RECORDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY RE: KING COVE ROAD
BY TELEPHONE
AUGUST 30, 2013
BEFORE THE HONORABLE MADAME SECRETARY JEWELL
SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI

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PROCEEDINGS

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(On record)

MAYOR H. MACK: Hey, thanks everybody
for coming. We're going to have a mic up here and
people will come and use the mic. We have visitors
here, key people, who will -- Secretary Sally Jewell
came here today and she's the one who makes the final
decision. We all here hope that that's a decision for
the road.

But she very graciously came here to
listen, to hear what you have to say. She has a lot of
folks and a lot of people to listen to and she has a
tight schedule, but it's all about people today, your
testimony. We've done this many times for the last
three or four years. I keep telling people and I'm
going to say the same thing. It's just our desire and
love for our community, our grandparents, our kids, our
children, to get them all safely (indiscernible).

Senator Murkowski is here. She's our
true champion. We're here today because of her great
leadership in Washington, D.C., to come forward. Back
in February, the past Secretary Ken Salazar said he
wished to take a second look because he don't agree
with the no action with the -- but you're here today
because of your great leadership. We thank you.

Let's welcome them here. Give them a
hand, please.

(Appause)

MAYOR H. MACK: We can have them say a
few words and then we'll open it for testimony. I'd
like to recognize two other gentlemen that are here
today. Our Representative Bob Herron.

(Appause)

MAYOR H. MACK: John Moller from the
Governor's Office.
(Applause)

MAYOR H. MACK: They are champions for us too. They have a passion for our (indiscernible) here. So, with that said, we're going to have John Moller, Secretary Jewell and our Senator Lisa and I'll say a few words and we'll open it up for public testimony.

MADAME SECRETARY JEWELL: I'd rather stand up so I can see everybody. So thank you so much for welcoming me to King Cove today. I know that you were hoping for bad weather.....

(Laughter)

MADAME SECRETARY JEWELL: ....but it didn't happen. So I'm sorry the weather didn't cooperate, but it certainly gave me an opportunity to see the beautiful place that you live in and what nice people you all are. So thank you for welcoming me to your community. I've had an opportunity to be at your airport, to drive down the road to check out the bathroom in your water treatment plant. You need some paint on the pumps by the way.

(Laughter)

MADAME SECRETARY JEWELL: They're getting a little rusty. I had a chance to take an extensive tour of the military -- not the military, of the medical clinic and meet your healthcare practitioners and hear some of the stories they've got to tell about their work. And there's a (indiscernible) by a pretty sweet looking dock down there and marina, so it looked like it doesn't work there.

In my career and background, I'm a Northwesterner. I was not born, but I was raised in Seattle and spent a lot of time in Alaska. I worked for about 19 years in banking and started my career banking with Rainier Bank, which was very active up here and why I moved to Anchorage. So I was a banker myself and one of my bank customers was NANA up in Kotzebue. So I got to know that Northwestern part of Alaska.

I had an opportunity to work with a number of fish processing companies, Peter Pan was
banked by SeaFirst, but Icicle and Wards Cove and
several other fish processing plants. So I've been to
a lot of the more rural areas of Alaska where fishing
is the primary industry besides the indigenous
subsistence kind of industries that happen so much
around Alaska.

So you live in a beautiful state. You
live in a unique area in the Aleutian Chain. I got
that there was actually a 7.0 earthquake down by Adak
today. A little tsunami warning. Do you know about
that? My team knows about it. But we're in the
evacuation shelter, so I'm not going to worry.

At any rate, it's my pleasure to be
here and I am here to listen. I'm here to learn. I
have a lot of people providing me all kinds of
information as it relates to the road that you're here
to tell me about today and I do have a very difficult
job and a job that always generates the kinds of
decisions that have conflict in some way.

So I'm pleased to be here to listen and
learn from you, to meet your children, which I just did
over at the high school, and they're just cute as can
be and brave in answering my questions and sharing
their stories with me as well. They don't want any of
you going up slippery ladders in storms. They made
that abundantly clear. So they care about you a great
deal.

With that, I thank you for your -- in
advance for the comments that you're going to give me.
I'll listen intently to that and I'll look forward to
hearing that, processing that along with all the other
things that I will consider in making this decision and
I'm all done.

SENATOR MURKOWSKI: Madam Secretary,
thank you for being here, for making the long trip out
here to King Cove. Ladies and gentlemen, my friends, I
think this is almost somewhat historical to have a
Cabinet member from the Administration travel out to
your community to see for herself the issues on the
ground, to hear from your lips the concerns that you
have.

So often what happens to us as Alaskans
we feel that in Washington decisions are made. They're
made in a vacuum. We're kind of out of sight, out of
mind. And it's easier, easier when you don't have the
opportunity to see for yourself what people are living
with. It's easier if you don't have to hear the
personal stories. If all you have to do is get a
PowerPoint or perhaps have a briefing in your office
and you're insulated from the emotion of the decisions
you're making.

The reason that I am here today and the
Secretary of the Interior is because I would not let
our previous Secretary of the Interior leave you alone
and isolated without an access from this community when
we are so close to an all-weather airport. So close to
safety that you can see it. Washington needs to know
how we live up here. Sometimes our weather is tough and
I'm told, well, our weather is tough all over the
country. They've got tornadoes, they've got
hurricanes, but what they have back there is they've
got a way out. They've got a road out the back end of
that town. They've got emergency services that can
come down. Hospitals that are not three and a half,
four hours away.

