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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SALE OF PLUM ISLAND, NEW YORK

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: October 17, 2012

TIME: 6:03 P.M.

HELD AT: SAYBROOK POINT INN & SPA

2 BRIDGE STREET

OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT

BRANDON SMITH REPORTING & VIDEO

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1 MR. WALTON: Good evening, everyone,
2 ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming out this
3 evening for our meeting. I had the pleasure of
4 meeting many of you as you came and signed in and look
5 forward to hearing from several of you tonight. We
6 look forward to sharing information with you tonight.
7 We are here this evening, and the purpose of the
8 presentation and this public meeting is to review the
9 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Sale of
10 Plum Island, New York, as I'm sure you are all aware.

11 Before we get started, a few
12 housekeeping items. I know many of you have been here
13 for the better part of the last hour, so you've
14 probably found your way around. But just for
15 orientation, restrooms are in the corridor here and
16 available. If you have any questions or problems
17 during the meeting, of course the hotel lobby and
18 staff are available, and they've done an excellent job
19 helping us to prepare for the meeting. If you brought
20 a cellphone or similar device with you, if you would,
21 please, place it on mute or turn it off for the
22 consideration to others. Thank you.

23 I'm Lee Walton. I am a public
24 relations officer with AMEC Environment &
25 Infrastructure. We are a consulting firm under

1 contract with the General Services Administration to
2 prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I'll
3 refer to it is an EIS for here on out for simplicity,
4 for the Sale of Plum Island. I'll be the moderator
5 for the meeting this evening.

6 I believe that everyone had a chance
7 to sign in as you entered the room. But if you did
8 not sign in, please do so on your way out. We want to
9 be sure that we have an accurate record of everyone
10 who attended the meeting tonight. And also, if you
11 provide us your contact information, we'll be able to
12 keep you informed as the EIS progresses.

13 Also, I have a stack of cards of
14 those who wish to speak tonight at the comment
15 session. If anyone else does and you haven't provided
16 a card, that's not a problem. You can either do so at
17 the break or -- we'll have a break and opportunity to
18 let me know that you'd like to speak. This meeting is
19 being held in accordance with provisions from the
20 National Environmental Pollution Act also referred to
21 as NEPA.

22 GSA, General Services
23 Administration, the lead federal agency on the
24 project, is responsible for analysis of the potential
25 environmental impacts concerned with the sale of Plum

1 Island. Your input and input from other members of
2 the public that we're obtaining through letters,
3 through these public meetings and comments will be
4 used by GSA in the process of finalizing the EIS and
5 the record of decision.

6 Notice of this draft EIS is
7 available for review, and notice of these public
8 meetings has been published in the newspapers and in
9 Web sites and in other ways. There is a project Web
10 site, if you're not aware, that will be the project
11 Web site. Information will be included in the
12 presentation. Please note that this meeting will
13 focus specifically on the EIS related to the sale of
14 Plum Island.

15 Prior federal actions, including
16 those related to ongoing cleanup or the change of use
17 of the property by the Department of Homeland
18 Security, are not part of the focus tonight. So,
19 again, to reiterate, the focus tonight is the
20 environmental impact study concerning the sale of Plum
21 Island.

22 Before we begin our presentation I
23 would like to introduce several representatives of GSA
24 and DHS. Robert Zarneski, Patrick Sclafani, John
25 Dugan, John Kelly, Phil Youngberg and Gabrielle Sigel

1 with GSA, Dana Bouley with the Department of Homeland
2 Security, and I'm joined from AMEC by Mark Stelmack,
3 who is operating the computer, and Josh Jenkins, who
4 will speak tonight.

5 This team has been working together
6 to prepare the EIS on behalf of GSA. At this time I'd
7 like to take a moment to recognize Senator Blumenthal.
8 Thank you for your attendance tonight, and any other
9 dignitaries in the room, I apologize if I haven't met
10 or recognized. Is there anyone else? Okay. Thank
11 you, Senator, for your presence tonight.

12 So tonight the members of our team
13 will describe the proposed need for action, the NEPA
14 analysis process, and will summarize the results of
15 the draft EIS. Following the presentation, anyone who
16 wishes to speak will have the opportunity to present
17 comments and make statements for the meeting record.
18 Public input into the decision-making process for the
19 sale of Plum Island helps to ensure that local area
20 needs and concerns relative to the proposed action and
21 any environmental effects are considered before an
22 action is taken.

23 With us tonight is Jackie McCauley,
24 a court reporter who is recording everything. She
25 will be recording all public comments as well so that

1 they are officially entered into the record of the EIS
2 process. So I'd like to stress that when any of you
3 come up in the comment period to make a comment, you
4 will be speaking to Ms. McCauley, and she will be
5 recording your comments.

