

1 Boca Chica Beach access and environment, they should know that
2 the place where they live in right now will be much prosper if
3 they hadn't been living there in the first place.

4 Lastly, I shall give a couple of examples of
5 places that were decades ago in the low numbers in terms of
6 good paying, quality jobs, such as Houston, where NASA set up
7 the Johnson Space Center 60 years ago, or Huntsville in --
8 Huntsville in Alabama where many other rocket factories --

9 MS. PIGGOTT: 30 seconds.

10 MR. ROMERA: -- from other companies like ULA,
11 Blue Origin and so on feed the brains of thousands of local
12 students and give jobs to hundreds of local people and keep a
13 supply chain around the U.S. that provides even more jobs. And
14 SpaceX is not different, this from -- with suppliers in
15 Washington, Oregon, Michigan, California, et cetera.

16 Finally, I'm going to thank you, the FAA. I
17 hope I -- I have total confident (sic) that you guys are going
18 to do your fair job on this and I'm happy with whatever outcome
19 is from this review. Thank you.

20 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.

21 Okay, I am not seeing Johnathan Smith, Tim
22 Williamson, or Karim on the Zoom. So I've pasted the names of
23 the next five in the chat: Alex Stambaugh, Jose Rodriguez,
24 Dillon Briesemeister, Russell Sutton, and Bruce Leung in the
25 chat.

1 Russell, I see your hand is raised. I'm going
2 to ask you to unmute.

3 MR. SUTTON: Can you hear me?

4 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
5 minutes.

6 MR. SUTTON: Yes, my name is Russell Sutton.
7 I'm a resident of Detroit, Michigan and have a biology degree
8 with a chemistry minor. We all wear different labels that
9 describe us and sometimes they can come into conflict. I am a
10 SpaceX fanboy. Shout out to Tim Dodd, Scott Manley, and my
11 fellow tank watchers, but I am also an environment -- excuse
12 me, environmentalist.

13 As a Michigander surrounded by Earth's greatest
14 natural resource, I take the environment seriously.

15 MS. PIGGOTT: Russell, I apologize. I need to
16 pause you just a minute. Our translator lost her connection
17 and we just need to reassign her really fast so that your
18 comments can be translated so just give us just one moment.

19 MR. SUTTON: That's perfect, I did bad.

20 MS. PIGGOTT: Okay, Pamela, can you hear me?

21 INTERPRETER PAMELA PAYAN: Yes, I can. I have
22 already been assigned as the interpreter, thank you.

23 MS. PIGGOTT: Great, thank you. Okay, Russell,
24 go ahead and proceed with your comments.

25 MR. SUTTON: Okay. So, yes, my name is Russell

1 Sutton. I'm a resident of Detroit, Michigan, and have a
2 biology degree with a chemistry minor. We all wear different
3 labels that describe us and sometimes they can come into
4 conflict. I am a SpaceX fanboy. Shout out to Tim Dodds, Scott
5 Manley, and my fellow tank watchers, but I am also an
6 environmentalist.

7 As a Michigander surrounded by Earth's greatest
8 natural resource, I take the environment very seriously. With
9 that said, this PEA document is woefully inadequate in
10 addressing many of the proposed expansions in Starbase.

11 Already we have used numerous PEAs which push the limit of the
12 original 2014 EIS.

13 While there are many concerns, I will be
14 focusing on the gas-fired power plant and the pretreatment
15 systems. It is my understanding that many components
16 associated with those systems are omitted entirely in the
17 document, such as oil storage tanks, amine reboilers, thermal
18 oxidizers, process flare and condensate loading equipment.

19 In Section 3.14.4.1 concerning energy supply, we
20 continue to see glaring omissions. Nowhere does it say where
21 or how the fuel would be transported to the power plant. It is
22 assumed that a nearby pipeline, which runs through federally
23 protected lands, will be recommissioned to address this, but
24 again, this document does not address this. The whole chain of
25 production, refinement and transportation of fuel are just not

1 in the report.

2 I also noticed a little trick in the wording in
3 this section. It states that the propellants for the rockets
4 won't affect local supply chains, but fail to mention that the
5 strain on local supply concerning the fuel for the power plant.
6 Again, these are just a few but of many concerns not addressed
7 in this document.

8 The expansion of Starbase is necessary. I know
9 Starship will reduce costs and save taxpayer dollars for the
10 upcoming Artemis and Gateway projects. Starship will be the
11 rocket that takes us to Mars. And on a more practical note, we
12 need to stay ahead of the CCP. We claim to have higher
13 standards than other countries, but the use of a PEA document
14 for a large, gas-fired power plant would diminish our
15 environmental leadership.

16 It is my understanding that the Clean Air Act of
17 1963 could give environmental groups and others the power to
18 force the FAA's hand to do an EIS. Legal challenges will only
19 delay the expansion even more.

20 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

21 MR. SUTTON: I propose that SpaceX and the FAA
22 devote man hours to expediate (sic) the development of a robust
23 EIS document to prevent legal challenges and delays.

24 Thank you for your time and God bless America.

25 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.

1 Jose, I see your hand is raised. I'm going to ask you to
2 unmute.

3 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so much. Can -- can
4 you hear me?

5 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
6 minutes.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. My name is Jose
8 Rodriguez. For the record, I am a Texas resident.

