens with my boss all the time and I'm still working for him.
2 However, if there is a difference of opinion between these people,
3 and all of them wish to save the land -- if there is this difference
4 of opinion, why does it exist? I am saying that you haven't
5 studied it enough. I am saying you don't know enough of the
6 answers. How can you say that over a million acres here is
7 absolute wilderness -- the best use of this land? It may not be.

8 My third point, I think the status quo should be maintained
9 until a firm and irreversable plan to utilize -- or, of utilization
10 for the entire Moose Range is made. And I say irreversable in that
11 the rules used to control the area should be made a part of the
12 legislation creating the area. You say the wilderness area will
13 not effect your flying over the area. You can always do that.
14 But, you're just saying it. You don't -- you don't know that
15 future groups just as yourselves might stop the flying or the
16 horses or the walking or anything in that land. I think it should
17 be irreversable. If you're going to create a wilderness area,
18 create the controls that go along with it so that they cannot be
19 reversed. If you say you're going to be able to use motorboats
20 on Tustumena Lake, let's put it in a legislative thing so the
21 Congress of the United States has to look at it before that right
22 can be taken away.

23 In addition, I would like to state that if land in Alaska
24 is going to be set aside for the utilization of the people of the
United States, that the people of Alaska should have a firm voice

1 in the management of that land. We have had management from afar
2 since 1867. It's too doggone long. It might be pointed out that
3 I have not pressed specifically anything other than a detailed
4 study of the problems confronting us here today. I do not
5 advocate using the Moose Range for the use of the oil industry
6 or the snowmachine operator or the motorboat operator or the
7 wilderness hiker unless that is the most or the highest use of
8 that land. The land belongs to all of us. Let us plan to use
9 it wisely or we shall all suffer from the non-use or misuse of
10 this our greatest natural resource. Thank you very much.

11 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. I am going
12 to call a ten minute recess.

13 (Whereupon a recess was taken for ten minutes.)

14 MR. PRICE: We are about to begin the hearing if
15 everyone will come in and be seated. Stephen Smith.

16 MR. STEPHEN SMITH: My name is Stephen Smith. I am
17 speaking as an individual. I am a commercial salmon fisherman
18 from Cordova and a resident of Alaska for eleven years. This is
19 the first hearing of this sort I've ever attended and it's been
20 most interesting.

21 It is rather apparent to me that there is a lot of
22 difference of opinion, of course. I've traveled over a good part
23 of Alaska and a good part of the world and Alaska is one of the
24 most beautiful places I've ever seen anywhere. I came up here
25 right after I got out of college in 1960, for the summer, because

1 I wanted to see a land, having grown up in Illinois, that hadn't
2 been manipulated to quite such a great extent as Illinois had been
3 by man. All of our rivers had been dredged and straightened for
4 their highest use, and we've got carp and very little native
5 land forms. And there were no tall grass prairies, no parks where
6 you could go see what the prairies looked like before the farms
7 came, and that always bothered me a lot. I thought, "Well, gee,
8 if I could go to Alaska. It's a frontier, it's a wilderness,
9 there will be virgin forests and wild animals -- animals that
10 haven't been transplanted from other countries and other lands
11 and there will be a lot." And I got up here and I found out that
12 it was even more spectacularly beautiful than I'd thought. And the
13 people were very friendly, and it was an interesting and exciting
14 place. And I stayed the winter and before long I couldn't conceive
15 of living anywhere else. For the past eight years I've been
16 fishing out of a little village about 150 miles east of here
17 called Cordova and this has been my source of income. Grew up on
18 a farm and it's quite a transition, but Alaska has been good to
19 me and I realize that we all need a way to make a living. And
20 fishing turned out to be mine. But, I'm a little disturbed at
21 some of these long time Alaskan's attitude about the highest use
22 or -- I don't know where they got their rub off for this oil money
23 when he said everybody in the room had his. Well, I sure never
24 got mine. Maybe that's how he made his living. He never did say.
25 But, a lot of these old time Alaskans really surprised me today,

1 because I thought they of all the people here would be in favor
2 of setting aside some of these areas as wilderness areas.

3 I know one of my first experiences when I was hunting moose
4 this fall, I walked up the Juneau Creek Trail, and I thought, "Gee,
5 this is neat, birds singing, quiet and wild and peaceful, and here
6 come a motorcycle roaring out." And I thought, "Well, it sure
7 would have been a lot nicer if that motorcycle hadn't have been
8 there." Now, I've got nothing against snowmachines or motorcycles
9 or any of those kind of vehicles and I think they should have a
10 place to hunt, or to ride around or to race or whatever they want
11 to do. And I enjoy riding snowmachines. But, it's just like
2 living in a big city. You can't have industrial development in
13 your areas where you live. You have to zone it. And evidently
14 that's the same thing we're going to have to do here in Alaska.

15 I've noticed over the years a greater conflict when we go
16 hunting of airplanes flopping down in front of you if you hike
17 in, or weasels or other kinds of vehicles racing around, and a
18 terrific increase. We used to be able to snowshoe across Thompson
19 Pass up there and hunt ptarmigan and do pretty good, because most
20 people wouldn't go to the trouble. It's only about a half mile or
21 less. Now, they're racing around in there every weekend with
22 snowmobiles and you'd probably get run over. Well, that's fine.
23 It's a good place for them. We can hunt ptarmigan somewhere else.
24 But, it's extremely apparent that all these uses are not compatible.
25 As Alaska develops, we have to start zoning Alaska. There's got to

1 be places where the airplane hunters can fly in and there's got to
2 be places for the guys with their track vehicles and there have
3 to be places for the fellows that like to walk in. I think this
4 is what's going on here on the Moose Range. These gentlemen today
5 would like to zone some of our areas for wilderness, to eliminate
6 some of the types of method of entry. I think this is good.
7 Whether exactly all of them are completely right -- I know the
8 Kenai Peninsula pretty well and I think the Andy Simons Area is
9 especially good. I've been on the canoe trails system and I think
10 probably there also -- it's kind of unfortunate to be canoeing
11 along and portage over the thing and get your canoe and then an
12 airplane lands in front of you. So, this attempt to set aside
13 some of these areas here on the Kenai -- and I've been over most
14 of Alaska, and this is one of the most spectacularly beautiful
15 and productive of wildlife of all the areas in Alaska. And I
16 think this is why that I think these areas, especially the Andy
17 Simons Area, the sample out there in the flatlands, are probably
18 as important as any areas in Alaska. They are close in to centers
19 of population. People who are poor, like I was when I got up
20 here, can drive down the road and hike up into a wilderness area.
21 Now, I might not have enough money to fly out to Omnak and walk
22 around out there in that wilderness area. No reason why maybe it
23 shouldn't be a wilderness area, but I'd like to have a few
24 wilderness areas in close so that I can get into them, and a lot
25 of other people maybe feel the same way.

1 I think this is fairly apparent . And I'm going to make my
2 talk very short. I know those of us who live in Cordova now are
3 involved in -- our fisheries union is involved in a big hassle
4 about this oil pipeline thing and we're not looking forward to all
5 this inevitable oil spillage. I know when I rode in the plane
6 from Anchorage to Cordova this spring, there was the headlines --
7 a picture in the Daily News that said, "Two tankers collided in
8 the Persian Gulf." And we see enough of this in the headlines
9 every day to assure us that regardless of what E.L. Patton and
10 a few of the other fellows say about how safe they're going to
11 make it, we know it's not safe now and it sure doesn't look like
12 it's getting any safer very fast. I know the fellows in Cordova
13 are all pretty worried about the salmon runs there, about the
14 ocean pollution that will almost inevitably will result because
15 of this, and I think it's time that a lot more Alaskans started
16 looking around and examining why we live here. What are our
17 values for living here in Alaska? Sure, I drive a car, put gasoline
18 in it. Maybe I should put a little less in it, then I wouldn't
19 create so much smog. And maybe we'll all be doing some of those
20 things in the future. We're all just starting to catch on now.
21 None of us are perfect.