So all I'm trying to help you with is
10 miles, 11 miles of a connector road so that when
that emergency comes, you don't feel isolated and
abandoned. We are not asking for anything more in this
community than what any other community in America
would ask and that's the opportunity for a safe route.
If we didn't have that runway in Cold Bay, we probably
wouldn't be having this conversation.

So I'm here to ask you today speak from
your heart because this is your moment to convey to the
decision-makers what this fight is all about.
Secretary Salazar said to me why are you making such a
big stink over a 10-mile piece of road. I said it's
not about a road. It's about people. So please show
the Secretary what you have shown me over the years
what it means to you. Thank you for your kindness and
the respect that you will show the Secretary as she
goes through this process.

Thank you for being here and thank you
as a community for all that you continue to do in this
fight for protection. With that, Mayor, thank you for
the opportunity to be with you and I think we should
let the people speak.

MAYOR H. MACK: Thank you, Senator,
Madame Secretary. Thank you so much. Like the Senator said, this is your time, you're welcome to speak because you all have compassion. That's why we're here. So, with that said, I'm going to give the mic to Della, but we're going to have a mic here. If you want to come up and speak in here or we can do the handheld on at a time.

Della has been a champion on this project from the beginning. She's made numerous trips to D.C. for the community and she shares a compassion with everybody else. Thank you, Della. Let's give her a hand, okay.

(Applause)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mayor Mack, Senator, Secretary. Senator, I have to say this. Senator Murkowski has helped us so much you would not believe in this fight and this battle. We are very much thankful to the governor and everybody that's been standing beside us through this process, Senator Begich, Senator Stevens, Congressman Young.

Secretary, I have to say this. I was a little tickled when I was listening to your comments about the good weather, but one of the things we found that in this community whenever we're doing something, somebody is on our side because in an hour you might not be able to fly out of here.

(Laughter)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: But then on impulse we might not let you out of here. I don't think that's legal. But, with that, I wanted to thank everybody for showing up today and I wanted everybody, like the Supreme Court, please let people know why we need this decision in our favor. Not only for purposes of medical access and ability to get to Cold Bay, but the ability just to get back and forth, whether we're school kids, a parent, someone going out for an appointment.

With that, I'm going to start and ask that Jeff Kenezuroff, who is the president of the Balkofski Corporation and his wife Lucy (ph) and I want you to put this picture in your mind of these two elderly people and our elders being stuffed in a crab pot on a crab boat, not a stretcher but a crab pot in
Cold Bay, and that crab pot swinging.

With that, maybe ask -- before I have them come talk, I also left family and many of our relatives have lived and hunted and subsisted in Kinzarof Lagoon and they are a big part of who we are today. With that, Leff, can I -- I'm not sure if this can reach.

MR. LEFF KENEZUROFF: (Away from microphone). Yes, I'm for this road here. I've seen serious medical cases here. I've seen people with heart attacks and I barely remember a year or two I think I was dead. I've been medevaced out of here in severe weather. I remember that time I was medevaced out in a crab pot in a boat in severe weather. I couldn't get down the ladder, so they put me in a crab pot and lowered me down to the boat. With that ladder, I guess I could say I was dead. I didn't come too until I was in Anchorage. From the story I heard, they did CPR on me before they -- the EMT came out and they had a hard time getting me out of here due to the severe weather.

Many times (indiscernible). Gordon and his wife was medevaced out here in severe weather and sit up in the airport and wait for the Coast Guard to come in to get a helicopter to get them to Cold Bay. They got left behind because of weather. Couldn't get in because of weather. I'm, you know, just lucky, I guess. Those coming behind me, younger kids generation, we need to do something for those people.

Thank you all.

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Can you maybe, Leff, talk about Izembek, Kinzarof Lagoon, what that means to you.

MR. LEFF KENEZUROFF: Izembek, Kinzarof Lagoon? Yeah. I was born and raised in (indiscernible) really originally, but we'd travel to Cold Bay to go trapping, go hunting. We had a cabin there. When I was a little boy (indiscernible) was over in Cold Bay. (Indiscernible) back and forth. Take me up in (indiscernible), in Northwestern. We'd go up there and hunt duck, caribou, subsist on duck. We'd hunt all over back there. (Indiscernible) passed down to us. We learned from those people how to survive.
(Indiscernible) transportation from small boats, sometimes couldn't even get here. About a mile away from here in severe weather, which we didn't hear from them. The (indiscernible) had to go to Cold Bay. They sitting here waiting for a boat or plane to take you in. It's the hub. (Indiscernible). I lost my mother. A year ago I lost my mother due to illness. We couldn't get her out in time. (Indiscernible away from microphone) for our purposes and children traveling to school getting an education to have a better chance to (indiscernible).

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Thank you. Can you please say your name and who you are and if you're representing an organization, let me know. With that, is anybody willing to come up here.

MS. KUZAKIN: I'm sorry. She's not a very patient person.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's been really patient actually.

MS. KUZAKIN: Hello, my name is Etta Kuzakin and this is my daughter Sunny Ray Kuzakin. She's five months old and I'm also the president of the Agdaagux Tribal Council. I'm standing here before you today -- do you need me to do this or do you want me to do this one? Which one do you want?