9 Brownsville, Texas was rated the poorest city in
10 the country, with 36 percent of the population living in
11 poverty. That whole thing changed when the Space -- when
12 SpaceX arrived and created 2,000-plus jobs for locals. They
13 encouraged tourism, they made small business have more clients.
14 People say the environmental assessment is poorly done, but if
15 they cared to read, it's for five launches a year. It would
16 produce methane, oxygen and LN2, liquid nitrogen, from the air,
17 from the atmosphere. They even bought oil rigs to transform
18 them into sea launch platforms to avoid noise pollution and
19 threats to the environment.

20 People against this are against progress, are
21 against the United States achieving the impossible again. I
22 know you all already heard a lot of Cape Canaveral arguments,
23 but, for example, the Cape is a natural reserve with one
24 hundred times more life than RGV, and a rocket launches there
25 twice a week. The Saturn V launched there, the Shuttle did as

1 well, and there was no environmental issues at all, even though
2 those polluted way more.

3 Additionally, the Starship Program is going to
4 be crucial for national security and military as it can put
5 larger military satellites into low Earth orbit and beyond.
6 Not just that, but also it's been planned to deliver
7 point-to-point cargo to any place on Earth in less than an
8 hour. The benefit that would have for military operations of
9 our countries is huge. We need innovation, we need investment
10 in our state, we need jobs. This is going to make RGV the
11 area -- RGV area the start point of our return to the Moon, for
12 interplanetary exploration and transportation. This will make
13 RGV area the place where the humans' access to space changed
14 forever, the place where it all started.

15 The impact on the new generations is already
16 visible with so many young people going there, seeing the
17 history being made, seeing our future being built. I beg the
18 FAA to please give those licenses to SpaceX. Many people, the
19 whole world, needs these launches. Just like Buzz Aldrin said
20 in an article, "Now, go where no man has gone before." America
21 should be taking the lead in space exploration again.

22 Thank you so much, FAA, and everyone for
23 listening.

24 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.
25 Okay, folks, I'm not seeing Alex, Dillon, or Bruce on the Zoom

1 this evening, so I've pasted the names of the next five
2 speakers in the chat: Anny Carson-Clash, Christopher Phelan,
3 Kenneth Teague, Viviana Trevino, and Russell Jones. If you
4 would please raise your hand and I will ask you to unmute.

5 We're on Speaker No. 114, currently. We're
6 going to hear from these five people and then we'll take
7 another five-minute break for our court reporter and
8 translator.

9 Okay, Anny, I see your hand. I'm going to ask
10 you to unmute.

11 MS. CARSON-CLASH: Hello.

12 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
13 minutes.

14 MS. CARSON-CLASH: Yeah, hi. I've been
15 listening to the conversations so far and I only actually heard
16 one teenager speak and they are the next generation and he was
17 very positive about SpaceX and its exploration and its
18 direction towards moving towards the (audio distortion).

19 MS. PIGGOTT: Anny, are you still there? It's a
20 pretty rough connection. We're not hearing much of your
21 comment.

22 (No audible or visible response.)

23 MS. PIGGOTT: Anny Carson-Clash, are you still
24 there?

25 (No audible or visible response.)

1 MS. PIGGOTT: Okay, I'm going to put you on mute
2 and -- and come back if we can get a better connection.

3 Okay, Kenneth Teague, I see your hand is raised.
4 I'm going to ask you to unmute.

5 MR. TEAGUE: Can you hear me?

6 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
7 minutes.

8 MR. TEAGUE: Okay, my name is Kenneth Teague,
9 retired coastal ecological scientist, 40 years experience in
10 Texas and Louisiana in coastal environment protection and
11 restoration. I'm a certified professional wetland scientist
12 and a certified senior ecologist. I am knowledgeable and a
13 concerned coastal scientist and citizen of the U.S. and the
14 State of Texas and a fifth generation native Texan. I have no
15 conflict of interest. I am not employed by SpaceX, its
16 contractors or any of its competitors. I am a U.S. citizen.

17 FAA should specifically identify comments made
18 by SpaceX employees or its contractors. FAA must determine
19 whether NEPA reached out for comment by non-U.S. citizens or
20 non-U.S. residents. If NEPA does not allow for that, FAA must
21 identify comments made by ineligible commenters and remove them
22 from the administrative record. The original agency approvals
23 that allowed SpaceX to destroy Boca Chica were made incorrectly
24 based on intentional withholding (audio distortion) full scope
25 of planned activity.

1 SpaceX and FAA selected what may be the worst
2 possible environmental location for the facilities it
3 constructed and for the proposed expansion of these facilities.
4 Boca Chica is not Cape Canaveral. Cape Canaveral does not have
5 ocelot or jaguarundi. The endangered ocelot and jaguarundi are
6 iconic (audio distortion) cat species that are unique to this
7 area and are already almost certainly seriously impacted by
8 SpaceX. They are not doing well. They do not appreciate all
9 this support for their destruction.