22 But, I think this is one of the important steps in the
23 right direction to start zoning many of our areas. Our national
24 wild lands are important, I think, to most of us here in Alaska.
25 They are important to the people from the rest of the United States.

1 Often we think of Alaska as belonging exclusively to us, the
2 people that live here. That's really not true. You'll remember
3 it's the Federal Government that put out the money to buy Alaska
4 or we wouldn't have it. And they have lands here that they are
5 managing for the best interest, hopefully, of all the people of
6 the United States. And I hope that a lot of us will stand behind
7 some of these proposals. If you think they're wrong, fine, have
8 your say. But, I'd like to go on record as saying that I'm in
9 favor of these wilderness areas on the Kenai National Moose Range
10 and I hope we'll have several more in the future coming up for
11 classification like this. Because we do need to start setting
12 Alaska aside for definite uses like this or we are going to end
13 up looking like Pittsburg, Pennsylvania where I spent a couple
14 weeks this winter, and that's not a very bright prospect. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Mr. Smith.
17 Lynn Hoffler.

18 LYNN HOFFLER: My name is Lynn Hoffler and I am a
19 student and a resident of Tokyo, Japan. And I am in Alaska on a
20 short visit and became involved in the Kenai Wilderness Proposal
21 because the family that I'm staying with is very highly involved.
22 And I had an opportunity to take a four day canoe trip into the
23 canoe system which is part of the wilderness proposal. And it was
24 really great, because after being in Tokyo for nine months I had
25 a chance to unwind, you know, after the pressures of the city,

1 the people, the concrete, and it was just really great to get back
2 to the green trees and seeing fish jumping out of lakes and being
3 able to slap a mosquito. And I was also really impressed with
4 just the variety of scenes that you could see by sitting in one
5 place and looking around. You could see snow covered mountains
6 and look down and see bugs on the ground. It was just good to
7 know that things like that still exist.

8 Like I said, after being in Tokyo it was really, really
9 great. And also the animals, like when I was canoeing a lake with
10 some friends, there was -- we saw a moose on the shoreline with
11 three children. And what really amazed me was that they weren't
12 afraid of us and we could paddle in close and they just stood there
13 looking at us. And it just didn't seem to matter to them. I
14 couldn't help but wonder what would happen if we were in an
15 outboard motor boat or anything else that would have invaded the
16 wilderness.

17 And to me Alaska -- my memories of Alaska and what I will
18 tell people when I get back home is about the wilderness and what
19 I saw and what I experienced. And I think that a lot of people
20 look forward to going to Alaska to see just this. Like when I was
21 in Japan, I was talking to a lot of kids and they were saying,
22 "Boy, I sure wish I could get away from this place." And they
23 just take it for granted that there is a place to get away to. And
24 to them, you know, they just expect the place to be there and
25 hopefully it will. And hopefully this wilderness will remain a

1 a wilderness so that other visitors to Alaska can come up and
2 experience the same things that I have. Thank you.

3 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Miss Hoffler.
4 Leslie Watson.

5 LESLIE WATSON: My name is Leslie Watson and I'm a
6 twelve year resident from Anchorage. And I was born and raised
7 here and when I was eleven I moved to Michigan and onto Washington,
8 D.C. And about the only thing I could think about during my spare
9 time was how I could get back to the mountains. And they were
10 always there and I could always dream about them because they were
11 there. And I think that this proposal is not for you people. It's
12 for the animals that are there. It's for the loons and moose and
13 cubs and whatever else is in there. And while the business men
14 are talking money, I am talking life. And I don't want it taken
15 away from me or the animals. And when I go to sleep at night, I'd
16 like to have a little peace of mind knowing that the animals are
17 there and they are happy and they are enjoying themselves as much
18 as I do.

19 When I went into the canoe system just this past week I had
20 an opportunity to be about twenty yards from a moose. It was
21 across the stream from me. And we just kind of looked at each
22 other and nothing happened. We just kind of expected each other
23 to be there. And it is just natural that we were there, you know.

24 And there are three main reasons why I like the wilderness.
25 It is uncompromising within itself, it is extremely selfish and

1 third of all, it doesn't lower itself for humans, meaning that
2 it doesn't want to give way for them. It doesn't want to have
3 to move its migration paths and its -- just so we can get our
4 snowmachines and our motorboats in there. Let's see, two years
5 ago my father and I went on a hike. It is not in the wilderness
6 area, but we went on a hike and we just climbed all the way up a
7 mountain. And we were on our way back down and we saw two mini-
8 trail bikes coming up towards us. It ruined our day. And I would
9 hate to have this same kind of thing happen in the wilderness area.

10 Since the proposed Kenai Wilderness Area is about twenty-five
11 hundredths of the total area of Alaska, why can't the snowmachines
12 go someplace else where it's already wrecked up and snow covers
13 where it's been wrecked. And they don't need new trails, do they?
14 I mean, do they have to plunge into everything and ruin everything
15 just for themselves? I want the animals to be there so that even
16 if I'm not living, I want them to be there for as long as they can
17 stay. Thank you.

18 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement, Miss Watson.
19 Mavis Davidson.

20 MAVIS DAVIDSON: My name is Mavis Davidson. I live
21 near Anchorage with my husband and two small children. We spend
22 much time camping, taking pictures and hiking on the Kenai
23 Peninsula. I was born here and I have spent most of the twenty-
24 nine years I have lived in Alaska growing up on a homestead in
25 Kachemak Bay not far from the proposed Andy Simons Wilderness Area.

1 I have come to know the land very intimately through the years.
2 Studied the birds, flowers, animals, explored the woods, tried
3 to discover some of the mysteries of nature here in Alaska that
4 are so special.

5 Having grown up here in the days when most of the Kenai
6 was still a wild land, I have not had much need or opportunity
7 to visit the particular area under proposal, but it no doubt
8 represents this whole country the way it was even before I came
9 here. Many changes have happened in twenty-nine years on the
10 Kenai. I remember when there wasn't even a gravel road to Anchorage
11 from Homer, before the great Kenai burn, before the roar of jets
12 and snowmachines. Only the sound of an occasional bush plane
13 broke the vast silence and it was then a welcome sound. We
14 welcomed the power lines, the access roads, the bulldozers hewing
15 back the wilderness. The opportunity to hunt and fish anywhere,
16 the economic growth, we looked forward to greater ease and comfort.
17 And in the mad rush many of us had no time to look around and
18 enjoy what we did have and what we were rapidly losing, because
19 we felt it was boundless. Finally here today people are looking
20 around and asking themselves, "Are all these developments
21 necessities or are there more essential things we are sacrificing?"

22 I'd like to say I am one of those who having grown up
23 in this manner with freedom to chop down any tree anywhere, I am
24 now able to say my priorities have changed. I'd rather see a
25 wild animal walking through my yard than go after it with a gun.