6 Alternatively, if you wish to submit
7 comments but you do not wish to speak, there are
8 comment forms available on the table outside that you
9 may take with you, complete comments, and return them
10 as directed or there is a comment opportunity
11 available via the project Web site as well. But I do
12 want to stress that we are not here tonight to provide
13 answers to questions, per se. We are, rather, here to
14 listen to comments, to listen to input, to record
15 that, and to consider all comments in the process of
16 finalizing the EIS and the record of decision. So the
17 --

18 There was the meeting's agenda --
19 I'm sorry, Mark. Yes, thank you. The meeting's
20 agenda is shown here. We've completed the open house
21 portion. The presentation about the NEPA process and
22 EIS will follow. Then we will take a short break
23 after the presentation that will allow anyone who
24 wishes to to additionally fill out a comment card.
25 After that break we'll enter into the public comment

1 period.

2 Again, if you'd like to make a
3 formal or oral comment, you will need to fill out a
4 card. Let me know. I will call everyone up to speak.
5 I would like now to ask Senator Blumenthal to address
6 you, thank you.

7 SENATOR BLUMENTHAL: Thank you very,
8 very much for giving me this opportunity to speak
9 tonight and to comment very, very briefly and, first
10 of all, to thank GSA for giving all of us this
11 opportunity, and mostly, to thank everybody who is
12 here tonight. This is a wonderful turnout, and I
13 think it reflects the importance of these issues and
14 the environmental values that are at stake in the
15 future of Plum Island.

16 A number of you have heard me
17 already talk about my own views on this issue, and I
18 apologize that it will seem repetitious, but we now
19 have somebody recording it so it will have somewhat
20 more import. I want to begin by submitting for the
21 record a letter that has been signed by the entire
22 Congressional delegation. I was very proud to
23 initiate this collaboration, but it is really a
24 commitment on the part of all of our Congressional
25 representatives, Senator Lieberman and myself, stating

1 very simply that there are profoundly important and
2 historically significant values at stake here.

3 This island is a gem, a jewel that
4 will not be replicated again on this planet, and we
5 have an obligation to seize this moment and make sure
6 that it is preserved as much as possible as open space
7 for the wildlife that uses it, the endangered species
8 that depend on it, the other kinds of fauna and fish
9 that may rely on it, and most important, the human
10 beings for whom it is a precious, irreplaceable
11 resource.

12 These 840 acres can't be replicated
13 anywhere, and we have the opportunity to make sure
14 that whatever the outcome here, it maximizes the
15 preservation of this area, and that is, as a matter of
16 fact, in my view, the mandate of the law as well. The
17 GSA is in the unenviable position of having two
18 conflicting goals. They may be irreconcilable.

19 One goal is that the federal
20 government has to be a steward of this land. The
21 other is the GSA has to sell it. The only way to
22 reconcile those two goals are to make sure that not
23 the highest bidder but the best use is made of this
24 land. And in the letter, very simply we say we
25 believe that the GSA and the DHS in its final EIS,

1 Environmental Impact Statement, should more clearly
2 detail parcels of land protected from development and
3 the specific laws or regulations that provide
4 protection for these parcels or historic structures.

5 This would provide both notice for
6 potential purchasers and reassurance for the public
7 who want to see these lands preserved. In other
8 words, the EIS has to be revised and improved. The
9 Environmental Impact Statement, as presently done,
10 needs improvement so as to fulfill those values of
11 environmental preservation.

12 Obviously recreation is an important
13 interest here, and the law is also clear that any sale
14 has to be subject to such terms and conditions as
15 necessary to protect governmental interest. In our
16 view, in my view, I should say, one of those interests
17 is environment. Another is recreation. The 101 acres
18 of dunes and beaches as well as the island itself are
19 an important recreational resource and economic
20 interest, jobs is also a goal.

21 And the task of reconciling these
22 goals, as I mentioned, is an unenviable one, and I was
23 not part of the Senate or the Congress when these laws
24 were passed, the 2009 mandate to sell, the law, the
25 2006 mandate to be an environmental steward. Both of

1 those goals have to be fulfilled.

2 But I can tell you, as a member of
3 the Senate now, I will assure or at least I will fight
4 to assure, I will spare no effort to assure that the
5 preservation and conservation goals are served just as
6 we did when we fought Broadwater, and we won because
7 we had the law on our side. But more important, we
8 had environmental activists and concerned citizens
9 that are here tonight.

10 We won when we were threatened with
11 Islander East, because we had the law on our side and
12 we had concerned citizens and environmental activists,
13 and I just want to thank all the citizens who are here
14 tonight. You are making a profoundly important
15 statement simply by your presence, and I thank you for
16 doing us proud, and, again, I thank the GSA for giving
17 me this opportunity to speak. Thank you very much.

18 MR. WALTON: Thank you, Senator.
19 The last thing that I would like to mention as a
20 preamble to the presentation is the public comment
21 period for the draft EIS is scheduled to extend
22 through October 26, so the 26th of this month comments
23 can be received. Now, I would like to introduce John
24 Kelly to begin our presentation this evening.

25 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Lee. Good

1 evening. My name is John Kelly. I'm the Director of
2 GSA's Real Property Disposal Division, and I would
3 like to thank you for attending tonight's meeting. I
4 look forward to hearing your comments in our recently
5 released Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
6 Sale of the Plum Island property. Next slide, Mark.

