

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE / SUBJECT FILES 86 / 2

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had to be sent down to Anchorage hospital but all the while he was gone they, the hunters always bring us our share from what they learned from their ancestors. I'm so proud they didn't forget about it. I'm so glad to hear about these talks tonight, because some Eskimos don't even know how to understand to much yet, but us that can talk Eskimo when they as' can explain it in our language and that way they learned it. If some elderly people that come that didn't understand to well in English talking they wouldn't know what they are talking about unless they learned in school tow of them might use in place that they called Husky. They don't have that anymore, they had it from the word so that the younger people could understand about young girls making garments, and boys learned to hunt. But seem to listening we have these community, I'm glad the young people have time they can come and get together and ask questions when the older people are around and so I want to thank Emma, cause what I was going to say Emma had told them to the people here. But whoever tell us its the right thing to do, we always try to do what they tell us to do. But when we know they tell us anything that is going to be harmful to us, cause everything thats given to us I put away in freezer so it won't get no freezer burn, and I'm thankful to all the Nome hunters and people that have been good to us. I just want to thank you folks.

Della Wahiyi: I'm Della Wahiyi originally from Saint Lawrence Island. Moved here 10 years ago. We are still eating Eskimo food. We are still getting some from Saint Lawrence Island. They send us some food walrus meat, seal meat, whale meat, which we couldn't eat them even we are living in different city. Like my husband said we couldn't afford to buy steaks or other food from the store, because they are high priced and alot of time when the people come from other villages and stay with us, the very next day they kind of miss their native food. I remember one time a little boy was coming for ENT, I was fixing the stew for the lunch, he came around and asked me what are you fixing for the lunch? and I said I'm fixing the stew meat from the store, that was the beef meat, and he was saying when I go back I'm going to eat all I want from the Eskimo food. Thats how we will miss, when we are going to have limited hunting from our native food. The other thing I've been wanting to see in this testimony is our Government is trying to limit the food that is good for our health or the skins that are

more dependable than the rubberized from other clothing, which we use for our men for their hunting for the winter or for the waterproof clothing.

I wish the Government would give the money research for the other things that are harmful for our lives, besides they're trying to limit our useful items and the food, which we've been living ever since we've been born. We have been placed on this earth with the food that we should be eating. When we are living in this two cultures, like white and Eskimo sometimes we confuse, especially with our young people. They kind of forget nowadays how to make skins, because they think they get lot of orders and hard work. That is fading away and its still readily useful for us. I even saved a small peice of white leather skin or dyed skin so it could still be useful when I make into things I'm trying to sell to earn money. Just like a small piece of ivory that could be carved and sell it so we could get something from the store. Most of us are not rich, but we are hardworking people that we try to earn besides someone employed in our family. So what I've been thinking and while I'm hearing for these people who are give testimony, I'd like to get in front and speak as best I could a little bit of what we are or what we've been living or how we've been living. Alot of times or taught by our parents to share our foods especially with the people with those that can't get any. Each are habit whenever we get something that more than what we get, we always share with the other people. Even ever since we moved here I liked to share the Eskimo food with the other people. Once in awhile I even share with the elderly people, senior citizens people and white people who have lunches everyday and have Eskimo food on Fridays. They appreciate it very much and with the people who I share it they appreciate it. Thank you.