1 I need to know, as millions of Americans who own that piece of
2 Federal Land, that the moose, the sheep, that wild loon crying
3 on a lonely lake, that salmon leaping in far off streams, are
4 simply there doing their own things as they have known best for
5 thousands of years. A beautiful wilderness as opposed to a planned
6 recreational facility is that it can mean anything to anyone.
7 Each person can see and feel and use what he needs at his own
8 speed, in his own time, in his own personal way. It is one of
9 the few intimate relationships left for man to have of his earth,
10 of his beginning. Some people, like myself, do not need to drive
11 right up to each beautiful place before we can enjoy it, nor need
12 to touch it or photograph everything to have it real. Just to
13 know it's there gives me sustenance and sense of security. It's
14 like an open door I may never walk through, but just knowing that
15 I'm free to go through it when I need to makes me feel less
16 stifled in the big city. Gives many people a dream and actually
17 keeps them alive, making life worthwhile just to know it's there.

18 I feel this proposal -- proposed wilderness area is such
19 an open door. A unique opportunity. Once it is shut on us, once
20 different sections of the area are subdivided for special multiple
21 interests, the door is shut forever and with it the ever precious
22 freedom. But, I hope we won't look at this wilderness just from
23 the standpoint of what will benefit people the most, or even
24 something that man can use, use, use. But, more importantly from
25 the standpoint of the things that are already living there and need

1 the land just like it is. I don't care if I never get into -- set
2 foot in that wilderness for my enjoyment, because I enjoy more
3 the thought that the creatures are loved there and undisturbed
4 my the presence of people. They have a need for a place to live
5 and die in peace. We can show our true love for Alaska by
6 wanting to preserve a part of it just for its own sake, and
7 because this area is truly representative of the Kenai Peninsula
8 and it is typically Alaskan, I want to preserve it for future
9 generations and for all living things. To me to preserve is
10 to look ahead --- far ahead. It is not turning back the clock
11 like so many of my fellow Alaskans, and especially the State.

12 The wilderness has given me many things. Having had a rare
13 opportunity to experience firsthand the essence of the wilderness,
14 which many people can only dream of experiencing, I feel like I
15 must endorse the proposed wilderness so that others can have the
16 same opportunity. Thank you.

17 MR. PRICE: Thank you for your statement. Is there
18 anyone else in the auditorium who desires to make a statement?
19 There being none, what I am going to do now is open up the panel
20 to questioning. The only request that I have is that the question
21 which you may ask be pertinent to the subject of the Kenai
22 Wilderness Proposal and that it relate to a clarification of the
23 proposal and that you identify yourself before you ask the
24 statement. Are there any questions? There being none, it now
25 becomes my duty -- pardon me.

1 RUTH MCHENRY: Ruth McHenry, Seward. I want to ask
2 about the policy of trails in wilderness areas. Does the Forest
3 Service -- will the Forest Service plan and build trails within
4 a wilderness area, or is it the intention to leave it totally as
5 it is?

6 MR. WATSON: I don't know what the Forest Service
7 will do, but I might tell you what some of our plans are in
8 Sport Fish and Wildlife. In some areas like the Andy Simons area
9 and the canoe system, if it were included and expanded, we
10 probably would brush out additional portages simply so people
11 would know where to go. We also -- our policy is that we can
12 mark and locate access routes into the areas that people probably
13 would want to get into. These have to be primitive in nature. I
14 mean, you know, we can't build a steel bridge across a gorge. We
15 could build a log or rustic type bridge, something on that order.
16 Basically for a matter of safety. So, yes, we are going to build
17 trails, limited in number. This map shows, if you're interested
18 later on, where they are proposed.

19 JACK HESSION: At the Anchorage hearing the Highway
20 Department surprised me with two new road proposals that I hadn't
21 heard of before. Could you indicate on that map roughly where
22 they would go on the Andy Simons Unit? One referred to the
23 Russian River-Resurrection Creek drainage and the other was
24 the Tustumena Lake Loop Road. Do you know anything about those
25 proposed routes?

1 MR. WATSON: I think what they were referring to in
2 the Tustumena Lake Loop Road was this road that we show on our
3 map now. They have proposed a road down the Russian River
4 drainage. It's been shown several different ways by different
5 people, sometimes going down this way and the other day they
6 mentioned that they considered this a possibility, going this
7 way. And that is what he was talking about. That is coming
8 from Seward through.

9 MR. PRICE: Are there any further questions?

10 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: I don't know who to direct
11 this to. When Mr. Navare was talking, he was saying something
12 about it would hinder the progress of the Fish and Wildlife
13 study areas. How would that -- do you know what he was talking
14 about? How would that -- how could the proposed wilderness --
15 I don't know what he was talking about there. He's not here to
16 answer the question, but would that mean that there would be
17 limited air travel in there so that they couldn't make their
18 studies? A lot of their studies now have been through air travel.
19 Do you know what I'm talking about?

20 MR. WATSON: I can't recall his testimony specifically
21 at this time. Do you remember what he was talking about? I
22 would answer your question this way though, if it was an allusion
23 to reducing the capabilities of Fish and Wildlife Service, it is
24 true in wilderness areas if they're so classified, that we cannot
25 use snowmachines or mechanized vehicles or things which are

1 excluded from use by the public for administrative convenience.
2 In other words, the same regulations applied against use to the
3 public basically apply against our use for the same purpose. So,
4 if the public had to walk into here for their enjoyment, we also
5 would have to walk in to make our studies. We just couldn't go
6 in in an airplane and do it. We live by the same rules.

7 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Would this limit the studies
8 or hinder them in any way?

9 MR. WATSON: No, I don't believe it would.

10 MR. PRICE: Are there any further questions? There
11 being none, it now becomes my duty to close the hearing. Before
12 doing so, let me remind you that the hearing record will be kept
13 open until July 26th, 1971, for filing of written statements or
14 other material. While the Department of Interior invites written
15 expression on this Wilderness Proposal at any time, in order to
16 be made a part of the official hearing record all written
17 expressions must be in the office of the Area Director, Bureau
18 of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Anchorage, Alaska, by July 26th,
19 1971. After that date written advice should be sent to the
20 Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, or the Director
21 Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. Also,
22 anyone wishing a copy of the transcript should make personal
23 arrangements with the Reporter.

24 I wish to thank everyone for their cooperation given
25 during this hearing.

1 Since there is nothing further in connection with this
2 hearing and no more testimony or evidence to be offered, the
3 hearing stands adjourned. Thank you.
4
5
6
7
8

9 END OF PROCEEDINGS
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25




1
2 I, Frederick B. Jones , Notary Public and Verbatim
3 Reporter for the B & I Court Reporting Service, 401 K Street,
4 Anchorage, Alaska, do hereby certify:

5
6 That on the 25th day of June, 1971 , at the hour of
7 9:00 a.m. , the aforementioned matter was reported by me in
8 Stenograph machine shorthand and thereafter reduced to the
9 typewritten record.

10 That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript
11 of the proceedings had in the aforementioned matter.

12
13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
14 affixed my notarial seal this 2nd day of August, 1971..

15
16
17
18 
19 My commission expires 12/27/71

Andy Anderson
8113 Cork Road
Yale, Michigan
48097

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star Rte A
Anchorage Alaska
99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area. For when I grow up there won't be any wilderness and if this proposal goes through and Kenai Peninsula is left to be a wilderness many people will be grateful in years to come.

Respectfully yours,
Andy Anderson

Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a Wilderness Area.

The reason why I am writing this is because, I think we need someplace in the United States for our animals. So they can run free. And we need a place where there won't be any people causing pollution with their big factories, cars and roads.

Yours Truly,
Brenda Anderson

May 12, 1971

Dear Lou

I will support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

The reason why I am supporting this, is because I hate to see man spoil the beautiful wilderness and pollute the air.

Sincerely
Mr. Karl

Backstrom

5 PARK AVE

Yale, Michigan

P.S. I hope we make it.