7 The Plum Island property analyzed
8 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement primarily
9 consists of 840-acre island and the 9 and a half-acre
10 Orient Point support facility. The property currently
11 houses the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The
12 Department of Homeland Security maintains custody of
13 this property and its sole tenant, the United States
14 Department of Agriculture, operates the animal
15 research mission on the island.

16 Over the years the island has
17 supported a broad range of uses, including
18 agriculture, administrative, research, housing and
19 military operations. These uses resulted in
20 widespread development across the island and today the
21 island is self sufficient with an established
22 infrastructure and a diverse mix of buildings such as
23 an historic lighthouse, army fortifications and sports
24 structures, and a modern 55,000 square foot
25 administration building.

1 Other improvements include harbor
2 facilities, parking areas, over four miles of paved
3 roads eight miles of gravel roads. Utilities on the
4 property include undersea cables for power and
5 communication, power plant with backup generators,
6 tank farm, fresh water wells, and a water distribution
7 system as well as a wastewater treatment facility.
8 All the utilities are in good condition and are
9 capable of supporting a range of future uses.

10 In addition to the developed or
11 built environment, there are areas of wetlands, open
12 space, wooded tracts, over six miles of coastline,
13 sandy beaches along Gardiner's Bay, and a rocky
14 shoreline along The Sound. The island has elevations
15 that range from 90 feet, excuse me, sea level to 90
16 feet. Unlike private property federal property is not
17 subject to local zoning and taxation. So while the
18 property has been actively used by government for over
19 a hundred years, it's never been zoned. Next slide,
20 Mark, please.

21 In 2008 Congress enacted Public Law
22 110-329, which mandated the sale of Plum Island if a
23 decision was made to locate the animal research
24 mission to another site. In 2009, after conducting
25 its own study, the Department of Homeland Security

1 decided to relocate the animal research facility, the
2 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, (NBAF), in
3 Manhattan, Kansas. DHS documented this decision dated
4 January 16, 2009.

5 The decision to relocate the mission
6 in Kansas and not on Plum Island set in motion this
7 sale process and the preparation of a Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the
9 National Environmental Policy Act or, as is it more
10 commonly known, NEPA. Next slide, Mark.

11 The public scoping process formally
12 began in March, 2010. During the scoping period we
13 sought and received numerous comments from the public,
14 the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the
15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Town of Southold,
16 Suffolk County, the State of New York, State of
17 Connecticut, nonprofit organizations and many others.
18 Comments ranged from those that supported a
19 conservation and preservation use for public access to
20 the island to those that supported an adaptive reuse
21 of the existing facilities to preserve jobs. Mark?

22 The development of the Draft
23 Environmental Impact Statement, also known as EIS, is
24 a collaborate venture. The General Services
25 Administration and the Department of Homeland Security

1 acted as joint lead agencies in the development and
2 issuance of this document.

3 In addition, we formally enlisted
4 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the
5 Environmental Protection Agency as cooperating
6 agencies in the development of the draft EIS due to
7 the unique and beneficial expertise both agencies
8 bring on to this process. The multitude of comments
9 received during the scoping period and participation
10 of the cooperating agencies were essential in the
11 development and issuance of this document.

12 We sincerely appreciate the time and
13 effort spent by many of you in drafting and submitted
14 these comments. They were insightful, comprehensive
15 and constructive. In fact, many of the comments and
16 the involvement of the cooperating agencies led to the
17 addition and analysis of the conservation/preservation
18 reuse alternative that was studied as part of the
19 draft EIS. So thank you again for your efforts.

20 Mark?

21 The preparation of an EIS is a
22 significant and resource intensive undertaking. An
23 EIS is the highest level of analysis under NEPA and
24 one that provides the greatest opportunity for public
25 involvement.

1 This EIS process has two main
2 purposes. It offers an impartial analysis of
3 significant and environmental impacts, and it provides
4 an opportunity for the public to comment on the
5 proposed action. It is important that while this
6 draft EIS presents four potential reuse options, it
7 does not advocate or adopt any particular option.
8 Furthermore, the reuse options are not ranked based on
9 a likelihood of implementation. The four reuse
10 options: Adaptive reuse, low density zoning,
11 high-density zoning and conservation/preservation,
12 were developed to provide a thorough and thoughtful
13 comparison of potential reuses.

14 GSA has no authority to pursue any
15 action other than the sale of the property nor does it
16 have the authority to place discretionary deed
17 restrictions on the property that would impact future
18 use or value. Similarly, GSA does you not have the
19 authority to unduly influence the redevelopment or
20 reuse of the property. However, GSA and DHS will
21 comply with all applicable federal laws and
22 regulations which could conceivably restrict the use
23 on certain portions of the property.