10 SpaceX and FAA did not conduct an acceptable
11 alternative analysis in 2014, nor have they done so for the
12 Draft PEA. Acceptable, alternative locations with far less
13 environmental impacts clearly exist. The 2014 EIS
14 underestimated the environmental impacts of SpaceX's activities
15 at Boca Chica. Are they being (audio distortion) about their
16 future plans? At a minimum, the existing and proposed projects
17 significantly effect threatened, endangered species and their
18 habitat, aquatic habitats, legally protected public use of the
19 beach, a major wildlife refuge, and two state parks, and
20 whatever is left of the community of Boca Chica Village.
21 SpaceX has a --

22 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

23 MR. TEAGUE: -- a hired police force which has
24 abused (audio distortion). SpaceX was inappropriately issued a
25 Clean Water Act Section 404 permit by the U.S. Army Corps of

1 Engineers. SpaceX did not comply with the 4 -- 404(b)(1)
2 guidelines and isn't in compliance with it. The existing and
3 proposed projects violate (audio distortion) Barrier Resources
4 Act. This is not trivial.

5 MS. PIGGOTT: That's three minutes. Thank you
6 for your comments.

7 Chris, I see your hand is raised. I'm going to
8 ask you to unmute.

9 MR. PHELAN: Hi. Can you hear me?

10 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
11 minutes.

12 MR. PHELAN: Okay. I'm from Corpus Christi, Tx.
13 I'm calling in because I'm concerned about what I see as an
14 abuse of power and -- and I want to go in and -- go ahead and
15 back up what Rebekah Hinojosa said. This is environmental
16 racism, this is colonialism. I'm 52 years old, I'm a fifth
17 generation Texan. I live in Corpus Christi, Texas. I know
18 Bekah Hinojosa because she brought water to my community when a
19 refinery poisoned our water and we couldn't drink out of it.
20 That's because the -- the TCEQ and the EPA and my city, Corpus
21 Christi, were -- were not taking care of the business that
22 their job is, and that is to keep the City and the water safe.
23 Now, the FFA (sic) has a -- has a job now and allowing this
24 company, and this is a company, this is not part of, you know,
25 rah-rah U.S.A., nah, this is a -- this is a private entity and

1 it's undemocratic and that's -- that's -- that's another point
2 I want to make. This is an unDemocratic entity, and it's
3 operating outside of the constraints of democracy that we had
4 agreed upon and -- and it's operating outside of the agreements
5 that it made with the FFA (sic) already.

6 So, it needs a full environmental assessment,
7 okay, and it -- why -- this is a weapons system. You're
8 testing a weapons system. You talk about all this -- your --
9 you're cult members. This is a weapons system. It's going to
10 hurt people, it's going to murder people. We built our Space
11 Station out of cooperation, international cooperation. We were
12 moving towards that and now we've seen this horrible slide of
13 humanity, of our society.

14 Now, we do not need to give up any of those
15 birds or anything down there. The only reason they're here is
16 money and it's here because -- they're here because it's
17 cheaper. They can go to other facilities and test their
18 rockets. They want to -- of course, who doesn't want to go sit
19 a little tiny house out on the beach and have their own little
20 fiefdom, but that's -- that's not the way that democracy works.
21 This isn't a company that's run by one individual or --

22 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

23 MR. PHELAN: -- even a board. This is a
24 democracy and -- and I'm here to ask the representatives of
25 that democracy, which right now is the FFA (sic), to do a full

1 environmental assessment of anything that they do down on Boca
2 Chica Beach, and -- and I further think that -- that there
3 should be another formal meeting because you did not put this
4 out in Spanish and that is --

5 MS. PIGGOTT: Time. Thank you for your
6 comments.

7 MR. PHELAN: Thank you.

8 MS. PIGGOTT: Okay, our next speaker is Russell
9 Jones. Russell, I'm going to ask you to unmute. Russell
10 Jones?

11 MR. JONES: Hello. Can you hear me? (Audio
12 echoing.)

13 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
14 minutes.

15 MR. JONES: I'd like to address (audio echoing)
16 the guy who said (audio echoing) when it gets to 40 launches a
17 day that'd be a big problem. By then the launches should be
18 occurring way off shore, that's the plan (audio echoing).

19 Mostly, we've heard "not in my backyard," and I
20 sympathize with everybody who's going through changes, but I --
21 (audio echoing) think the scope of this project (audio echoing)
22 -- I'm going to go through some of the points that have been
23 made. It's clear that it's going to be great for the economy
24 because it always has when that kind of an industry moves in.

25 When he bought out the little village (audio

1 echoing) in Boca Chica, my understanding is SpaceX paid three
2 times (audio echoing) market value. So there are -- seem like
3 good neighbors whenever reliable reports come out. He -- I
4 want to mention (audio echoing) Elon gave a hundred million
5 dollars (audio echoing) to an XPRIZE, to do the one thing that
6 could save us the quickest, getting the carbon out of the air.
7 He gave a hundred million dollars, biggest one ever.

8 Imagine having this meeting in 1962 (audio
9 echoing) down in Cape Canaveral and think how much you'd like
10 to delay it because, myself, I believe I'm a citizen of the
11 world, but I'm also an American, and I have national pride, and
12 how are the guys in the FAA going to feel when the Russians or
13 the Europeans or the Chinese land on Mars and we're not already
14 there to meet them? Think about that.

15 I thought the guy that said let's do a
16 provisional permit to let them go as fast as they want and, in
17 the meantime, work with them. If you need to do an EIS, they
18 can probably afford to do it as long as it's not stopping their
19 progress.