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Whichever one you're comfortable with.

MS. KUZAKIN: I'm comfortable with it all. I'm here to tell you about our story. Earlier today I was at the clinic with you when Cameron Spivey was telling you the story of the pregnant lady who went into labor at 34 weeks and I am that lady.

I was -- I went into labor at 34 weeks gestation and that morning when I went to the clinic it had already started to blow. The winds were coming out. It was just -- I knew when I went in there that I wasn't going to be able to take a plane out. We got there in town, of course, confirmed that there was no way that I was getting on a boat because I wasn't -- I couldn't have Sunny Ray the normal way that women have babies. I have to have Caesarian sections.

If I was to have Sunny Ray the normal
way, I would have died and so would have she because I
would have hemorrhaged and she wouldn't be here with
me. When I got -- finally, after being at the clinic
for hours, they were able to get a Coast Guard
helicopter to come in and bring -- to come up to the
airport to come and get me. They came in and got us.
We got -- it took us -- we had to go around the outside
instead of going through the valley because the wind
was too strong.

When we got into Cold Bay, they
actually had to maneuver the helicopter to a way
because the helicopter doors would have blown in. They
maneuvered it, they got the doors open and they got me
out. When I got on a medevac plane, the pilots were
extremely happy because it was blowing a straight 45,
50 down the runway but it was coming directly at the
airplane. He said that's the best kind of wind to be
in. Anybody who knows me knows that anything over 20
mile an hour winds is not a flyable day.

But, God willing, I got into Anchorage
at 5:00, 6:00 o'clock that night and 9:00 o'clock that
night Sunny Ray came into this world, at 9:07. Had I
not been able to get out, her nor I would be here to
tell our story. Cameron Spivey and the people at the
clinic are absolutely amazing and they did everything
that they could. It wasn't a lack of a doctor, it
wasn't the lack of anything. It was a lack of a road
to get me to safety without having the stress of
getting on a helicopter.

That's my story. I'm happy because
she's here and I brought her here with me. But
although she's crying, she's, you know, smiling. It's
real hard to look at these beautiful children -- and I
have -- I have three daughters. I ask for you to
consider for the safety of our children, for the safety
of our elders, for the safety of my people because we
deserve it just as everybody else in the state. Thank
you so much for your time.

(Appause)

MS. MITCHELL: Hi, my name is Pam
Mitchell. For those of us who know me, my husband,
Mark Mitchell, is a teacher at the high school here.
Last Wednesday they ended up medevacing me out. I'd
been at the clinic since the day before, spent the
night because apparently planes don't fly into here
from -- they only fly daylight to dusk. They can't get
in here at night. Okay. They didn't put me on a boat.
I get seasick. I mean I would throw up my socks and
give them to you. We thought it was just double
pneumonia, a second case in six months. At 63, it's
not much fun. So I get out to Anchorage. The doctor
tells me my kidneys are shutting down. I was 12 hours
away from being dead.

So, yes, getting out of here is very
important. I'm just very glad that we were able to
catch a window and Guardian was able to come in and
pick me up. But not everybody is this lucky. As you
can tell, I've been in the hospital. But anyway I made
it. I'm very happy that they were able to come in and
get me. We shouldn't have to do that, you know, pray
that a flight can come in.

Thank you.

(Appause)

MR. BABCOCK: Thank you for being here. My name is Larry Babcock. I've been here 26 years. I came in for construction with Peter Pan for a contract here. I've been in False Pass. I've been in this area for a number of years. Like you, I was raised in Seattle. I remember when you (indiscernible). I was a mountain climber, climbed all the mountains in Washington and Oregon. I was very active with the outdoor thing. I'm sorry to say I was even with Greenpeace for a little bit.

(Laughter)

MR. BABCOCK: But, you know, there was a time when I went up to Prudhoe Bay and I remember them telling me in a meeting that what I would see would totally shock me and it did. It totally shocked me because what they told me was exactly the complete opposite. So sometimes we listen to these small interest groups and I was basically lied to. They told me, first of all, that caribou wouldn't go under the pipeline. They told me all these things and when I went up there it just totally amazed me what was going on with regard to the animals and the things we saw.

I'm sure you've been told the same thing with the road. I remember hearing stories about how people dress up in suits and stand out there with
blood hanging down on them or whatever, yet it's not
ture. Today even in Cold Bay they have so many hunters
coming in there. I was told by even one of my
pharmacists in Anchorage, I was talking to him, he was
a very avid hunter and he said he's been all over
Izembek on a four-wheeler. Hmm. Fish and Game told us
we can't go out there, but he's been all over and he
said -- and I was asking him. He said I don't
understand why you guys can't get access to the road.
I wondered the same thing too.

You know, it's just -- sometimes you
step on interest groups and things -- you know, it just
-- I suppose I've been very disheartened with things
that I've heard in the past about things and it's hard
to live here. It's easy to love the people and it's
easy to live here because of the people that's here in
this room. I've testified before about when I came up
here I fell in love with the people, then I fell in
love with my wife to this day.