24 For example, GSA's obligation to
25 comply with the National Historic Preservation Act may

1 result in the placement of historic preservation
2 covenants on certain historic or architecturally
3 significant structures such as the Plum Island
4 Lighthouse. This would be accomplished through
5 consultation with the National Park Service, the New
6 York State Historic Preservation Office and other
7 appropriate consulting parties.

8 The action alternative analyzed in
9 the draft EIS is the sale of the property and not the
10 reuse, redevelopment or long-term preservation or
11 conservation of the property by the Federal
12 Government. To that end, it is our position that the
13 administrative action of transferring title to the
14 property from the United States to the new owner will
15 not result in an adverse effect on the environment.

16 Should and significant arise,
17 conditions change or new information comes to light
18 that would have an effect on proposed action prior to
19 the conclusion of the sale process, a supplemental
20 Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

21 Mark?

22 It is our expectation that this
23 document will provide essential information to the
24 Town of Southold and other stakeholders as they
25 undertake their respective activities that will

1 ultimately control and influence the reuse of the
2 property once it leaves federal ownership.

3 One the property leaves federal
4 ownership, much like other privately-owned property,
5 it will be subject to all application environmental
6 and land use regulations. The state, the county, and
7 local governments will all have critical roles in
8 guiding the future reuse of the property and working
9 with the new owner to ensure any proposed reuse is
10 compatible with the community's character, its
11 preservation, recreation, conservation objectives and
12 its economic development goals.

13 We understand the Town of Southold
14 has begun the zoning process and we anticipate that a
15 zoning plan will be adopted in advance of the public
16 sale day. We remain committed to assist these local
17 efforts by sharing relevant information to support all
18 levels of government in preparing for the sale of the
19 property and its ultimate transition from federal
20 ownership.

21 Thank you again for taking the time
22 to attend this meeting. I look forward to hearing
23 your comments. I will now turn it over to Mr. Dana
24 Bouley the Department of Homeland Security for a few
25 briefs comments.

1 MR. BOULEY: Thank you, John. Good
2 evening and thank you for joining us tonight. As
3 noted, my name is Daniel Bouley. I am the Chief
4 Administrative Officer for Science and Technology for
5 the Department of Homeland Security. I'd like to take
6 the time I have to emphasize a number of the points
7 Mr. Kelly has made, and to provide you with some of
8 the points of information about Plum Island's
9 operation after the conclusion of the NEPA process.

10 As you have been told, the Plum
11 Island activity is managed by the Department of
12 Homeland Security. While the animal disease mission
13 is carried on by USDA, DHS has held this
14 responsibility for the operations and maintenance of
15 Plum Island since 2003. Under the current plan the
16 proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, NBAF,
17 once constructed, will replace the island's mission.

18 NBAF will be constructed in
19 Manhattan, Kansas, and the mission transitioned from
20 Plum Island will take place upon its completion.
21 Between now and the end of the mission of Plum Island
22 the DHS operations will remain active and robust. DHS
23 will continue to budget for costs associated with
24 maintaining and sustaining the critical missions of
25 Plum Island while also fulfilling operations on Plum

1 Island, and they will also meet regulatory compliance
2 requirements in support of the PIADC operations.

3 Once NBAF is able to support the
4 animal disease mission, the relevant Plum Island
5 laboratory facilities will be decommissioned following
6 a comprehensive decommissioning plan that will be
7 developed in DHS in coordination with all relevant
8 federal, state and local agencies. I want to assure
9 you that this close coordination with local federal,
10 state and local official is will be a continuation of
11 ongoing efforts of Plum Island staff, the same staff
12 that has also worked to keep your community informed
13 as to the process's status.

14 I would like to take a moment to
15 recognize their efforts. The Plum Island staff has
16 feverishly worked and will continue working with local
17 stakeholders on the Connecticut and New York side of
18 the Long Island Sound. In the years since DHS has
19 taken over operations of Plum Island, the public
20 outreach efforts have been thoughtful and sincere.
21 Thanks to the Plum Island staff a community forum has
22 been established. Tours have been conducted for local
23 stakeholders and community organizations, and they
24 continue to work with first responders to conduct
25 training efforts on the island. All these efforts

1 will continue between now and when the mission
2 transitions to NBAF.

3 Again, I thank you for taking the
4 time to join us tonight, and I look forward to hearing
5 your comments. Thank you very much.

6 MR. JENKINS: Good evening, folks.
7 My name is Josh Jenkins. I'm with AMEC. AMEC was
8 contracted by the GSA to help support the development
9 of the EIS, and my main function during this process
10 has been to help facilitate the various resources
11 within AMEC to develop and research and provide
12 information that's included in the Draft DIS document.

13 I'm going to talk a little bit about
14 the NEPA process and moving forward. The National
15 Environmental Pollution Act, or NEPA, was passed in
16 1969 and serves as a national charter for the
17 protection of the environment. It provides a
18 framework for evaluating the consequences of major
19 federal actions that may affect the environment. NEPA
20 ensures that social and environmental factors are
21 considered along with the technical and economic
22 components of a decision, and provides for potential
23 environmental impacts and any adverse effects that
24 cannot be avoided to be identified and alternatives to
25 the proposed action to be considered.