20 I like the guy who said Boca Chica is going to
21 be famous forever. I thought -- I thought that hit a nice
22 emotional chord.

23 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

24 MR. JONES: I'd like to mention Elon doesn't
25 have a billion dollars (audio echoing). He's got enough stock

1 (audio echoing) so that he can keep a big influence in the
2 companies. If he never sells any of it (audio echoing), he
3 lives off of getting loans against the billions of stock that
4 he never sells.

5 That's it. Thank you very much.

6 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.

7 Okay, Anny, I see that you're back online. I
8 can give you another minute. I'm going to ask you to unmute.
9 Anny Carson-Clash, can you hear me?

10 (No audible or visible response.)

11 MS. PIGGOTT: Okay, I'm not seeing Vivian (sic)
12 Trevino on the line. So, folks, we'll take a quick two-minute
13 break for our court reporter. We'll come back at 8:37 Central
14 Time, and then we'll hear from Eric Jeppesen, Dan Holmes, Laita
15 Snapp, Bryant Wren, and Mark Fowler.

16 Folks, I do want to let you know we -- it's
17 unlikely that we will be able to get to everyone this evening,
18 as we still have another 70 people registered to speak. We'll
19 see you guys back in about two minutes to hear some more oral
20 comments. Thank you.

21 (Short recess.)

22 MS. PIGGOTT: Okay, folks, our next speakers are
23 Eric Jeppesen, Dan Holmes, Laita Snapp, Bryan (sic) Wren, and
24 Mark Fowler.

25 Dan, I see your hand is raised. I'm going to

1 ask you to unmute.

2 (No audible or visible response.)

3 MS. PIGGOTT: Dan, I'm asking you to unmute.

4 MR. HOLMES: Okay. How's my audio?

5 MS. PIGGOTT: There you go, I can hear you. You
6 have three minutes.

7 MR. HOLMES: Thank you for having me. My name
8 is Dan Holmes. That's H-O-L-M-E-S. I am speaking today from
9 Nome, Alaska. I'm speaking very strongly in favor of approval
10 of SpaceX's continued testing of the Starship and Super Heavy
11 spacecraft.

12 Elon's special type of genius only happens once
13 in a generation. He's like a Nikola Tesla, Albert Einstein,
14 Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and Steve Jobs all rolled into one.
15 He's a thoroughbred champion who should not be hobbled. Give
16 him a little reins, but let him run.

17 As stated by previous speakers, the environment
18 of Cape Canaveral has adjusted to the busy launch facility,
19 just as the environment of the South Coast of Texas will adjust
20 to SpaceX's vital development. Also, Vandenberg Air Force Base
21 has a very strong environment, even though there is a national
22 security launch facility there which SpaceX uses.

23 My father actually, incidentally, used to work
24 there in the '70s for Boeing company, a national security
25 contract. He was a guidance systems on ICBMs. If he were

1 alive today he would be in very much in approval of this, as I
2 am.

3 The outspoken opponents of SpaceX in Cameron
4 County are rightfully expressing their displeasure of the
5 annoyance of having such a game-changing operation in their
6 backyard, but to make an omelette, we must first break eggs,
7 right, and SpaceX has been very generous and caring in its
8 development to include the citizens in their success. Boca
9 Chica has unwittingly become the local point of the evolution
10 of mankind becoming multiplanetary. There's no better-suited
11 location in the United States for such an ambitious project.

12 The fact that Boca Chica is facing the East
13 Coast and as far south in the United States as it is, it's an
14 ideal location for using the spin of the Earth to assist
15 launches while endangering fewer lives in the process of
16 launching over water. You at the FAA are acutely aware of
17 these facts.

18 The current world Coronavirus infection
19 emphasizes --

20 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

21 MR. HOLMES: -- necessary for planting a seed of
22 humanity elsewhere in this vast universe.

23 The dinosaurs lasted over a hundred million
24 years, we've only been here for a short time by comparison,
25 humanity. Look at all that Elon Musk's companies have done for

1 the environment and think of how he is helping humanity. So,
2 naturally, he's become wealthy in the process, he uses that
3 money as a tool, not as a way of --

4 MS. PIGGOTT: That's three minutes. Thank you
5 for your comments.

6 MR. HOLMES: Time is of the essence.

7 MS. PIGGOTT: Okay, Eric Jeppesen, I'm going to
8 ask you to unmute. Eric, are you there?

9 MR. JEPPESEN: Hello, can you hear me?

10 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
11 minutes.

12 MR. JEPPESEN: Thank you very much, and thanks
13 for the opportunity to speak to this. I am very much in favor
14 of the FAA approving SpaceX's request. I am a life-long space
15 technology follower, and as the gentleman before me said, as
16 was my father, and I wish that he was here today (audio
17 feedback/echoing) also in favor of SpaceX and their project. I
18 am in fact (audio feedback/echoing) a --

19 MS. PIGGOTT: Eric, we're getting a lot of
20 background. You might need to mute your local speakers or take
21 us off of speakerphone.

22 MR. JEPPESEN: Sorry, is that better?

23 MS. PIGGOTT: No, we're getting a lot of
24 background and echoing.

25 MR. JEPPESEN: Okay, sorry, is this better

1 (audio echoing)?