Miss Joane Baird
8860 Owens RD
Gale, Michigan
48097

May 11, 1971

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star Rte A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to
make part of the Kenai Peninsula a
wilderness area.

I am afraid that there will
be no wilderness for the animals. I
live in Michigan and there is no wilderness.

Respectfully yours,
Miss Joane Baird

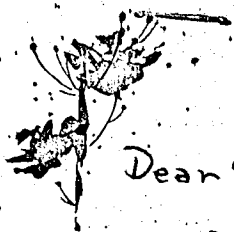
Dear Sir

I support the proposal to make part of the Renal Peninsula in the "wilderness" area.

Steven Becktel live at 665 Emmette Rd. Gale Michigan.
Zip 48097.

My reason is one of the days I might as show or one of my grandchildren might go there someday.

May 13, 1971



Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness Area". I think it should be a wilderness area because I like it where you can go and see how America was before all the trees and shrubbery and animals were cut down or killed. I also hope to have children and grandchildren and hope they can see how it was long ago too.

Thank you,
Miss Barbara Bertram
113 E Mechanic Street
Yale, Michigan
48097

Dear Sir,

Nancy Boike
116 Mary Street
Yale, Michigan
49097

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Pen. into a "Wilderness Area," for these reasons: I would like to keep a part of this country from becoming overgrown with manmade buildings, and crowded cities, I may not every see this Wilderness Area but to know that there is a place filled with only nature will make many people happy. Sincerely Nancy.

Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal to make
part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a wilderness area.

Because:

I like camping, fishing, hunting, and
canoeing. And I like the smell of the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Mr. Duane Brown
9753 Avoca Road
Avoca, Michigan
48006

Dear Sir;

I support the Proposal to
Make Part of the Kenai Peninsula
in to a "Wilderness" Area.
Because with out this Wilderness
We would never see how
this land was.
Unless Other people would
like to see it broken down
and Polluted!

Mr. Jerry Braun
8985 Winn RD
Brown City, Mich
ZIP 48416

May 12, 1971

Mr. Gene Kivaluk
Box 404B
Star Rt. A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal to make part of the
Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness Area. Because:

1. I like fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, and swimming
in clean waters.
2. I like animals.
3. I like the outdoors.

Sincerely,
Mike Campbell
8210 Duce Rd.
Yale, Michigan
48097

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula in to a wilderness area. The reason I would like this is that there is not many place you can go anymore where is not litter or pollution and it would be great to visit a place that was untouched by man and I would like the fishing area.

Mr. Brian Carrier
7090 Fargo Rd.
Avoca, Michigan.

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness" Area.

Here are my reasons: I don't think that it's right for any man to try and kill something put on this earth that has just as much a right to be here as anything else. I think it's about time that man wants to conserve wildlife instead of killing everything in sight.

Myself, I love all animals and I think it's awful to take its home just to make yours better.

Man doesn't need this land either! Not as much as the animals do.

Man isn't as desperate as he thinks he is. The animals are desperate.!!!!

Sincerely Yours,

Miss Mary Lou Carter
10592 Gale Rd.
Yale, Mich.

48097

Mr. Vincent Christopher,
11323 Metcalf Rd.,
Yale, Michigan 48097
May 18, 1971

Mr. Gene Kavalzik
Box 404B Star Rte A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Gentlemen:

I support the proposal
to make part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a wilderness area. I would ~~not~~
like to see one of our national
resources decay like it has in most
of our other states.

Sincerely,
Mr. Vincent Christopher.

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star RTE A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Bill Clay
305 N. Kennebec
Yale, Michigan
48097
May 12, 1971

Dear Mr. Kvalvik

I support the proposal to
make part of the Kenai Peninsula into
a wilderness Area.

The reason why I support
this proposal is because when I grow
up there will be a place to hunt.

Mr. Randy Clay
305 N Kennebec St
Yale, Mich. 48097

Dear Sir

I support the proposal to make
part of the Kenai Peninsula into a
wilderness area.

I would like to have my children
or grandchildren to maybe go and see
it some time.

Your Friend
Randy Clay

305 M. Hennepin
Yale Michigan 48097
5/12/79

Dear Sir,

I fully support the Proposal to
make part of the Keweenaw Peninsula
into a wilderness area. I think its
time somebody did something about
our diminishing wilderness.

Sincerely yours
Mr. Richard Clay

Cindy Clute
4400 Rabidue Rd.
Goodells, Mich.
May 11, 1971 48027

Mr. Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star Route A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to make part of
the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness
area.

I am afraid there will be no
place for me to go when I grow
up.

Sincerely yours,
Cindy Clute



May 13 - 1971

Dear Sir

I found out about what you want to do with the Kenai Peninsula. I think it is a good idea, because we always wanted to go to Alaska and see what it was like, and if I ever went there I would like to go to the place to be the wilderness land. So I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area, so there will at least be one non-polluted area left in the U.S.

Good Luck
Mr. Bob Crawford

Mary Ann Cullane
11712 Emley City Rd.
Emmett, Michigan
48022

Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star Rte. A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Sir:

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness Area" because of the pollution problems. If there are highways and cabins built in Alaska there will be more pollution. Another reason I want the Kenai Peninsula to be a wilderness area is because there aren't any more wilderness areas and if they don't build highways and cabins and other buildings there will be a wilderness area and the wild life can live normally and eat like wildlife should and won't breathe polluted air and rummage around in a bunch of garbage.

Thank You Sincerely
Miss Mary Ann Cullane

Mr. David Daniel
9992 Broun Rd.
Emment Mich. 48022

Mr. Gene Hvalbyk
Box 404B
Star Route A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Hvalbyk

I would like to help support
the proposal to make Part of
the Kenai Peninsula into a
wilderness area.

Because if some won dose not
care enough to help save this
land pretty soon they will not be
any wildlife at all.

Respectively Yours
David Daniel

WEST END FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION, INC.

HUNTING and FISHING



FINEST in RECREATION

P. O. Box 381

Ontario, California

May 14, 1971

Wolvering Guide Service
Box 404 B RTA
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Sir:

The members of our organization ask that I inform you of our club
being in favor of retaining and maintaining this area, Kenai
National Moose Range, as a Wilderness area.

Yours truly,

Dorothy Dodge

Dorothy Dodge
Secretary

*35 to 50 members
all wealthy men*

Dear Sir,

I fully support the proposal to make park of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness" Area.

I just love the out of doors and all the animals out there. Everything now days is turning into factories, roads, and houses. Everywhere you go men are cutting down trees and clearing land for new highways and buildings. Wild animals are being driven out of the homes.

I think it would be just great to have an Area like the "Wilderness" Area. To prove that people still think enough of wild animals to leave some place for them to stay and do what they want.

I think this is a great thing and I hope there can be more Wilderness Areas in the World

Sincerely
Christie Eagan
7752 Sayles Rd.
Eagle, Michigan
48097

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal
for the Kenai Pen. Wilderness
area, and I really want to save
my wilderness area because
my children want to be free
like the rest of the world is.
They want some place to explore
the wilderness and see what
it is like to be free. So I hope
you will leave this Kenai Pen.
Wilderness area for everyone's
children to be free in.

Miss Cindy Ellis
7093 Jordan Rd. Hale Mich.

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the
Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness" area.
There should be a place where we go and look
at wildlife. Will

Peter Eschken

5306 Brown Rd,

Queda Mich.

5/13/71

Dear Sirs:

I recently heard about the proposal to set aside one million acres in the Kenai Peninsula as a wilderness area. I wholeheartedly support this proposal.