But I also was medevaced out of here.
Don't ask me what happened. I wrestled with a Skil saw
and I had to be medevaced out. If it wasn't for this
clinic, I probably wouldn't be alive today because I
was -- basically because I was losing a lot of blood.
They helped me and they were just amazing. In fact,
the doctors were totally amazed because I wasn't able
to get to Anchorage. This happened at noon and I
wasn't able to get operated until, what was it, 3:00 in
the morning, 2:00 in the morning?

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Midnight.

MR. BABCOCK: Oh, midnight. Okay. So
I was a long time being wide open with a Skil saw. So,
you know, we look back and we think of all the people
-- I'm sure that there isn't one of us here that
couldn't testify how many times medications haven't
been in -- been able to get in because we haven't been
able to get our medications in. How many times have we
sat and made appointments -- sometimes, for some
reason, it takes me anywhere from three to four to six
and even sometimes seven months before I can get
appointments to see doctors.

Being as old as I am now, I just turned
70 years old last week, so I'm a senior age now, so I'm
going to need medications that I need. And sometimes
it really concerns me that we're not able to get these
things just because of a road.

My wife and I, we travel. We've been
to almost every state in the union. Yet, when I go and
I see some of these areas that I've been at, when you
see the roads -- I remember being in Florida and there
was a lot of roads going right next to -- right through
the Everglades and around. I'm thinking, well
goodness, they have a powerful road and all we're
asking for is a little strip through a little teeny
corner.

I can remember going to New Orleans and
seeing -- being at the construction that totally amazed
me how they were able to build that road through that
swamp and yet they built it. Today you'd think they
would be able to build the same for us. You know,
Alaska is still growing, but we're not allowed to grow.
We're really not because of all the regulations and
stuff we have to live with. I think today, if those
same roads were going to be built in the United States,
would they be able to build them under the same
regulations that we're under today.

You know, we do, we need the road. I
have grandkids. In fact, it's really strange. Almost
-- one guy was saying the other day, I don't know how
many kids came up, hi grandpa, hi papa, hi papa and
they were saying you must be related to most of the
town. And that's the story because we are. We're one
big family, the whole bunch of us. We're all related.
But we're all worried about our grandkids. I'm getting
old enough now, but I'm worried about my grandkids.
I've got all my grandkids here. Are they going to have
to go through the same thing I have?

I'll tell you, it's scary when you've
got to be medevaced out of here, especially when you
don't know what's going to happen. It was foggy and
yet clear and I was able to get out. I'm one of the --
one of the survivors just like you hear today.

So anyway, I thank you for coming and I
just hope and pray that -- you know, so many times we
see things and we hear things and we hear things about
the government and we get kind of disillusioned. Just
today we were talking at coffee time some of the people
are disillusioned with the government. Here you have
the chance to do the right thing and the right thing is
the road.
Okay. Anyway, I've got to go. I'm sorry to take up your time, but thank you very much. Thank you for listening to me.

(Applause)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: We've only got a half an hour, so get your point across.

MR. M. MACK: I thank you for coming. My name is Marvin Mack. I work (indiscernible). I'm an air traffic controller. Worked there for seven years. There's a lot of problems. I really appreciate you coming here to listen to all this. My thing is there's, you know, medevacs -- I mean I've taken both of my brothers, hanging them on the top on boat, midnight, rough weather. Anyway, one had open heart surgery, the other one was (indiscernible). I've got a pacemaker. We've got to take meds.

If you can't make it to Cold Bay on the day your appointments are set, you are done for another six months. Well, I'm scheduled to leave on the 23rd, appointments 24th, 25th, come back on the 26th. If I miss my appointment, it's another six months. You can't have that. It's just things like that. I mean I can't fly over, you know, and be there a day ahead of time or even longer if the weather is nice the day before. I'm scheduled for that day and that day only. If I want to come early, I have to be home under 26 hours. That's the way this works.

I'd just like our kids -- my kids went to high school here, track runners and basketball, every sport there was. Tournaments, the weather is bad, regional tournaments. They made state three times, our kids. But then going to the regionals twice they missed their meetings because they were a day late because of weather. So I'm just saying there's so much that we need this road. I hope we get it and it goes through this time.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: I pointed at Amy and Jim to come up here.

MS. T. TRUMBLE: Yes, Mom, I'll listen
MS. T. TRUMBLE: My name is Trisha Trumble and I stand here in front of you for my reason why I think this road needs to go through. I'm really scared of flying. I'm happy to be here and I'm glad I came out today, but the key thing is the access between here and Cold Bay is getting there safely. And I know a lot of people here are just deathly scared of flying. I was already a scared flier. Crash land, I'm done for. It's just scary. I may not even go today. I have to take -- there's many people that have to take the access between here and Cold Bay and getting there safely is a big worry. It's stressful. You stress out a week before you go up the ladder.

I mean it's just -- and not only that, I just want to see this road that needs to go through. People that have been medevaced out and that are still here today, I'm thankful for that. I just really hope you really understand and take what everybody is saying. There's a lot of people that probably won't come up and say anything, but really have stories and stuff.

And the people of King Cove, we are a community and we are a big family. If someone gets medevaced out, not only their own family hurts, the whole community is hurt. Not only that, people around the surrounding communities hear about it and are devastated by it as well. I just hope you really take that into consideration and give us this road. Thank you.