2 MS. PIGGOTT: No, unfortunately not.

3 MR. JEPPESEN: (Inaudible). Is that better now?

4 MS. PIGGOTT: It's a little bit better.

5 MR. JEPPESEN: (Inaudible). Thank you. Once
6 again, we (inaudible) --

7 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear.

8 MS. PIGGOTT: Yeah, Eric, I apologize, we -- we
9 cannot hear you. There's too much background noise and an
10 echo. You may want to hang up and try calling back in.

11 MR. JEPPESEN: I am trying now this other
12 microphone. Is that any better?

13 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, that is much better. Go
14 ahead.

15 MR. JEPPESEN: So sorry, thank you. Again, not
16 a life-long member of the area or -- or resident of the area;
17 however, I have lived in Brownsville many years and in the Rio
18 Grande Valley for over 40 years of my life. I know the area
19 quite well. I have family members as well as many friends in
20 the area. I am completely and wholly in favor of SpaceX being
21 granted whatever permits are necessary for it to carry out its
22 activities.

23 As a resident and a lover of this area and the
24 beaches and also of its nature, I cannot understand how one can
25 be opposed to the company that is -- the original company

1 pushing the electric car, to make our air cleaner and better
2 and more -- and to be more efficient, ourselves, in our
3 transportation. Also, SpaceX itself is certainly the cleanest
4 and most reusable vehicle that has ever been produced. I don't
5 understand how you can be against better, cleaner and less
6 expensive and more environmentally friendly. No, it's not
7 perfect. Yes, there are trade-offs, but I think that the
8 benefits, for us in the area and for humanity as a whole, far
9 outweigh the risks or the drawbacks that we are seeing.

10 Until recently, Brownsville was known for very
11 few things. Despite having beautiful nature trails, despite
12 having unique wildlife, the area was not an attraction to
13 travel or to tourism except for nearby South Padre Island.
14 Now, I hear children, schools --

15 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. JEPPESEN: -- speaking with hope in their
17 eyes that there are interesting and exciting things happening,
18 and this is thanks to SpaceX. I think there is nothing but
19 good that will come to the area from this. The economy will
20 improve and there is finally hope for the future in this area,
21 which was not expected by the residents, of which I am one.

22 Thanks very much for the opportunity, FAA.
23 Please, please grant SpaceX the opportunity --

24 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.
25 That's three minutes.

1 Mark, I see your hand is raised. I'm going to
2 ask you to unmute.

3 MR. FOWLER: Hello, my name is Mark Fowler. Can
4 you hear me?

5 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
6 minutes.

7 MR. FOWLER: Okay, my name is Mark Fowler, and I
8 am a -- I actually build public/private partnerships regarding
9 conservation that include not only the government, for-profit,
10 nonprofit, and local stakeholders. And I'm -- I've been
11 listening into this -- this FAA discussion for the last two
12 events, and I have to say it's -- I think one thing that we
13 are -- we are not seeing is that this is a huge opportunity for
14 the area and for the ecosystem.

15 I've been researching the biological assessment
16 that -- that the FAA put out with -- with SpaceX and I've also
17 been researching the work they have already done in the region,
18 which -- which also includes, you know, saving thousands of sea
19 turtles. They're working with the Peregrine Fund, which is the
20 top falcon and bird of prey restoration organization in the
21 world. They breed and release falcons, so the aplomado falcon
22 could be -- their numbers could be actually increased.

23 They're also working with local stakeholders on
24 ocelot on potentially breeding and, hopefully, one day
25 re-releasing ocelots and hopefully increasing the habitat. One

1 thing people don't realize is the loss of habitat is the
2 largest threat to all wildlife, and if you look at the southern
3 Rio Grande Valley, 95 percent of the Valley has been degraded
4 significantly. And there's an opportunity here, instead of
5 making the -- one of the richest and largest corporations and
6 individuals on the planet into an enemy and to, you know,
7 making him into someone that has bad potential -- they think
8 has bad intentions, the reality is this organization is working
9 very hard to save the -- the wildlife and also to bring a whole
10 evolution of the economy.

11 One last thing I'd like to say is that, you
12 know, SpaceX and -- and Boca Chica is almost exactly like
13 Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center. Cape Canaveral
14 Seashore and the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge are
15 literally some of the most diverse on -- in the Country. It's
16 one of the largest and most diverse in the Country and the --
17 the Kennedy Space Center sits right in the middle of it.

18 So, you know, that's since the '70s. We
19 actually know what will happen. We have sea turtles, peregrine
20 falcons, bald eagles, bobcats, even --

21 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

22 MR. FOWLER: -- even Florida panthers have been
23 seen there, and it also brings something like 1.82 billion
24 dollars to the local economy.

25 So I think we have an -- an amazing example of

1 what will happen if this is approved and when this is approved,
2 and there's an amazing opportunity for the local people, for
3 the government, for the nonprofits and for the for profit. So
4 I very much support SpaceX in this -- in this endeavor and I
5 believe it will be greater for the --

6 MS. PIGGOTT: That's time. Thank you for your
7 comments.

8 Okay, folks, I'm not seeing Laita or Bryant on
9 the line, so I'm going to move to the next five speakers. Ian,
10 I see your hand is raised. I'm going to ask you to unmute.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello, can you hear me?