I have not yet been to Alaska although I have been way up in northern Ontario and would like to visit Alaska in the not to distant future. Our country is slowly ruining it's natural resources and I would like my children and my grandchildren to be able to still see nice country without all kinds of polution and buildings all over the place.

I sincerely hope we can get this proposal passed so that we will still have some place to go to see what the country used to be like.

Sincerely yours,
Miss Evg Ferguson
504 N. Main
Yale, Mich. 48097

Dear Sir

I support the proposal to
make part of the Hemai Peninsula in
to a wilderness Area. Because I
would like to have this land for
my grandchildren.

Mr. John Geoffrey
9336 Webb Rd.
Emmett Michigan

Dear Sir

I support the proposal
to make part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a wilderness Area

Miss Terrie Geoffrey
9336 Webb Rd.
Emmett Mich.

Dear Sir

I will support the proposals
to make part of the Keweenaw Peninsula
into a wilderness Area

Mrs. Tilda Heffner
2336 Webb Rd.
Emmett, Michigan

May 17, 1976

Mr. Gene Krabik
Box 404 B
Star Route A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Sirs:

I support the Proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

Because we need a place for hunting, fishing and a nice place for hiking, and camping, I think that we do need more places for outdoor sports.

It is a great idea to have the land saved for a wilderness area.

I hope we'll have more than one in this world today, and I will keep my fingers crossed and hope we'll get it.

Sincerely
Mr. John Wilson
4319 Cribbins Road
Goodells, Michigan

48027

May 13, 1971

Dear Sirs,

I do support the proposal for Kenai Peninsula wilderness area. I love nature and animals and I would like to see some of it when I get older. I may be young, but I do worry about this world I hope to live in it a long time.

This world is getting to be a place where nobody and nothing will be able to live here. Why don't we stop now and start cleaning up. Some people think that since I'm only 13 this letter is not worth reading.

Well I care about this world and I want to see it cleaned up and I want it to stay beautiful as God created it.

Sincerely yours,
Cindy Gilbert

Cindy Gilbert
6801 Connell
Yale, Michigan
48097

May 12, 1971

Dear Sirs,

I support the Proposal to make
part of the Kenai Peninsula into a
wilderness area. Because I feel that
part of our country should be left
for the people to enjoy.

Mr. Edward Isobel
7349 Bryce Road
Woodells Michigan
48027

May 12, 1971

Dear Sirs,

I support the Proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area. Because I feel that part of our country should be left for the people to enjoy.

Mr. Edward Isobel
7349 Bryce Road
Woodells Michigan
48027

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir:

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness" Area.

I think there should be at least one place that hasn't been used by man. I think we should leave it like God made it.

Miss Terri Bottelero

4641 Brett Road

Goodells, Michigan 49827

Dear Sirs:

May 13, 1971

I am writing about the piece of land in Alaska that, should be a wilderness area. I would like to support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area, because I would like to see my children and grandchildren see part of the United States as it used to be.

If we don't get this area for wilderness, the people that go to Alaska will think that it's just another place, then if we get this area it will be something special, something everyone should see. If we don't get it it will just be polluted, or destroyed like the rest of the United States.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,
Miss Sharon Groneman

My address is
9129 Fisher Road
Yale, Michigan
48097

Merlyn Hamilton
9520 Brandon Rd.
Emmett, Mich. 48022
May 12, 1971

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 4048
Star Route A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

My reasons are, that if we don't do something now our wildlife will die off. After learning about environment I think that we should preserve as much land as possible.

Respectfully Yours,

MR. MERLYN
HAMILTON

May 14, 1971

Dear Sir:

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a WILDERNESS AREA. It is one of the few places in the United States that that is all wilderness. It shouldn't be messed up by roads, oil wells and mining. I also think hunting should be limited to a certain amount of permits.

sincerely,

Jerry Hansman

Jerry Hansman
12462 Wilkes Road
Yale, Michigan

Dear Sis:

I'm writing this letter in concern to the "Proposal for the Kenai Penn. WILDERNESS Area." I support this proposal because I feel that the Kenai Penn. should be left a wilderness area and not get a bunch of cabins, oil wells, towns, roads, it is so much nicer and prettier without it.

If you let all of that stuff get in there it will ruin it. I have a teacher who camped up there for about 2 weeks, he said it was beautiful, the animals were running free and no trash or pollution to ruin it.

I think it should STAY that way.

Yours truly,
Miss Suzanne Hanson

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir,

In our science class we found out that you wanted to make the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area. I believe that this is a very good idea. I have always wanted to go to Alaska and if I do I would like to see something not touched by man. Therefore I support the proposal to make the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

Mr. Joe Hartway

13348 Speaker Rd.

Yale, Michigan 48097

Mr. Gene Kavaluk
Box 104 B
Star Rte. A.
Anchorage Alaska
99502

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness Area" because people destroy everything everywhere they go. Nature was balanced but when man came along he unbalanced everything. They have made bears tame, killed off animals and destroyed trees. What is this world coming to when man has touched everything and everyplace on this earth.

Sincerely,

Miss Barbara Higgins
322 Mary St.
Yale, Michigan 48097

Linda Hillis
4845 Emmett Rd.
Emmett, Michigan
48022
May 7th, 1971

Dear Sirs:

I'm only a sixth grader and you might think I don't know much about world affairs. Well you're right, I don't. But I do know enough to figure out that we should protect our country. For instance take the proposal "Support Wilderness". We could save this land for Wilderness and maybe the kids of our country could get a little enjoyment out of life! In my short life I've seen beautiful country destroyed by pollution or the main destroyer, man! A man could spread filth, and litter, and destroy the land faster than the North Vietnamese could drop an atom missile!!

Maybe you won't take my advice, or you might think I'm too bold, but I think we should keep this country for the sake of the PEOPLE!

Mr. Mitch Robinson came and talked with us and I agree with him thoroughly! He should be given

Some credit for this letter.

Let's stop complaining about the
youth and save some recreation for
them.

Yours Truly,

Miss Linda Hillis

6th grade Yale J.H.

Dear Sir,

I support the Proposal to
make Part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a Wilderness Area because
I think in the future there should be
a place that hasn't been destroyed by man
it's the only place.

Bob Angles

Dear Sir

I support the proposal to make
part of the Kenai Peninsula into a Wilderness
Area because it would be a beautiful place
without oil wells, factories, houses, and
other such things which spoil the land with
there polluted water and waste materials

Mr. Mark Jakubowski
8052 Hewitt Road
Anova, Michigan

4
Dear Sir

I support the proposal
to make part of the Kenai
Peninsula into a wilderness area.

Because I want to have this
land for hunting and also to preserve
wild life.

Mr. William Jaggard
9336 Webb Rd. Emmett Mich.

48022

Dear Sir,

I'm writing to support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wildness" Area.

Man has polluted the water, land, and air, we have made places unfit for man or animal. The polluted water has killed fish, plants, and animals that depend on this water for its life.

Man has engaged himself in wars, which he kills his own species. This is one of the few living animal groups that kill its own kind. I would think that on the account that God has given us such a superior brain that if we should use this for destruction let us destroy ourselves and leave nature alone.

I think that all the places that are left on this earth should be set aside to save nature because we have already destroyed so much of it, it is the least that we could do. I would hope that the men that would be against this "Wildness" would think what we owe Mother Nature this place for her to live while Man kills himself.

Your fellow man,
Mr. Scott Kast
10 S. Main Street
Yale, Michigan
48097

Mr. Chuck Keyworth
12470 ~~94~~ ⁹⁵ Le Road
Yale, Michigan
May 11, 1971
48097

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star Route A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,
I support the proposal to
make part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a wilderness area.
We have been studying ecology,
so I think this should be saved
for a wilderness area. Because I want
to go somewhere when I grow up.
There probably won't be a place like
this when I grow up.