MR. MORRIS: I'm Dave Morris, Secretary of Interior, Senator Murkowski. Thank you for taking the time to come listen to us about the proposed road. As a businessman, if someone offered me 30,000 acres for 280, I don't see how that could be a negative. Not to mention that the acreage is added -- by the King Cove Corporation is added to the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge for a small 280 acres to put the road in.

There's been great loss of life over the years for no viable reason. I can't see a viable
reason why the road cannot be there. I've walked
through the middle option of the proposed road and
would have minimal impact. The best option in my
opinion is that middle section in the proposal.

The wildlife is very (indiscernible).
If there's an earthquake and it cracked -- put a crack
in the earth where that road is supposed to go, it
would not affect the wildlife there at all. They would
be resilient, they would adapt and they would overcome
it.

The point is, if you're in -- long
enough in Anchorage, please go down to the Potter's
Marsh. There's a main highway that goes through there
and on both sides of that road the wildlife flourishes,
the same wildlife that is in here. It would not -- I
don't see how that little road could affect the
wildlife population or disturb it in any way.

The last thing, why would you risk the
lives of rescue personnel, the Coast Guard EMTs and our
nurse practitioners? This could all be avoided and
many lives could be saved in the process if there's a
road here. The difficulty is getting from here to
there. It's not getting from Cold Bay out. You can
almost always get out there.

The last thing is, what is the use of
one of the largest runways in the United States if the
greater population, which is here, cannot have
reasonable access to that runway.

Thank you very much for being here.

(Applause)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Before we get too far,
are there any elders that would like to come up and
speak to this? James.

MR. GOULD: I've brought a brief along.

MS. D. TRUMBLE: You've only got two
minutes.

(Applause)

MR. GOULD: My name is James Gould.
I'm 65 years old. With the exception of going out for
school and my dues to Uncle Sam, I've lived here all my
life. My family is here. Got grandkids. My first
experience with the medevac was back in 1971. My
brother was -- a chainsaw cut through his wrist really
bad, an artery. We had to get him out. There wasn't
much of a -- wasn't much of a medical facility there at
the time. I think American Fisheries had a nurse at
the cannery that took care of their people. There
weren't any planes flying.

We did have to take a boat up to Cold
Bay. We got the bleeding stopped enough to get him to
Cold Bay and talk on the radio phone to the Coast Guard
in Kodiak. They could meet him in Cold Bay. We'll,
you know, pick him up there. So we got him to Cold
Bay. It was a traumatic experience, you know, a little
bit on the way over. I told him good we should have
stayed in Nam. We could have had good medevacs there.

(Laughter)

MR. GOULD: He just laughed and said
home, sweet home. Things haven't changed much since
then. It's still hard. You know, people have died
getting out on airplanes and we do need a better state
of transportation. It's very traumatic for families
who have lost their loved ones, you know. It's time to
get a road in. We could co-exist with birds, you know.
You probably flew over there.

MADAME SECRETARY JEWELL: I did.

MR. GOULD: Okay. What do you do? You
look out into the water where the birds are supposed to
be and it depends on where you are. You're not going
to see it. I mean a road going through there is not
going to harm anything. Thank you for listening.

(Applause)

MR. WILSON: Hello, Madame Secretary,
Senator Murkowski. Thanks for being here today. My
name is Warren Wilson, lifelong resident of King Cove
for 53 years. My mom over here told me. She's going
to be 90 years old. I raised my family here and have
two grandkids. I fish in the summertime and the winter
I take care of the airport. I'm here in King Cove
waiting for snow, maintain it.

One thing I'd like to to insure is to
take care of our kids, especially the land around the
area. The weather is really bad around here. And
with the road opening I think it would be a benefit on
either side. If you've got more snow, you just
(indiscernible). But I know everything costs money.

I'd like to say about the land
exchange. With the Izembek area up there, the
beautiful, beautiful scenery back there with Pavlof
Mountains, and with the road that's down there now, and
I'm working on the road project at this moment too.
The land is there for us. The land is ours, the
people. I know that you are trying to take care of the
land of America, but the land is for us too. I know
that that road that's going down to northeast corner
opened up our land to what's on the other side. It's
really beautiful. I don't see why we can't enjoy that.

But we also have needs to get to
Anchorage. The only way we can get there is by air,
unless you have the ferry, which is broke down
unfortunately. We can't get around in the summer like
we used to do. For medical reasons, I mean for safety,
I have a heart condition, I have to go to Anchorage
pretty often.

I tell you one thing is the land is
ours and we've been here a thousand years. Eelgrass
has been growing tens of thousands of years. We're
halfway there. I know you've both been down there and
looking to see where it's going to connect, if it ever
does. I hope and pray that you make the right decision
for the people of King Cove. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. A. MACK: Hello. I'm Amy Mack.

Excuse me, I'm nervous. But I want the road. We lose
people in our community every year because there's no
way out of town. We lost our practitioner at the
clinic because she was an asset to our community. The
work (indiscernible) because there's no way out.

I personally quit college. I was going
to school to be -- to work (indiscernible) and I can't
do it here. I wouldn't be able to see my family and I
couldn't do that. Also we see on the news all the time
our country coming together for a city (ph) school or
are a tragedy and we've been expressing all our stories
for years and we just want help. I mean I thank you
guys for being here, but it's an insult to us.