12 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
13 minutes.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Excellent, all right. Hi, thank
15 you for allowing me to speak tonight. I represent no special
16 interest group, only myself. I'm sure you'll receive many
17 detractors of this project, both orally and in writing, and I
18 would like to take my three minutes to briefly address some
19 major concerns regarding the construction of the Boca Chica
20 Launch Site.

21 I believe that solutions to detractors' concerns
22 can and should be implemented in a way that does not impede on
23 the unprecedented speed and efficiency of SpaceX's operations.
24 One major concern comes largely from environmentalists who
25 protested that the launch operation will destroy endangered

1 species and fragile wildlife. Although these are valid
2 concerns, I call back to NASA Astronaut Don Thomas'
3 autobiography, Orbit of Discovery.

4 He details that before one of the Shuttle
5 missions, his ship was attacked by a woodpecker, which pecked
6 dozens of holes into the external tank's insulating foam,
7 significantly delaying the launch. In response, NASA worked in
8 coordination with wildlife and environmental organizations to
9 implement solutions such as hanging predator-shaped balloons
10 and figurines around the launch site to ward off woodpeckers,
11 which had the added bonus of ensuring their own safety at --
12 during launch. This -- this story serves an important lesson:
13 Effective solutions to problems are possible that do not
14 involve extreme and regressive measures.

15 Another major concern involves a gas plant.
16 First and foremost, the idea that any sort of fracking
17 operation or a massive conspiracy or cover up is taking place
18 is not grounded in fact and is largely based on speculation.
19 One primary argument is that SpaceX violated the mission
20 thresholds by running a 250-megawatt power plant 24/7; however,
21 the critic does not take into account that a 250-megawatt plant
22 only needs to be run during launch operations, that such a plant
23 will almost never be needed to run at maximum capacity, and
24 also fails to disclose that, per Section 2.1.4.7 of the
25 document, there would be a small turbine in addition to the

1 larger one.

2 It is likely that SpaceX will use the smaller
3 turbine 24/7 for essential systems and fire up the larger
4 one during -- excuse me -- during lunch operations. Thus, the
5 possibility of a fracking operation is limited and natural gas
6 may be transported from abandoned natural gas wells nearby the
7 underground pipeline that has minimal impact on the environment
8 or for wildlife, although this is not clear in the document.

9 In conclusion, I fully support SpaceX's
10 ambitions for their Starship/Super Heavy Program, and I also
11 acknowledge the concerns of locals and environmentalists,
12 therefore, I only have four requests.

13 No. 1, SpaceX should make clear --

14 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: -- SpaceX should make clear in
16 their document where natural gas will be sourced from.

17 No. 2, SpaceX should work in unison with
18 environmental groups to implement solutions to their concerns.

19 No. 3, SpaceX or the County should build a
20 separate access to Boca Chica Beach so that locals can enjoy
21 their homeland while SpaceX conducts operations without the
22 need for closures.

23 And, finally, these requests should be done with
24 the utmost speed and efficiency so as not to impede on SpaceX's
25 activities.

1 Thank you for your -- your time and allowing for
2 me to speak to you tonight.

3 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.
4 Okay, folks, I'm not seeing Mark, Jacob, or Victor on the line
5 this evening. I've posted the names of the next five in the
6 chat.

7 Before I get to them, Craig, I apologize, I
8 almost skipped you. Craig, I'm going to ask you to unmute.

9 MR. CASPER: Is my microphone on?

10 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
11 minutes.

12 MR. CASPER: Good evening. My name is Craig
13 Casper. I am a resident of Padre Island and I have read the
14 preliminary Environmental Assessment.

15 I'm actually surprised to the mitigated EA as
16 the approach being attempted. I have been the leader of nearly
17 50 NEPA assessments, including 15 full EISs. Based on that
18 experience, I ask that a tiered EIS, to describe detailed
19 analyses of a significant and direct, indirect and cumulative
20 impacts of the proposed actions and the appropriate mitigation
21 for those actions, be undertaken. It is criminal that
22 individually significant actions, such as the desalination
23 plant are discarded without exploration.

24 Significant secondary impacts, such as changes
25 in population and increasing support industries developing in

1 the area aren't discussed at all, and significant cumulative
2 impacts, such as increased tourism and fangirls driving around
3 looking at the cool rockets are discarded without discussion.

4 The FAA is the cognizant agency for the NEPA
5 Environmental Policy Act. It needs to be treated with the
6 gravitas that that deserves. Facilitating the richest man on
7 the planet to ignore the laws of the United States at the
8 expense of low income, minority, and vulnerable ecosystems is
9 not the role that the FAA should embrace.

10 It may be that the benefits of the proposal
11 outweigh the impacts. It may also be that the currently
12 proposed location is not suitable for the development and
13 launching of Starship and Super Heavy. Maybe the abandoned --
14 abandoned bombing range on (indiscernible) would be better.
15 It's further south and will provide more of a boost without the
16 ecosystem damage. Without a complete environmental impact
17 statement and an effort to include all of the actions that will
18 be undertaken on the site, it is quite literally impossible for
19 anyone to know.

20 Please begin the -- the final EIS immediately,
21 or, if the need for this facility -- facility is truly of
22 national interest, then appeal to Brenda Mallory at the Council
23 of Environmental Quality for an exemption. That is why that
24 that -- that option exists. I also want to say that I fully
25 support Elon Musk dying on Mars, and I'm not picky about it

1 being on impact or not.

