

Good evening. My name is Will Chinn. I first came to Alaska in 1981 and worked for a placer miner in Manley Hot Springs. I commercial fished my way through engineering school in Bristol Bay and now work in the Oil & Gas Industry.

I'm here tonight to urge the BOEM to ensure the Programmatic EIS for the Proposed 2012-2017 Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program moves forward in an **efficient manner** and that it **does not** further exclude offshore Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico from responsible oil and gas development.

In establishing a robust 2012-2017 OCS oil and gas leasing program, BOEM **must** balance environmental and economic considerations and ultimately decide to **move forward** with responsible offshore oil and gas development. Exploration and production can and should proceed in a safe manner.

The Alaska OCS could produce 1 to 2 million barrels per day, boosting current U.S. production by 20 to 40 percent. At today's oil prices, slashing imports by that much would reduce the nation's trade deficit by up to \$65.7 billion a year. Last year, the U.S. sent \$260 billion overseas for crude, accounting for nearly half of the country's \$500 billion trade deficit – a practice that must be stopped.

BOEM **should not** hold lease sales unless it truly intends to allow exploration in a reasonable and timely manner. In February 2008, Lease Sale 193 on tracts in the Chukchi Sea netted taxpayers more than \$2.6 billion. Companies seeking to explore those tracts, however, have been unable to drill due to numerous regulatory and permitting delays resulting from endless litigation from well-funded NGOs. **NGOs, I might add, funded by the wealthiest families in America, that years ago made their fortunes in oil, timber, mining, steel and manufacturing.** Companies spending billions of dollars on leases and subsequent billion of dollars preparing to drill should be able to move forward in an efficient, responsible, safe, and certain manner.

The responsible development of potentially immense oil and gas deposits in the Arctic would significantly boost Alaska's economy, extend the life of the trans-Alaska pipeline and improve the economic viability of the proposed natural gas pipeline.

For every barrel of oil America refuses to develop domestically, it will have little choice but to import an equal amount from overseas – where **very different** environmental regulations apply.

The United States **must** continue to pursue new oil and gas development while we strive to develop and utilize alternative and renewable sources of energy. Like it or not, we will still rely on oil and natural gas for transportation, electricity,

manufacturing, consumer goods and several other uses that are part of our everyday lives.

In conclusion I urge BOEM to **engage industry** and **move forward** with exploration and development of our energy resources in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Quit importing foreign oil and shipping our jobs overseas. Make this country an example world-wide for what responsible oil and gas development can be.