1 The EIS process for the sale of Plum
2 Island included a public scoping period, which
3 included a public meeting as well as coordination with
4 federal, state and local agencies. We developed a
5 draft EIS, which has incorporated scientific and
6 technical data about Plum Island as well as comments
7 received during the scoping period. The draft EIS
8 discusses the potential effects to natural, cultural
9 and human environments from the proposed alternatives.

10 The draft EIS was made available for
11 public review this last July, and comments received on
12 the document will be addressed in the Final EIS.

13 After completion of the Final EIS, GSA will issue a
14 Record of Decision commonly known as a ROD that will
15 be signed by GSA and DHS. The ROD will document the
16 agencies final action decision.

17 Under NEPA, the purpose of the EIS
18 is to examine the effects associated with the
19 anticipated sale of Plum Island and its support
20 facility at Orient Point, New York. NEPA encourages
21 federal agencies to explore alternatives where
22 possible with the objective of eliminating or
23 lessening environmental impacts. It also provides for
24 the analysis of a no-action alternative, which
25 essentially provides a baseline of potential impacts

1 of the status quo versus any changes.

2 In this case, the no-action
3 alternative cannot be selected, because it does not
4 meet the project purpose and need of selling the
5 property as mandated by the Act of Congress. The
6 Action Alternative for this project is the sale of
7 Plum Island by GSA. As noted, DHS would continue
8 operations at the existing facilities until the new
9 NBAF facility in Manhattan, Kansas is operational.

10 The Action Alternative was refined
11 into a series of reasonably foreseeable land use
12 options. In response to the lack of certainty
13 concerning future reuse of the property, reasonable
14 land use options were developed and evaluated in the
15 draft EIS that could result upon the sale of the
16 property. Several potential future uses are noted on
17 the next slide.

18 The four land use, four land reuse
19 options evaluated for the Action Alternative include
20 Option One, adaptive reuse. This option would use the
21 existing facilities and infrastructure on the island
22 for commercial research and other uses. Option two
23 would evaluate land use and zoning based upon
24 comparable neighboring islands such as Fisher's Island
25 emphasizing low density development. Option three,

1 which is similar to option two, is an option that
2 values land use and zoning based on a higher-density
3 development.

4 And finally, option four,
5 conservation and preservation. This option evaluates
6 a public or private entity which would protect,
7 maintain and enhance significant cultural and natural
8 resources. Educational and recreational resources
9 could also be developed as part of this option. This
10 option was added, as John Kelly noted, as a direct
11 result of the scoping process in 2010.

12 These options were developed in the
13 draft EIS for analysis only, with the intent to
14 provide information for better decision making before
15 and after the sale. GSA has no authority to determine
16 future land uses, so at this time we do not know who
17 will be purchasing the property or what their intended
18 land use would need, needs would be. When the
19 property leaves federal ownership, any future reuse
20 would be subject to local, state and federal
21 permitting and environmental and land use approvals
22 and regulations. Next slide.

23 The draft EIS utilized a
24 sustainability analysis to evaluate the various land
25 use options. The suitability analysis is a tool used

1 by land use planners to evaluate site attributes that
2 identified the land areas that would be best suited
3 for future development. Next slide.

4 The suitability analysis evaluated
5 the following attributes. Freshwater and tidal
6 wetland buffers and adjacent areas, federal, state and
7 local; Coastal Barrier Resource System areas; FEMA
8 Digital Flood Insurance Mapping; New York State
9 Department of Environmental Conservation Freshwater
10 Wetlands and National Wetlands Inventory, existing
11 utilities, known potential historic and cultural sites
12 and environmental sites, elevations and contours and
13 slopes of the land itself.

14 These attributes were overlaying on
15 a map and the resulting area with minimal known
16 restraints was determined to be approximately 195
17 acres of land on Plum Island. It's important to note
18 that the resultant map showing potential development
19 parcels on Plum Island was created for analysis
20 purposes only, and we have a series of posters over to
21 my left, which illustrate some of that development and
22 the resulting parcels that were selected for
23 evaluation.

24 This slide is a summary of the
25 affected environment and the resources of that

1 environment that the draft EIS evaluated. The DEIS
2 evaluated the natural cultural and human resources of
3 the island and Orient Point, and as you can see,
4 there's quite a few resource areas. We looked at
5 some. Some of these resource areas we actually had to
6 complete some additional studies, but we performed a
7 fairly rigorous analysis. Next slide.

8 The draft EIS evaluated each
9 resource within each reuse option as either no impact,
10 negligible, minor, moderate or beneficial. No impact
11 simply means that no impact is expected. Negligible
12 impact suggests slight adverse or beneficial impacts
13 that would likely not be detectable or perceivable.
14 Minor impacts are adverse or beneficial impacts but
15 are within known historic or regulated limits.
16 Moderate impacts are adverse or beneficial impacts
17 that would readily be apparent and detected. Adverse
18 impacts, outside historic baseline would and require
19 offsetting mitigation measures.