It's an option for us to sometimes go
and we don't have an option to leave all the time and
it's sad that we're begging for our lives, that's what
it is, when we have access right over there, right
across the street, and all we want is to connect it.
It's open to bird viewers. It's open to NASA (ph).
NASA can land there. That will affect the birds, but
we can't ask for a way out to live. It's sad. It's
hard.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Two people -- I think
first of all I see Seward raise his hand, but I'll give
him a little bit to catch his breath. Rob, you've been
on a boat that you've taken a few medevacs, like a
medevac boat ride. Are you willing to talk a little
bit so she understands a little better what that's like
for a boat captain.

MR. R. TRUMBLE: Hi, next.

(Laughter)

MR. R. TRUMBLE: My name is Rob
Trumble. I have an 80-foot crab boat stationed here.
I've had her about 25 years. I've done about 20
medevacs in my time. All of them didn't turn out okay,
but this problem that I have, once I have an injured
person on the boat, we get over and we get to the dock.
The reason we're doing a medevac is because it's
blowing too hard for the planes to fly, so it affects
the water too. So I'm in by the dock and the boat is
going like this and the crane is going like this.
We've got a person hanging from that crane and I need
to get him on the dock in one piece. It's terrifying
for me.

When I first started doing this, we
just used the crane line, just a single crane line that
hooks on the litter. I thought, well, jeez, what if
the line brakes. Now we've got four guys on the dock
plus four lines down to the litter plus the crane just
to make sure if the crane line breaks the person
doesn't go flying off. It's very traumatic for all
involved. I'm the one that put him in the crab pot.

(Laughter)

MR. R. TRUMBLE: I couldn't help it.

It was (indiscernible) and we were this far away from
the dock. I had put it in gear and got the boat up
against the ladder and the boat is going up and down.
People are trying to come down the ladder and they'd
come down, go back up, go down. It's hard and you lose
your feet at that point, you know. But I thought that
was it and we got everybody aboard and I looked up and
these two looked over the edge of the dock at me.
Yeah, we had to put them in a crab pot and I was
terrified more than her. She was screaming, I wasn't.
So we got them down.

If you find it in your heart to put
this road in, it will probably be a lot better in the
future or somebody's going to die here real quick.
It's very, very dangerous what we do. Thank you for
coming out and hearing our stories. I hope you
consider our request. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

MR. BRANDELL: My name is Seward
Brandell. I guess I had (indiscernible) 10 years ago
and a boat. (Indiscernible) get off the boat, they had
to have movies of it. (Indiscernible) with me. I've
got 22 grandchildren to look out for and I hope
(indiscernible) through. We need that for everybody in
the community. We want to get off the water and go on
land to get to Cold Bay. I think it's a big deal.
It's safer on land to get to Cold Bay. Get away from
the water and the air. We really need to make the
road.

Thank you for coming.

(Applause)

MR. NEWTON: Madame Secretary, Senator
Murkowski. My name is Grant Newton. I've lived in
King Cove a long time. I've been on the city council
for 20 years or better. From my vantage on the city
council after all these years, I've always been amazed
at the names we've been called and the stories that
have been told about King Cove in relationship to the
road that we want. Some people have said that we want
to drive a stake in the heart of the Refuge. Others have claimed we can't wait to get on the Refuge with out four-wheelers to tear it up. Also, this road has been called a road to nowhere.

I'm here today to tell you that this isn't true. We're not in'cahoots with the cannery. We aren't intending on screwing up our environment and our area. We have a constant plan for a gravel road through the Refuge to a reliable airport. It's really as simple as that.

As my wife would tell you, who freezes at the thought of flying in bad weather or taking a boat over, even worse, we're just simply looking for a safe passage to that airport when we need it. Protecting those in my family and my community is a powerful motivation, so you're probably going to get an earful today about how important this is to the long-term health of our community.

We have seen -- you've seen our small airstrip. This area can turn into a wind tunnel in a matter of hours. Our pilots are required to make last minute decisions about whether to have to take off or whether to land. All of us can tell you about a close call we've had. Let's remember that we're also concerned not only about ourselves but also about the Coast Guard personnel that are sometimes the only people that will come in.

This road will not only give us the security and peace of mind to get to the Cold Bay airport, but will also let the Coast Guard personnel get back to their mission of policing our oceans and rescuing people at sea. For us, it will turn to plans for our future, to dreams to a better community and to hope for healthier residents.

So I ask you to remember, Madame Secretary, as your flight leaves on time to take you home, we seek that kind of opportunity for air travel that you enjoy. We are after just a fraction of the peace of mind that comes from knowing the weather will not decide our fate. Our fate should be decided by ourselves.

I haven't been here for all of them, but I know how many decades we have advocated for this road. I've had 20 years of this and I'm proud to say
that we have managed not to be calling names to anyone.
Maybe that's because we are not making this stuff up as
we go along. Our goal and our position has never
wavered. We are looking for a safe, reliable, life-
saving access to the Cold Bay airport.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. NEWMAN: You guys know me. My name
is Dustin Newman. Madame Secretary. Senator Lisa
Murkowski. This is my family. This is who we are. We
are a community. We are one throughout the land. We
know how to respect our land. We know how to fish, how
to hunt and how to respect it. There's nothing wrong
with us. We are not savages.