Respectfully Yours
Mr. Chuck Keyworth

Dear Sir.

I support the proposal to make part of the Icenai Peninsula into a "wilderness" area. I think that the idea of making it a complete wilderness area is a good one. I've been think about the animals and their homes alot lately. With all this population the animals soon won't have any place to live and ~~thwilt~~ us ~~pollution~~ polluting air and the water they soon won't have air to breathe or water to drink. So I move that it should be turn into a wilderness area.

Sincerely

Miss Ilah See Keyworth

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star Rte A
Anchorage, Alaska
May 13, 1971 99502

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness Area." I think that we should have some areas left in the world where man has not ruined something in some way. I think we should have more places like that.

Sincerely,

Lu Ann Keyworth
12470 Yale Rd
Yale, Michigan 48097

✓ May 13, 1971

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula a "Wilderness Area."

I think there should be a wilderness area because the world needs a place to go where there haven't been any people or factories or anything.

Miss Mary Koch
6399 Bricker Rd.
Yale Michigan
48097

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness" area.

I have never been at this certain spot in Alaska, but from what a couple of people I know tell me its just too beautiful to destroy.

When Mr. Gene Kvalvik presents the proposal in court on June 23-25, the judge or jury should say, YES save the Wilderness. They should say NO, to the Oil Co's, NO, to the Lumber Co's, NO, to the Road Construction Co's, and NO, to anything or anyone that wants to destroy this Wilderness Area.

Thank You for giving me and more like me the chance to help save about a million acres of priceless land.

Sincerely yours,

Terry Kovatch
3511 Cribbins Road
Goodells, Michigan
48027

Debbie Lantis
102 West Woodl
Yale, Michigan
48897
May 11, 1971

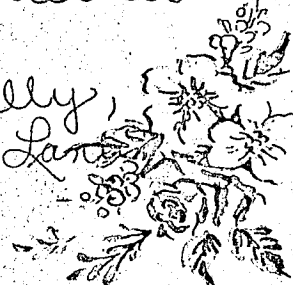
Mr. Gene Kualuk
Box 404 B
Star Rt A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Mr. Kualuk,

I support the proposal
to make part of the Kenai Penin-
sula into a wilderness area.

The reason I have is, that if
we don't set aside some parks,
our children may never see many
wild animals that are not in
cages. I hope this letter will
help the proposal.

Respectfully,
Miss Debbie Lantis



May 13, 1971

Dear Sirs,

I support the Proposal to make
part of the Renal Peninsula
into a "WILDERNESS AREA"
Because there is almost known life.

Mr. Ray Leatherwood, 12743 Wicks Rd

8370 Lapeer Rd

Goodells, Michigan 48027

May 14, 1971

Mr. Gene Kvalvik

Box 404 B

Star RTEA

Anchorage Alaska 99502

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make
part of Kenai Peninsula a wilderness
area.

My teacher went there in
the summer. He told us about some
of the places. In the future I
plan to go to Alaska, but by
the time I'm older there wouldn't
be any wilderness left, if it weren't
for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Miss Linda Nichols

May 12, 1971

Mr. Gene Kvalvik

Box 404B

Star Rte A

Anchorage,

Alaska, 99502

Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal to make
part of the Kemai Peninsula into
a wilderness area.

I love to fish, camp out,
canoeing, and hiking. Every summer
we go and do all those things. I
wish we could have a wilderness
here in Michigan. I am all
for a wilderness in Alaska.

Sincerely yours,
Miss Judith Long
208 N. Kennilic St.
Yale, Michigan
48097

Jackie Lorton

7666 Bryce Rd.

Goodells, Mich 48024

5/13/71

Mr. Gene Kvalvik

Box 404 B

Star Route A

Anchorage Alaska

99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area. I think this is a good idea for this wilderness area because it's the animals land not ours. Also parts of U.S. have already been wrecked so bad that animals can't live there, so why not make a reserve.

Sincerely,

Miss Jackie Lorton

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the
Kauai Peninsula into a "wilderness" area.
If this area would be turned into a wild-

ness area it would be very, very, pleased. All
the cane and garbage on the side of roads and
the woods just makes me sick.

When I have children I would like
them to have some wilderness. All
the wilderness is pretty much gone.

America has some even if it is only a small
portion. If we don't get to have any wilderness

we might as well give up because we are
just destroying ourselves.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Mark Jossing

Dear Sir

I will support the proposal
to make part of the Kemai Peninsula
is to a wilderness area

Mr. James Lempp
3858 Cribber's Road
Goodells Michigan

1258 Gordon Road
Yale, Michigan 48097

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "wilderness" area. I think there should be one place left where man hasn't touch. It will be a place for people who love wildlife and want to get away from the problems we have. I hope that this will help our wildlife so maybe we could have more places like this one we hope will be.

Yours truly,
Miss Virginia McLean

Donna Manawick
16158 Kellogg Rd.
Avoca, Michigan 48006
May 7, 1971

Dear Sir:

I would like to support the Wilderness Proposal, in Kenai Peninsula of Alaska. I think it should stay the way it was, when God planned it. I like the outdoors very much. I hate to see polluted air and junked up cities and lakes or rivers.

There isn't hardly any wildlife around. If we keep on building new homes and cities, pretty soon there won't be any wildlife to see.

There aren't very many places where you can go and romp around in open fields or take a swim in rivers.

I'm just a sixth grader and I live on a farm. But I know what it's like to breathe polluted air. I think we should take care and see that the lands that are wilderness stay wilderness.

Yours truly,
Donna Manawick

Miss Amy Meharg
104 Second St.
Yale, Michigan
48097

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star RTE A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Sir:

I support the proposal to make the Kenai Peninsula into a "wilderness area". Because there are not going to be anymore "wilderness areas" if people start building cabins, polluting the river, streams, or lakes, or making trails and then leading the trails into roads and Highways. So please let the Kenai Peninsula be a wilderness area and everyone will be alot better off.

Miss

Amy
Meharg

108
den
mud

Mr. Gene Kralick
Box 404B
Star Route A
Anchorage Alaska
99502

Dear sir

I support the proposal to
Make Part of the Kenai
Peninsula in to a wilderness
area

Why I think that many people would want
to have a wilderness area we need
something not destroyed by man it would
be nice to have some area that has
never had any road or car or motorcycle
though it. Mr Gene Kralick you shun
have my vote on saving the wilderness area.
My children and their children would
or will like a wilderness trail

Sincerely
Mr. Jeff Michay
1041, 2nd
Yale Mich

Dear Sir,

8178 Jordan Road
Yale, Michigan
48097

May 13, 1971

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness Area, because I want to grow up to be able to see forest and animals, and not polluted rivers, cut-down forest and extinct animals that will never be seen again because of man. I think everyone should help, because we all should want to see the forest that we don't see anywhere that we can go to and see animals, also without roads and cars that scare them away. I hope that in the following years we will see this.

yours truly,
Miss Florence Michels

Dear Sir,

I support the Proposal to make
part of the Kenai Peninsula into a
Wilderness Area.

My reason for wanting this a Wilderness
Area is for my kids if I get married.
I would love to show my kids it and
tell them what it was like along time ago.

Thank You,
Mr. Paul Mihaly
8178 Jordan Road
Yale, Mich. 48097

Dear Sir,

I am writing to tell you that I support
the proposal to make part of the Kenai
Peninsula into a "wilderness area".