20 Each resource was evaluated and
21 impacts were summarized and included in the draft EIS.
22 The impacts summary poster is shown here tonight in
23 the back of the room. Generally speaking, the
24 analysis showed that there would be no negligible
25 impacts overall for adaptive reuse. Options were

1 selected or implemented.

2 Minor to moderate impacts to the
3 natural and cultural resources would be expected under
4 a low density and high density zoning development
5 option. However, development could also increase
6 state and local tax revenue and therefore be
7 considered beneficial. Beneficial impacts are
8 expected to natural resources under a conservation and
9 preservation option with other resource areas
10 essentially seeing no to negligible impacts, and,
11 again, these are generalities. You all can look at
12 the summary poster in the back at your leisure.

13 Other effects were evaluated if they
14 caused indirect or secondary impacts or if there were
15 cumulative impacts that may occur as a result of the
16 sale and another action. No indirect or cumulative
17 impacts are expected from the sale itself. However,
18 future reuse could result in indirect or cumulative
19 impacts at some point after the sale.

20 The next steps after tonight's
21 meeting are to receive the remaining comments until
22 the close of the comment period. Upon receipt -- and
23 actually we've already stated reviewing, categorizing
24 and reviewing and determining how to address these
25 comments will incorporate the comments and responses

1 into the final EIS and then issue a final EIS. After
2 an approximately 30-day waiting period a record of
3 decision will then be issued. Next slide.

4 Here is a timeline for the project.
5 As you can see, the Notice of Intent to prepare the
6 EIS was published in the Federal Register in March
7 2010. That served as the official kickoff to the
8 process. The scoping phase of the project followed,
9 and comments were received through the summer of 2010.
10 After the scoping process was completed the team
11 prepared research and evaluated existing information
12 and developed and gathered new information and
13 developed the draft EIS.

14 The draft EIS was published in July
15 20, 2012, and comments will be accepted until October
16 26. We will respond to comments that are received and
17 then prepare the final EIS, which is anticipated to be
18 completed this fall and winter. Once the final EIS is
19 completed, GSA will prepare the Record of Decision to
20 document the decision.

21 As noted on this slide, if you have
22 any comments on the sale of Plum Island and prefer not
23 to speak during the public comment, please get one of
24 the comment cards and complete it tonight or e-mail or
25 mail your comments to Phil Youngberg at GSA. Please

1 return your comments by October 26 so that we will
2 have time to consider them during the preparation of
3 the final EIS. Thank you.

4 MR. WALTON: Okay, thank you, John,
5 Dana and Josh. So as the slide here shows, this is
6 comment information Web site. Now we'll take a short
7 break prior to the comment period, let everyone
8 stretch their legs and grab a drink of water, if you
9 would like. I have several cards from those who wish
10 to speak, make comments.

11 If anyone else does and has not
12 provided a card, please just come see me so I am able
13 to mark your name, and after a five-minute break we
14 will start the public comment period. Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, there was a recess from
16 6:42 to 6:49.)

17 MR. WALTON: As we stated earlier,
18 the purpose tonight of public comments is for your
19 comments to be read into the official record of the
20 process, and we welcome written comments as well as
21 the spoken comments. I have those who have signed up
22 to speak, and I will call on you one by one.

23 Our recorder asks that if you are
24 coming to the podium and if you're going to read a
25 statement, there's a tendency to read faster than you

1 would normally speak. So it's requested that you read
2 slowly and deliberately to facilitate recording your
3 comments. Thank you.

4 So we'll begin with Mr. Christopher
5 Mitchell. I'm sorry. If you would, please, come to
6 the podium. It just makes it easier for everyone to
7 hear and the court reporter. Thank you.

8 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. Good
9 evening. Tonight I represent myself as a citizen, but
10 out of full disclosure I have worked at Plum Island
11 for the last 15 years on the marine crew, and what
12 compels me to come here this evening is to attest that
13 the beauty on this island is like something I've never
14 seen. No other place have I ever worked where on your
15 way to work you see whales, porpoise, sea turtles,
16 seals on the beach, and that's just getting to work.

17 One of my jobs on the marine crew is
18 as help on doing tours on the island, and I've been
19 doing that for a long time, and it's not unusual to
20 have to go around by bus to avoid a turtle or a red
21 tail hawk or a juvenile eagle. It is a beautiful,
22 stunning place, and I don't want to ever see that go
23 away.

24 So I'm here tonight to just ask and
25 thank the GSA for allowing me the opportunity to speak

1 as a citizen, not as an employee of Plum Island, but I
2 would hate to see Plum Island be sold for development
3 to fund the lab. I think there's the ability to keep
4 it what it is and still use it as a Government lab,
5 but it has a future and it's a beautiful place, and I
6 wish people like the public can go out there and see
7 it. They have tried to get more people out there, and
8 I'd like to see Mr. Blumenthal come out there someday
9 and take a look. Thank you for your time.