Nineteen years ago my brother was born,
my older brother. He had to be thrown down from the
dock. The boat was going up and down, up and down. My
mother is right there with my younger sister, right
there. She was there. She almost lost a son. I
almost lost someone important to me, important to my
family and important to who I am.

I am tired of having to see my other --
and other people die because you won't let us have a
road. We can't have a road until you say yes. We want
this road. We are a family. We are who we are. My
nana had to go through a medevac. She almost died.
I'm tired of seeing people die.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. S. MACK: Thank you, Della. Madame
Secretary. Senator. My name is Stanley Mack. I'm the
area Aleutians East Borough. Born and raised here in
King Cove. Like I say, I've seen it all, but there's
always something. My first trip on the (indiscernible)
for one of my projects, priority project, was to see
this (indiscernible) Cold Bay to King Cove, to come to
you. I'm still working on it. I hope with you being
here, Madame Secretary, that you'll see that
(indiscernible) but it's been years.

I know there's -- your desk, I'm sure
it's been flooded with letters and even phone calls
from folks that oppose this road. I want to show you,
Madame Secretary, that we've invited these folks to our
area many, many times. We said just come down here,
walk a mile in my shoes before you judge me. There are
many groups that did the same. We invited them down
and said please come and they refused. I don't know.

I'm so thankful that you've made it
here, that you'll get a chance to actually see what
we're working on. I just pray that you'll make the
correct decision in regard to this access project because
we're going to continue to work to get that road to
that area so that we can access that all-weather
airport and then we can have the lifestyle like the
rest of the world has.

I just wanted to thank you so much for
being here. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. MITCHELL: My name is Mark
Mitchell. I'm a teacher and I'm one of the EMTs for
the local EMS. It's real simple. People have died
because that road is not there. If we don't get that
access, more people would die. My last trip to Cold
Bay was on a fisher, a crab fisher. A guy laying on
the floor with a compound fracture of his tibia and
fibula, praying that if we give him enough morphine
that he wouldn't wake up and start feeling pain and
praying that we hadn't given him so much morphine that
he was going to die.

The road would have cut four hours off
that trip. He came out okay this time, but like people
said, if we don't get the road, more people will die.
That's it.

(Applause)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Would anybody else
like to speak? Here, I will help you, little man.
Will you tell me what your name is?

STORMY GOULD: (Indiscernible).

MS. D. TRUMBLE: Your name is what?

STORMY GOULD: (Indiscernible).
MS. D. TRUMBLE: Okay. What would you like to say?

STORMY GOULD: Good (ph).

(Laughter and applause)

MR. BASH: My name is David Bash. I've been a resident here for the last 30 years. I've been working on the road project this summer and the propaganda out there that there's a trail of dead animals where we're building the road and I can tell you firsthand there's not. I've watched a couple different families of ptarmigan grow up right alongside the road where these big trucks are right in through there, so wildlife does adapt. I just hope that we can get the road through there.

The way I see it is that your decision should be fixing something that should have been there in the first place, is a transportation corridor through the Wildlife Refuge. The people who made that Refuge, they should have had the thought that maybe someday these two communities would want to connect with each other and we wouldn't have to be here today if that was in place.

Thank you.

(Appause)

MR. MOLLER: Thank you very much for allowing me to say just a couple words just real briefly. My name is John Moller. I was born and raised in Unalaska, just down the street from here. I've spent many, many, many years in this region. I currently serve for Governor Parnell as his rural affairs advisor.

I just wanted to take a real brief moment that everybody in this room understands that it's important for King Cove, the people of King Cove, to have support for this road and why it is needed. I don't think anybody here for a moment thinks that he doesn't support it, but I just want -- and I think Madame Secretary, Senator Murkowski, and I know you recognize it as well.

What I have here is a letter from Governor Parnell urging you again to make the decision
that we need to be made in favor of a finding that the
connection between King Cove and Cold Bay is in the
best interest of the public.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

MS. D. TRUMBLE: We're this close to
having the time we have to go the airport. I want to --
just from being involved in this. My name is Della
Trumble and I think Gary and I are almost brother and
sister in this process at this point.

I can't stress how important it is for
you to be here in front of us today. We have tried on
numerous occasions to have the Secretary come out and
be here and it hasn't happened. For you to actually be
here, and thank you, Senator, for helping that happen.
We know you sit in this room, you've been to the
clinic, you've heard the stories from the
practitioners, you went to the school and you've heard
from the heart of the kids and how important it is for
them, for their parents and their family to have that
access or just them period, the little guy who was here
to show you.

I look at my daughter and I don't ever,
ever want a parent to go through that. The little
girl, the one you saw at the clinic, the four-month-
old, that's my great niece. She's into running around.
The girl that was on the table, that's another one of
my nieces. These are only a few people of my family,
but this room is full of so many of those stories that
people are going maybe to come up and talk in public,
but it goes on and on and on.

The fact it's just state access from
here to there or there to here. There have been times
we had elders in Anchorage with medical conditions that
they're not going to survive longer and I get calls
from a man trying to get to his wife. Four days and he
couldn't get out of here. By the time he got to
Anchorage she was gone. He wasn't able to say a
goodbye. But there are so many stories.

You're going to Cold Bay this evening.
I'm actually going to. My role is to answer questions,
but we've always tried to make that connection with
this community. We've tried to make that connection
with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. All you can do is try.