2 Also, Tiffany Mendoza, you, the translators and
3 the court reporter, oh, my God, you guys are doing a heck of a
4 job. I hope you all have rum punches in your immediate future.
5 You ladies have earned it.

6 Go Big Red, and remember to always throw the
7 bones. Bugga, bugga, bugga, bugga, bugga, (buzzing noise) --

8 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: -- whea.

10 MS. PIGGOTT: Okay, folks, our next five
11 speakers, and these may be the last five that we have time to
12 hear from this evening, are Nicholas Morales, Ernesto Lopez,
13 Richard Harrell, Stanley Nate, and Mellissa Martinez.

14 Ernesto, I see your hand is raised. I'm going
15 to ask you to unmute.

16 MR. LOPEZ: Can hear me?

17 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
18 minutes.

19 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. We are a local family. Our
20 company, Lopez Family Woodwork & Construction, we started with
21 three team members building backyard fences in Brownsville.
22 Then, because of a townhall meeting SpaceX had in Brownsville,
23 we had the opportunity to work at SpaceX. In one year and a
24 half, we went from three team members to over fifty team
25 members, which all are local Brownsville residents. We have --

1 we also subcontract over ten local companies to support us on
2 different projects that we have at SpaceX.

3 Brownsville is in the eyes of the world and we
4 can share our border culture to the world. Our downtown is
5 growing with grants from SpaceX. Our students are getting more
6 educational opportunities, trips to SpaceX facility.

7 Brownsville, overall, is growing in many positive ways because
8 of SpaceX, not just economically, tourism growth, growth of
9 housing, more different businesses are coming to Brownsville,
10 providing more jobs to our residents and, overall, inspiring
11 new entrepreneurs.

12 Firsthand, we have seen how SpaceX is committed
13 to help our environment by supporting many beach cleanups.
14 They also assist with the past freeze to help the sea turtles,
15 along with different companies such as our company and other
16 companies that work at SpaceX. We're watching history unfold
17 in our background, a glimpse to become a multiplanet species.
18 One day we'll have tacos in Mars while paying Tejano music in a
19 colony in Mars, and that's just one culture of many cultures
20 that will be preserved throughout the universe.

21 As a Purple Heart veteran, SpaceX Starship
22 Program reminds me the meaning of the American dream, to always
23 follow your dreams and to get the mission done.

24 Thank you, FAA. Thank you, SpaceX, God,
25 Country, family. And thank you for your time.

1 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.

2 Okay, Stanley Nate, I see your hand is raised.
3 I'm going to ask you to unmute.

4 MR. NATE: Hi, can you hear me?

5 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
6 minutes.

7 MR. NATE: Thank you. The focus on protecting
8 natural amenities in the local ecology is very much warranted;
9 however, it is also important to note the incredible positive
10 potential of the research and development being conducted at
11 this site. I do not believe it is hyperbole to say that the
12 technology being advanced at this location may be seen by
13 future generations as one of the defining advancements of the
14 21st century.

15 MS. PIGGOTT: Stanley, my apologies for
16 interrupting. You need to slow down just a little bit.

17 MR. NATE: Sure, will do. The road to becoming
18 a multiplanetary civilization will undoubtedly be a long and
19 hard one, and there is no guarantee of success. SpaceX's
20 Starship project, even if entirely successful, will not alone
21 allow us to achieve that goal; however, its immense capability
22 and its focus on complete reusability are critical first steps
23 along that path. Critical first steps that, to be frank, no
24 other organization on Earth is currently seriously pursuing.
25 Even NASA, which remains to this day the only entity to ever

1 send humans beyond low Earth orbit, has not done so in nearly
2 50 years, and the current plan to return to the Moon relies on
3 the successful development of Starship.

4 Extending our civilization beyond our home
5 planet is likely to be the most difficult endeavor humans have
6 ever pursued, but it is not an exaggeration to say that our
7 best chance of success and for the foreseeable future, likely
8 our only realistic chance of success, lies with the budding
9 development and launch site in Boca Chica, Texas. It is hard
10 to imagine now, with humanity's space programs still in its
11 infancy, the full measure of what that success might look like.
12 But if this endeavor is successful, if we do become a
13 space-bearing civilization, like those that currently exist
14 only in the dreams of science fiction, if we're able to
15 hundreds and thousands of years from now construct massive
16 orbital space colonies, build cities on distant moons, even
17 terraform other worlds, our descendents will see Earth's
18 ecology expand into the cosmos.

19 Earth is an incredibly rare world, perhaps even
20 an entirely unique one, and therefore protecting and sustaining
21 its beauty and its habitability are critically important. But
22 equally important is proliferating that natural beauty so that
23 Earth is no longer the only oasis of life and nature in the
24 vast desolation of space.

25 This is why I believe that the work that SpaceX

1 is doing is critical to the future, and not just of humanity,
2 but also of the flora and fauna with whom we share this
3 beautiful world. It is incumbent upon SpaceX to take whatever
4 realistic measures they can to protect the surrounding
5 environment and avoid undue convenience to their neighbors.
6 But as long as they so, it is also critical that this vital
7 work be allowed to continue, that the drawbacks of beach
8 closures and intermittent sound pollution be weighed against
9 the tremendous and unparalleled benefits that this project and
10 those that directly follow from it will bring to future
11 generations. One day trillions of --

12 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

13 MR. NATE: -- one day trillions of humans,
14 living and thriving throughout our solar system and perhaps
15 even on worlds beyond, will be able to trace their origin back
16 to the advancements made and the risks taken by our generation,
17 trillions of humans who might only exist because here, at the
18 tail end of 2021, humanity made the bold and greatest decision
19 to take our first, fearless footsteps on the road to the stars.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.