10 MR. WALTON: Thank you,
11 Mr. Mitchell. Our next speaker is Zell Steever.

12 MR. STEEVER: I'm here tonight to
13 offer comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement for Plum Island, a federally owned island
15 located east of Orient Point. My name is Zell Steever
16 and I live in Groton, Connecticut. I'm submitting
17 this testimony on my own behalf. I'm retired from the
18 federal government, having worked for the President's
19 Council on Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental
20 Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
21 and lastly, with the Bureau of Reclamation in the
22 Department of the Interior.

23 I'm a resource specialist and a
24 wetland ecologist, and I'm currently working on
25 climate change and on energy conservation and

1 efficiency issues at the local level, and was chairman
2 of the Groton Task Force on Climate Change and
3 sustainable communities.

4 I care about Plum Island for the
5 following reasons. I live within 14 miles of Plum
6 Island. I have sailed by and around Plum Island for
7 more than 55 years. Most of that time is on race
8 boats so I was trying to get by it as quickly as
9 possible. I have studied freshwater wetlands, salt
10 marshes, coastal forests in this region, much like
11 what is reported to be on Plum Island.

12 I have observed over the last 50
13 years the continuing development of Long Island
14 Sound's shoreline and its few coastal islands, and I
15 want to see the remaining undeveloped areas in this
16 region protected, and I am very concerned about the
17 impacts of climate change on the environment, social
18 and economic fabric of the southern New England/New
19 York City region where I and members of my family
20 reside.

21 Why should Plum Island be saved and
22 remain in federal ownership? First, there is already
23 very substantial private development along the
24 shoreline with much of it within the critical flood
25 hazard area. This development, already existing

1 development is already placing thousands of people in
2 harm's way with natural disasters such as major storms
3 and hurricanes. Come to think of it, 1938 being
4 referred to as the Long Island Express.

5 Second, Plum Island is critical
6 habitat to a number of endangered species and any
7 additional development would damage that habitat.
8 Third, Plum Island has already been federally
9 recognized as habitat of significance and therefore it
10 is in the federal government's interest to preserve
11 the island's critical habitat. Fourth, with climate
12 change already beginning to impact the entire region
13 of more than 40 million people with measurable
14 increases in temperatures, increased rainfall amounts,
15 sea level rises of nine inches over the last century,
16 and with the rate of sea level rise on the increase,
17 it is vital that the federal government set aside on a
18 permanent basis areas such as Plum Island for long
19 term, and I mean 50 to 150 year scientific study.

20 It is an ideal location to study the
21 direct and indirect impacts of climate change on our
22 local and regional ecosystems, its flora and fauna,
23 the geology and soil structure, the ecosystem and
24 species tipping points, long-term shifts of plant and
25 animal communities, shifts in weather patterns as our

1 southern New England climate becomes more like the
2 climate of the coastal states of South Carolina and
3 Georgia.

4 In addition, it is painfully clear
5 the scientific and health communities do not know very
6 much about the impacts of climate change on human
7 health and disease. For these reasons and others,
8 Plum Island should be set aside as a long-term
9 federally operated research station to study what will
10 very likely be one of the most significant and
11 important issues for the United States during the
12 remainder of this century and beyond.

13 It is vital to protect locations
14 such as Plum Island and to -- sorry. It is vital to
15 protect locations such as Plum Island due to the
16 scientific studies important to understanding how to
17 best mitigate and to adapt to the reality of a rapidly
18 changing and new climate in this region.

19 I remain concerned that despite the
20 ecological difference on Plum Island and its long
21 history under federal control and management, the
22 Draft and Environmental Impact Statement does not look
23 forward and does not take a position or even consider
24 the long-term best use alternatives of this land as a
25 climate change research station.

1 I respectfully urge the GSA to go
2 back and reconsider the alternative suggestion here
3 and jointly consider with the U.S. EPA, Department of
4 Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S.
5 Geologic Surveys and NRCS, that's the Natural Resource
6 and Conservation Service, and the Department of
7 Agriculture, the U.S. Weather Service, NOAA and FEMA,
8 Homeland Security, CEQ and the National Science
9 Foundation the use of Plum Island as a future climate
10 research station.

11 In addition, the GSA should consider
12 how an interagency memorandum of understanding can be
13 developed to have Plum Island remain in federal
14 ownership as a permanent climate change research
15 station for the long-term future and wellbeing of our
16 nations. Thank you very much.

17 MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. Steever.
18 Before calling the next speaker I would like to make a
19 point that if you wish to comment, if your comment is
20 similar to a prior speaker, please feel free to simply
21 state that you agree with the prior speaker on a
22 certain topic. Don't feel that you must read your
23 entire comment. However, you are certainly free to do
24 so if you would like. The next speaker is Robert
25 Hartley. Is Mr. Hartley here?