I want it to be a wilderness area
because man is destroying everything he
tries to improve. Man destroys things to
make things better, but when it's all over
he's made everything worse than it was.
I strongly support your proposal.

Mr. Dan Morgan
4300 Rabidue Rd.
Woodells, Michigan.

Mr. Gene Kvalvik

Box 404 B

Star Route A

Anchorage, Alaska

99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik

I support the Proposal to make Part of the Kenei Peninsula into a wilderness Area.

Because I would like to see a place where the water isn't polluted. And where no kind of motor can be ran, and no trails at all. And no oil can be drilled.

Sincerely Yours Mr. Jay Morgan

Monday,

May 19, 1971

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B
Star Rte. A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal
to make part of the
Kenai Peninsula into
a wilderness area.

I think the way the
world is going now,
some places should
be set aside for a
wilderness area. I
feel Alaska is a good
place to start.

Sincerely,

Miss Kim Morgan
12401 Yale Road
Yale, Michigan
48097

Kathy Noble
111 Mth Coll Avenue
Yale, Michigan
May 11, 1971
48097

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404B
Star RTEA
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

The reason I support the proposal is because a teacher has told us about it and I'm very concerned on it.

When I get old enough to be an adult I want a place for me, also clean air and a beautiful world.

Respectfully yours,
Miss Kathy Noble

Wed. MAY. 12, 1971

DEAR SIR:

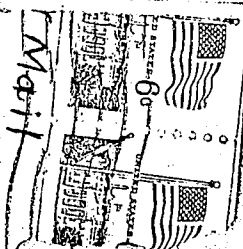
I SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE
PART OF THE KENAI PENINSULA
INTO A WILDERNESS AREA BECAUSE I LIKE SPORTS.

SINCERELY

MR. SID NOBLE

Alaska
99502

H. Valdez



May 12, 1971

Dear Sir,

Mr. Robinson was telling
a my science teacher about
trying to save the land, & that
is why I support the
proposal to make part of
the Kenai Peninsula into
a "wilderness" Area. This
is a brilliant idea and I
don't think ~~any~~ anybody
could of thought or do what
your going to do. If they
are smart, they wouldn't
even have to fight about it
if they can't see what man-
kind does to survive well, let
me put it this way, how
would the like to be animals
and have their home destroyed.
How do we the "people" feel when
our home is destroyed. So I
say "Help ANIMALS Help
Themselves." Thank you for
taking time to read this and
Good - Luck!!

Miss Beverly Northrup
9395 Jodel Road
Gale, Michigan, 48094

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make
part of the Terra Peninsula into a
wilderness Area. The median timberline
this is that I would like to see as
Land Area set aside for the wild life and
future generations I strongly support your cause

Mr. Patrick Norton

6895 Fargo

Avoca, Mich.

May 13, 1971

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to support the proposal for the Kenai Peninsula Area. I support it because I think this world should have a place where people can see how this world looked like at one time. I know if it does pass somebody will be doing something right, because we need a Wilderness Area full of trees, birds, flowers, animals, and most of all Fresh Air. I know if it passes I will go to see the Kenai Peninsula, and encourage other people to see it also. Thank You very Much.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Moss

3632 Cogley Rd.

Emmett, Michigan

48022

Mr. Lloyd Priess
6917 Kelly Rd.
Capac Mich.
48014

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404B
Star Rte. A
Anchorage Alaska
99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik

I support the proposal to
make part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a wilderness area.

I'm all for saving the
wildlife because there aren't many
places left where wild creatures
can go and be safe.

I do not want the industry
people to have it because
they'll tear open the land for
all the natural elements ~~and~~ ~~and~~
within the land.

5098 Bricker Road
Avoca, Michigan 48806
May 14, 1979

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to
make part of the Alcenai
Peninsula into a Wilderness
area. I think that if we have
the right to see untouched wilderness,
then the generations after us have
the same right, too.

Yours truly,
Chuck Reid

May 14, 1971

Dear Sir,

I am 14 yrs. old & I like the outdoors as does the rest of my family. When I grow up the world will be mostly factories, cities & roads. I would like very much for my children & grandchildren to be able to see the Kenai Peninsula as a virgin territory not as a smelly oil or manufacturing district.

Also it would be a place for animals to live whereas otherwise their species might be wiped out.

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

Sincerely,
Gordon Ricketts II

May 13, 1971

Mr. Kovalick
Box 404 B
Star Rte A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part
of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness
area. The wildlife and hunting, and other
stuff are worth more than a lot of deer
camping.

John Kovalick
Mr. James Riley
3603 Kovalick Rd
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Sir:

May 14, 1971

I'm sending a note to let
you know that I am all for
the Kenai Pen, wilderness area.

A friend of mine has been
telling me about it and he and
I both would like the children
of the future to be able to
see nature as it was made.

Sincerely,

Miss Ann Roberts

(4 - Fourth Street)
Yale, Mich, 48097

210 Morrell Street
Yale, MI 48097
May 16, 1971

Dear Sirs:

I have just read some material on a proposal to make parts of the Alaskan Kenai peninsula into a wilderness area. I support this proposal to make these Kenai Peninsula sections into a wilderness area.

I am a school teacher from Michigan, and I spent three weeks in this very area in the summer of 1970. It has unequalled beauty and ruggedness, and it would be an utter shame to see this area despoiled. With the added leisure time people are now enjoying, we should strive to save every area that becomes available for uses of recreation. The dollars worth of value one might get from these areas in mineral deposits are not worth the esthetic value that this area holds in its original creation. Having children of my own and hoping for grandchildren, I would like to see many more areas like this set aside as wilderness-only regions. A dollar might look good to the people of this generation, but the people of future generations cannot hike up a stack of greenbacks nor can they camp on a pile of them or fish out of a river of them. As far as I am concerned, big business has already descreated more than its share of this once-beautiful America with their earth gouging, and air and water pollution.

As a tax paying U. S. citizen, gentlemen, I say: save it now while there is still some to be saved. If your state of Alaska has any pride at all in being the last frontier, then you should wave off the dollar-happy corporation and save your frontier as long as you possibly can. Remember a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Thank you.

Luck,



Mitch Robinson

lar

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir;

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness" Area.

I think that it would be one out of very few places in the world that people would respect, and keep it the way God made it, not man.

Miss Sherri Roy
1 Mechanic Street
Yale, Michigan
48097

102 Jean St.
Yale, Mich 48697
May 13, 1941

Dear Sir,

Would you please save our wilderness area. Because you would like to save it for our children, grandchildren + for ourself. I support the Proposal for the Renai Pen. Wilderness area.

your friend
Mr. Kevin Rusak

May 12, 1971

Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal
to make part of the Keweenaw
Peninsula into a Wilderness
area. I support it because
I hunt, fish, and enjoy camping.
The Outdoors are just great.

Sincerely yours

Mr. Richard Russak

102 geom
Yale, Mich.
48907

May 13, 1971

Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal to make
part of the Kenai Peninsula into a
"Wilderness Area."

Because if they happen to find oil
they'll make roads cut down trees. The
more roads and machinery used there will
be more pollution. I hope to make the
trip someday and go through the wilderness.

Miss Lou Sabada

108 Brockway Rd.
Yale Mich 48097

May 12, 1977

Mr. Gene KVALVIK
Box 404 B
Star Route A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Sirs,

I ~~am~~ support the proposal to make a wilderness area in Kenai Peninsula. I do not like to see land ruined by man because enough of it is ruined.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Keith Schroeder
5575 Gleason Road
Yale, Michigan
48097

Connie Scott

6855 Mels Hl

Hoodells, Mich.