22 Okay. I am not seeing Nicolas or Richard on the
23 Zoom. Mellissa Martinez, I'm going to ask you to unmute.

24 MS. MARTINEZ: Hello?

25 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three

1 minutes.

2 MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. Hi, my name is Mellissa
3 Martinez and I am a Texan. I was born and raised here in
4 Texas, in Houston. So, I want to talk about that for a moment.
5 So, living here in Houston, you know, my city is all about, you
6 know, renovation and being the capitol of, you know, all these
7 innovation ideas. And with that background of being a native
8 Houstonian and also with my entire family being from
9 Brownsville and being raised in the Valley, I want to take this
10 opportunity to uplift both contexts of when it comes to, you
11 know, the desires of innovation. And, also, I really
12 appreciate all previous speakers talking about wanting to --
13 talking about sustainability and preservations and all these
14 big, bold ideas.

15 Well, I believe that the biggest, boldest idea
16 that's, right now, that we're discussing in terms of SpaceX is,
17 quite frankly, listening to the communities that are being
18 affected of this, and that's Brownsville residents and also
19 Texans in general, and even though there is so much hopes and
20 dreams when it comes to this ideation, but let me bring y'all
21 down a little bit and say this is the reality. The reality is
22 this will be historical in the making, but what's historical in
23 the making is that this is the legacy of the environmental
24 racism continuing. This is the legacy of continuing ongoing
25 colonization and ethnic cleansing in the Rio Grande Valley

1 region.

2 SpaceX, it's terrible to hear that, you know,
3 SpaceX has never consulted with the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of
4 Texas and the originals people here, such as also finding out
5 that, you know, there weren't available Spanish slides? We're
6 talking about a group that is being affected that is solely --
7 the number one main language is Spanish, and you cannot tell me
8 that there is discrimination not involved here. It is a prized
9 concept of this and it is also horrifying to hear that there's
10 so much -- all of these accommodations to a rich, white man in
11 comparison to the residents that will be affected in this
12 community.

13 So, with that said, it's --

14 MS. PIGGOTT: Thirty seconds.

15 MS. MARTINEZ: -- this is the now, this is the
16 present. The present is the people are being exploited,
17 gentrification is continuing, so much colonization and white
18 supremacy traits of this. This is not a lie, this is our
19 reality, and reality -- this is valid. There is truth into
20 this and I really hope that y'all take into considerations a --
21 not only the biodiversity that will be affected. This is
22 talking about black and brown communities being affected, and
23 this is not okay --

24 MS. PIGGOTT: That's three minutes. Thank you
25 for your comments.

1 MS. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

2 MS. PIGGOTT: Richard Harrell, I see your hand
3 is raised. You will be the final speaker this evening.

4 MR. HARRELL: Hello? My name --

5 MS. PIGGOTT: Yes, go ahead. You have three
6 minutes.

7 MR. HARRELL: Thank you. My name is Richard
8 Harrell. I will be representing the RE Community today and --
9 sorry. It is no -- on the terms of environmental impact of
10 what is SpaceX is doing in Boca Chica, I don't believe in the
11 end it will be the biggest problem, you know. I believe what
12 they're doing in the end benefit all of mankind, you know,
13 like, I -- I can't believe we get to see this kind of stuff in
14 our lifetimes, like, they're building the biggest rocket ever
15 made, it's amazing. But I think this contract should be given
16 to SpaceX, but in the event that something catastrophic were to
17 go wrong with the environment or the community, they should
18 definitely be held accountable for it.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 MS. PIGGOTT: Thank you for your comments.

21 Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we apologize that
22 the time has run out before some of you had an opportunity to
23 provide your oral comments. I know many of you have been
24 waiting for a long time. Please remember that all comments,
25 whether submitted orally, electronically, or in writing will

1 receive equal consideration.

2 Please submit your comments electronically via
3 the project e-mail at SpaceXBocaChica@icf.com, or you can mail
4 comments to Ms. Stacey Zee, SpaceX PEA, c/o ICF, at 9300 Lee
5 Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031.

6 Before including your address, phone number,
7 e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in
8 your comment, please be advised that your entire comment,
9 including your personal identifying information, may be made
10 publicly available at any time. To ensure the FAA has
11 sufficient time to consider public input, comments must be
12 submitted by November 1st, 2021.

13 Thank you for attending. This hearing is
14 adjourned.

15 (Hearing adjourned at 9:06 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 THE STATE OF TEXAS)

3 COUNTY OF HIDALGO)

4 I, Mary Lopez Buitron, Certified Shorthand
5 Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that
6 I was authorized to and did stenographically report the
7 foregoing proceedings by Zoom Videoconference, and that the
8 transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic
9 notes.

10 I further certify that I am not a relative,
11 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I
12 a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or
13 counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially
14 interested in the action.

15 DATED this 31st day of October, 2021, in Hidalgo
16 County, Texas.

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