

Quyanna. Thank You.

Uvlaallutaq. Avunga Atiga Esau Sinnok. Kiqigtamui. Good Morning/Good Afternoon. My name is Esau Sinnok and I am 18 years old. I am from an island called Shishmaref, Alaska. I am Inupiaq Eskimo. I am currently going to school at the University of Alaska Fairbanks studying Tribal Management, in hopes of becoming mayor of Shishmaref after I graduate from college, and I am strongly considering as running for Governor of Alaska in the year 2030 or 2034. I am here on behalf of my people of Shishmaref, the animals that cannot speak for themselves, and on behalf of the indigenous people of Alaska.

Shishmaref, Alaska is currently losing three to four meters of land each year from storm surges, rising sea level, and flooding caused by climate change. With this current trend of climate change, we can see Shishmaref gone within the next 25 to 30 years. Shishmaref, ever since the 1950's, way before climate change was widely recognized, has lost 2,500 to 3,000 feet of land. My grandfather told me that the ice that surrounded Shishmaref used to freeze around late September, or middle of October, and in recent years, we saw the ice freeze enough to safely cross on in late November, early December, which means we had to wait later in the winter to catch our winter food and fish; we had to buy more food and supplies from the local store in the winter in recent years to eat, which i am not fond of, because all that food is processed and man made. In the year 2014, we saw a very strange occurrence happened in the winter, that we have never seen before in oral history; there was rain in that winter. That is very strange, as we did not know how to respond to that. My family and people of Shishmaref have been living our traditional Inupiaq lifestyle for the past 4,000 years. We do not want to see any types of new offshore or even on shore drilling in my state of Alaska. Mother Nature is tired of us taking oil from the ground. We saw that a few days ago with Shell Oil spill, with 90,000 gallons of oil that spilled in the Gulf of Mexico. They do not get the problem. IT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM. In front of their own eyes. They cannot see what is happening. Oil will always spill in the Gulf no matter where or how much research they do. It will always happen. And with more leases in the Gulf to be sold, that means more oil spills, and that means more wildlife being killed and I don't want that to happen in Alaska. What if there is an oil spill in our Arctic waters? We have been living off the land and sea for thousands of years. The land and sea is what our majority of our diet is based off of. For thousands of years, we depended on the land and sea for surviving. In my culture, I was told that the animals give their lives for us so that we can eat and so our families can live. My grandparents and elders of the communities told me that our ancestors used to speak with the animals, that we can communicate with the animals at one time. We are very respectful to them and we still follow traditions that respect our animals that we catch.

The Walrus, Ugruq or Bearded Seal, Spotted Seals, Beluga, Whales, and Fish have been living there and migrating from there for thousands of years also, and with the development of offshore drilling in the Arctic, that will interrupt their migration path and we might not be able to hunt for them where we usually get them if their migratory path is changed due to the oil rigs. We are one with nature. We do not fight against it. If that is not bad enough, 223 other communities in Alaska are seeing the effects of climate change. With all these communities affected by climate change, I, as a young Inupiaq man, feel very upset that Obama

and his administration is going with this 5 year plan, because no matter where oil companies drill oil, it affects the Arctic and the world. If the Arctic is not taken off this 5 year plan, and there is a spill in the Arctic, our animals will die. And we will see a very sad seasonal year or even years, of our supply of food that comes from the sea, that we might even be able to eat our traditional sea animals until the spill is cleaned up and who knows how long that will be. Our culture, our way of life we have been living for thousands of years will be greatly affected if an oil spill occurred, and many families in the Arctic and Shishmaref will starve, since a majority of us rely on our traditional foods instead of man made food sold at the store. I hope that the Arctic will be taken off of the 5 year plan, as climate change is not only a political issue to me, it is my future.

Thank you.