

Thank you Mr chair and members of the board. My name is Jeremy Straughn, my grand parents are the late Gilbert Dementi Sr. and Eleanor Dementi. I am from the Udzisyu Clan. I was born and raised in the native village of Cantwell by my elders and the community. I have always lived the way my elders taught me, most people would call this a subsistence life-style.

My grandfather spent many years of his life as a cultural and traditional lifestyle advocate, attending many of these meetings throughout his life; passing on as much wisdom as he could to my family and myself.

I first attended a Board of Game meeting 20 years ago. At that meeting I was very young, but I vividly remember elders from all over Alaska testifying to the board; all of them explaining as best they could the significance of hunting to our way of life; and that it was being taken from us. 20 years later I feel that very little has changed.

This year during the Community Subsistence hunt only 2 any bull locking tags were utilized by elders in my village; one to a tribal elder and one to a non tribal community elder. Six moose were taken throughout the village of Cantwell. Many of my elders said to me that this was the worst hunting season they had seen in 35 years.

I hope to be a good advocate for my people's way of life one day as I am still learning about the process. As more people invade my home each year, I feel I have no choice but to travel far out of my way to sit here and continue a new tradition of fighting for my people's way of life.

I look forward to future opportunities to come and testify once I have better informed myself with the procedures and operation of the Board of Game. Like my grandfather before me I hope to serve my community and my people for years to come

I would like to thank the Board once again for the opportunity to speak here today. Tsi'Naen.