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

You see Sir, here in Michigan we have parks and lots of recreation, to camp out in, but its not wilderness, its man-made not what God make for us. So we want to preserve this land. So we can go to this land and enjoy it.

Yours truly,
Connie Scott

Dear Sirs:

I support the proposal
for the Kenai Peninsular
Wilderness Area.

Yours Truly,

Miss Deona Shannon
6491 Bruce Rd
Goodells, Michigan
48027
U.S.A.

X

Lerry Shaw
8820 Sparling Rd.

Mr. Gene Rivaluk
Box 4048 Star Rte. A.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Goodells, Mich.
48027

May 11, 1971

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part
of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness
area.

Because I am disappointed with people
who is trying to make city filled with
factory's and other things that causes
pullution. I am 11 going on 12 and
when I get older I want a place
to get away from the cities. and to go
on vacations.

Thank you

Sincerely yours
Miss Lerry Shaw

Dear Sirs;

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area because there are not that many wilderness areas in the United States.

I would like to see this area preserved for the future.

Jim Sheldon
121 Westmore Loop
Yale, Michigan 48091

Mr. Gene Kvalvik
Box 404 B.
Star Rte. A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula a wilderness area.

The reason is because our country needs more than one wilderness area, and I think Alaska is a very good place to start. My reason isn't very big but it's the truth, if the Kenai Peninsula isn't made into a wilderness area, this country will be awfully sorry.

Sincerely,

Mae Cheryl

Shelie

Dear Sir

I support the Proposal to make Part
of the Icenai Peninsula in to A Wildlife
Area.

Because I want to go there some day
with my kids to get a / way from the noise
and dirty air.

Yours Yours
Red Silverthorn

Emmett, Michigan 4802

May 14, 1971

Gene Kvalvik
Box 404
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I support the proposal for
the Kenai Peninsula into a
"Wilderness Area."

I want to support it
because, I think some people
want to go on a vacation
and they want to be alone,
for a while. They might want
to study trees, animals, insects
or other things. They deserve to do
what they want for a little while
at least.

That is why I think there
could be a wilderness area.

Yours truly,
Miss Cheryl Sumner

Craig Smith
7736 Beard Rd.
Avoca, Michigan
48006

May 11, 1971

Mr. Gene KVALVIK
Box 404B
Star RTE A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Kivalvik,

I support the proposal to make
part of the Kenti Peninsula into
a wilderness area.

The reason I support this
proposal is because it would save
more land for animals and it would
not be polluted so more animals
could live. Any ways it's nice to have
some restful areas to see where there is
pretty things to see such as flowers, the
singing of birds, and fresh air.

Sincerely yours,
Mr. Craig Smith

7679 Beard Rd.

Livaca, Michigan

48006

May 12, 1971

Gene Kovalich

Box 404

Star R+A

Anchorage, Alaska

99502

Dear Sirs;

I myself live on a farm. I am lucky that i have land to do the fun things i like to do. But more people are moving in and soon the country will be city. So i would like a place where some-day my children will be able to enjoy a place where there are no houses where ever they walk. So I Support The Proposal for The Kenai Pen. Wilderness Area. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Miss Jennifer Sopha

Mrs. Kathy Packaberry
9130 Anova Road
Anova Mich. 48406
May 14, 1971

Mr. H. Kvalvik,
Box 404B
Star Route A
Anchorage Alaska

Dear Mr. Kvalvik,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a wilderness area.

Some of my reasons are there aren't very many wilderness areas. There were before man first came to America. Some people are trying to stop pollution, but by not making this a wilderness area industry will pollute it and make roads. If people keep letting industry take over, there will be no wilderness.

When industry people start an oil well and it goes dry they just leave things they don't need laying around as if it were junk yard. They don't have any right to that land!

Save our wilderness;
Miss Kathy Packaberry

P.S. If we don't we won't have anything to look forward to.

DEAR SIR,

I SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE PART OF
THE KENAI PENINSULA INTO A "WILDERNESS
AREA", BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT THAT MANY
WILDERNESS PLACES LEFT IN THE WORLD AND
THE ANIMALS CAN USE THE FOOD IN THE FORESTS.

MR. LOWMYE TEICHOW

Mr Gary Thompson
8150 Chene¹¹⁷ Road
Yale, Michigan 48097
May 11, 1971

Mr Gene Kovalovich
Box 404B
Star Rte A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Dear Mr Kovalovich

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a wilderness Area.

I would like to have this area saved. Because there is no
place in Michigan like this. If you lived here you would
want to go back to that wilderness.

Respectfully yours

Mr Gary Thompson

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the Kenai Peninsula into a "wilderness" area.

I would like this area to stay this way because I think this was meant to be this way. A lot of land these days go to factories who just ruin this beauty. So at least we may be able to do of this.

I may never see this area but at least the people who do will have this privilege to see real nature and its beauty.

Laura Thompson
11759 Jeddo Rd.
Yale, Michigan
48097

Lerry Thompson
8150 Grandt Rd.
Yale, Michigan 48097
May 7, 1971

Mr. Gene Kavaluk
Box 404 B
Starke A
Anchorage, Alaska
99502

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to the
Support Wilderness Proposal. I
would like to support the proposal
so we can keep our wild life. The
city air is polluted and it sure
would be nice to keep the wilderness
with nice fresh air for our wild life.
So I truly support your proposal.

Sincerely,

Miss Lerry Thompson

Mr. Gene Kneubick
Box 404 B
Star Rte. A
Anchorage, Alaska

99502

Gentlemen,

Through a colleague I have learned of the proposed wilderness area on Kenai Peninsula in the state of Alaska. I am strongly in favor of this proposal.

Too often a citizen thinks his voice cannot be heard from such a great distance and that a project such as this does not concern him. I say he is wrong. If we are to preserve a part of nature we must expand our thinking to include all of these United States - and even the entire earth - not just our immediate surroundings.

If we solve our environmental woes; of what use is a ravaged, denuded, asphalt covered planet? I want the future generation of children to know and to see nature as it was intended.

I want to see this proposal pass. I feel it's as much my land as anyone else's.

Mr. John F. Tucker
7th grade science teacher
Yale, Michigan

May 13, 1971

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to make part of the
Kenai Peninsula into a "Wilderness Area,"

Better upon there won't be any place for people to
go when there is a lot of trees and fresh water.
If it is not a wilderness area people will be
cutting down all the trees and putting oil wells
all over. Before you know it the water would get
polluted.

Mae Janna P. Umackin
15637 Yale Road
Yale Michigan 48097

Dear Sir.

I very strongly support ^{the} proposal to make part of the I C E N A T. peninsula in to a Childrens area.

"Why"

Because I love to "hunt" and I also like to spend time "comparing" fishing and sea on. I have never had a chance to go to Alaska, but I prefer to do some stuff. "And" I know that they have met a number of our local by collecting our lake river and streams and I also know that they should "STOP" at "Alaska" and save some land for my children to enjoy. I am a 15 year old boy and I live in a small town called Maple, Wash. I have some one watch them. Let's have local sailing and basketball but I care very much

Thank you

Dear Sirs,

I support the proposal to
make part of the Kenai Peninsula
into a Wilderness Area.

Because I love Free Land
for animals. I don't like air
pollution.

Miss Janet Whittaker
304 W. Main St. Lot #43
Yale, Michigan
48097

Dear Sir,

I support the proposal to
make part of the Keweenaw

Peninsula into a "Wilderness"
Area! So other people can
see before man was here.

William Whittaker

504 N. MAIN ST

YALE MICHIGAN

48097