But I had received a phone call yesterday afternoon from somebody in Cold Bay. What I found here is people are not comfortable speaking out because of the ramifications if they do speak in our favor about this road. I am not making this up. I'm telling you the truth. But this gentleman came forth yesterday.

The one point that he brought up that I hadn't really heard -- I've heard it on this side, but I've never heard from the Cold Bay side, is the fact that why do we, as people that are transient, we're not permanent people that are going to live here more than 10, 15 years. We're here to do our job, we're going to retire, we're leaving. Why should we be making decisions that will affect people that are going to live there for the rest of their lives and their kids are going to live there above and beyond.

The ability for us to work together with Izembek is always there. We've opened that door. The ability to work with environment groups has always been there. But to make statements that are so untrue, that are just irrational, is really disheartening.

I ask you to walk away knowing deep in our heart that this means so much to this community. I'm going to stop because if I go on anymore, I'll be blubbering.

(Applause)

REPRESENTATIVE HERRON: Della, you were great as you bring it from the heart. Madame Secretary, to our friend Lisa, thank you for coming out here. This is House District 37, a district of 32 communities from Attu to Bethel, and King Cove is one of those communities that's very special.

When Deputy Secretary Washburn and Christine Kelly (ph) came out here, they spent a couple of nights up here and they got the feel for it. They got the 00 airport. They got the nice boat ride to Cold Bay. They got to climb the ladder. So we asked them to draft a legal memo to you explaining why in the Department of Interior's best interest to protect the Alaska Natives because that's your charge.
Today you said you're going to carefully balance all of the considerations and I appreciate that and I know you will. So what the people of this region, this community need is, of course, an option. So whatever Deputy Secretary Washburn delivers to you, again it's a responsibility to the humans in this equation.

As we were having lunch today, I told you I don't know what the effect of a road is going to be. Others will help make that decision -- or help you make that decision, but I do know that we know what the effect is if there's a lack of a road. So please carefully consider it. You said you would listen to the good people of King Cove and this region. It's sincere. The road makes sense.

Thank you.

(Appause)

MAYOR H. MACK: Thank you both for coming out and sharing with sincere -- and Madame Secretary, Senator Murkowski, thank you so much for coming. I know we need to head to the airport, but we're going to give you a short time if you have anything to say. But thank you again so much.

(Appause)

MADAME SECRETARY JEWELL: I want to say thank you for your input and your stories. I think it is very helpful to have a discussion. You do have a very passionate advocate right here to my right. She has been talking about King Cove from every meeting or just about every meeting. She's an advocate as all senators do, but in particular about King Cove she's been a real advocate. I think you've got a champion here and you do in Senator Begich as well.

Your stories are very moving, they're powerful. I mentioned I have a difficult job and there is nothing easy about it. There are parts of my job which are in direct conflict with each other and this is one of those examples. I know you appreciate that I've been here and I feel that appreciation. It was well said. And the kids assured me on the way out of school as they broke the sound barrier on the way by.

If I can find one or if I'm given a chance.
I've listened carefully to what you've told me and I'll read the material that she's provided me. I've already seen the video that you were stars. But I do have a responsibility to listen to the perspectives that are provided to me. I know that people come from different points of view and I know that wildlife doesn't speak for itself and others have to provide that perspective for that portion.

You have my commitment that I take this seriously, that I've listened very carefully to what you've said. I understand your rationale and your points of view and how important this road is to you, so thank you for sharing that with me today.

(Appause)

SENATOR MURKOWSKI: And to each of you who have come here today, those who have spoke, I heard the anxiousness in some of the voices. Thank you for your courage to speak and speak from your heart. This is what the Secretary needs to hear. If we go over to Cold Bay next, she'll have an opportunity to see, at least from the air, there's been a little history out there. A few roads have been built since World War II to now, but to kind of get the sense of the land.

Madame Secretary, before we leave, I would just ask you to look around this room, to look into the eyes of these people. Families who have been here for thousands of years some of you and some who have been here just a matter of a few weeks. Regardless of how long you've been here, we still have a responsibility to health and safety. Kind of an important thing whether you're Alaska Native or whether you come here from Iowa, we all deserve a safe way out. As we leave, I would ask that you pray for our safe travel just as I pray for your safe travel every day. As Mr. Washburn said, you shouldn't have to get lucky to get out of King Cove. We need to fix it. We need to make sure that each and every one of you, whether you've been hauled up by a crab pot or whether you're Sunny Ray that was born five months ago. When you're here in King Cove, it's a safe way out.

Our lives as Alaskans are difficult enough. Our lives as Alaskans are dangerous. Sometimes you drop a Skil saw on yourself and you need
to go to the emergency room. We don't need to make it
even more difficult by denying reasonable access.
Let's keep working on this. If you haven't shared a
comment you think the Secretary needs to hear, there's
always pen and paper. There's always a note that you
can send. Let's not give up. This is too important.

Thank you for the respect that you have
shown the Secretary today. Thank you for your passion
and your stories and thank you for all that you do for
all of us. I'm honored to be here with you today and
I'll be back.

(Applause)

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)
CERTIFICATE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF ALASKA

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 29 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the RECORDED PUBLIC TESTIMONY RE: KING COVE ROAD taken electronically by TELEPHONE on the 30th day of August 2013 at Anchorage, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of September 2013.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14