

## Testimony of Eleanor Dementi PC 30

Once again we are asked to change our way of life in the village. In the village there are never enough jobs for our people so we work seasonal jobs because we like our way of life. We are able to pay for electricity, oil and homes but only because we are able to live off the land.

I heard many people testified the community subsistence harvest is broken and I believe it because many of our people have seen it with our own eyes.

I don't believe that it can<sup>be</sup> fixed. The subsistence department needs to step up to the plate and check the applications and score it to see if the applicants are really subsistence hunters, according to the 8 criteria, which the Ahtna people work so hard so many years to get on record.

We can't afford to change our way of life as we have already lost many things like our language, religion and many other ways of life.

The animals give themselves to us, but when we have to see if it's legal before we can shoot it and have to let it go it changes our luck and we are never able to see another animal.

There is no way many of our people can afford the machines that are used by outside hunters to compete with them.

This year no one in our family was able to get a legal moose because the quota for any bull was gone in such a short time.

The state needs to protect our way of life or else most likely you will see many more homeless people in the cities.