1 MR. HARTLEY: Yes.

2 MR. WALTON: Thank you.

3 MR. HARTLEY: My name is Bob
4 Hartley. I'm a retired science teacher from Guilford,
5 and I've been involved with the environment for many,
6 many years. I have sailed past Plum Island many
7 times. For the past couple summers I've been involved
8 with the Youth and Conservation Corps at Stuart B.
9 McKinney right here in Westbrook, and as a leader, I'm
10 helping kids understand just how important it is to be
11 a steward of our natural resources, and Plum Island is
12 also very, very special.

13 As Senator Blumenthal said, it's a
14 jewel, and I think we should preserve it just like was
15 it, oh, Roosevelt that made the First National
16 wildlife preserve at Pelican Island in Florida? Well,
17 I think we should do the same thing with Plum Island
18 here in, well, it's New York, actually. And after
19 taking a tour with my team of Plum Island, I have seen
20 just how beautiful that island is.

21 We've made a lot of mistakes in the
22 past. I think we've destroyed over 75 percent of our
23 wetlands along the eastern seaboard. We've built
24 houses. We filled in the wetlands. How many
25 nurseries have we contaminated because of our greed,

1 and I think thanks to the GSA, who has given us this
2 opportunity to say how we feel about our future and
3 the future generations that can take pleasure in
4 visiting this island, I truly believe that it should
5 be preserved in its natural state.

6 I am extremely concerned about Scott
7 Russell, who is the Southold supervisor and has an
8 enormous responsibility to zone Plum Island. I know
9 there's regulatory departments, national, state,
10 federal. They're all in place, but -- I'm very much
11 concerned that that lies -- at the future of Plum
12 Island, the zoning part of it lies with one small town
13 in Long Island.

14 By the way, that's where I grew up,
15 in Long Island. I'm now in Madison, but -- I can't --
16 let's see. We have had in place regulatory
17 communities, regulatory departments ever since the
18 United States was formed, but I can't fish in any of
19 Connecticut's rivers and eat the fish because of PCBs
20 and mercury. Long Island Sound, we've really come a
21 long way in protecting it, and I would like to see the
22 same thing done for Plum Island. Thank you very much.

23 MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. Hartley.
24 The next speaker is Mr. Moshe Gai.

25 MR. MOSHE: Thank you. My name is

1 Moshe Gai. I live in 17 Park Place Branford,
2 Connecticut. I'm a professor physics. I serve two
3 universities, University of Connecticut and Yale
4 University. The opinions that I express tonight are
5 not opinions of my employers even though they should
6 be.

7 I urge you, I plead with you, I'm
8 talking to you. I urge you, I plead with you, GSA,
9 think big. You are only talking about Plum Island,
10 but you must see the general phenomena. You must see
11 the bigger picture, and let me tell you what the
12 bigger picture is. I see the bigger picture. I work
13 in University of Connecticut at Avery Point.

14 From the second floor of the
15 Branford house I am probably the most fortunate man.
16 Well, perhaps the first speaker back there was more
17 fortunate than I am, even though I'm not so sure on a
18 cold winter day which one of us has got a better deal.
19 But anyhow, I look out the window and I see this
20 beauty, Fisher Island, Plum Island, Little Gull, but I
21 see beyond it. I see Gardiner Island.

22 Let us not forget, Gardiner Island
23 one of these days is going to be given back to the
24 United States. It's not ours yet. It will be one
25 day, okay? We have all these places which we can

1 incorporate into a beautiful national park. This is
2 what we have on the East Coast.

3 We don't have Yosemite. We don't
4 have the -- what do they have out there? There's
5 Yosemite, all those beautiful national parks out in
6 the West Coast. What do we have in the East Coast,
7 okay? We have Maine. We have the coast of Georgia.
8 Well, we just about destroyed the shoreline estuary in
9 Carolina with all the pig farms, with all the stuff
10 that goes in there.

11 We can't afford to look on Plum
12 Island as just a little thing that we are going to
13 sell. I mean, here it is, Little Gull Island. Today
14 I am told that the price is \$300,000. \$300,000?
15 That's what the federal government is down to? I'll
16 give it to you for my own wallet, if it's no problem,
17 if that's how you're going to solve the deficit or
18 that's how the government is going to treat a piece of
19 land. \$300,000?

20 You have to rise today to the
21 occasion, and the occasion is we have Plum Island,
22 Gull Island, in the future Gardiner Island, all of
23 this should be incorporated into -- it's ours already.
24 It should be incorporated into a federally-used
25 national park. This is the best use of this island.

1 Just imagine for a moment that
2 you're selling it to the highest bidder. I mean, you
3 know there are some people in this world which have
4 money. I mean, this is just beyond belief. It's
5 almost disgusting the amount of money that they have.
6 What would you do if somebody from China would give
7 you a billion dollars and say I buy this island and
8 then Gardiner Island? Somebody from Italy, maybe
9 Onasis, one of those guys would come and give you
10 another billion dollars? What are you going to do?
11 Are you going to sell America?

12 This is ours. This should be ours,
13 and there is no price to it. This is our land. This
14 should be our national park, and I urge you today to
15 think big. I urge you to look around and see all the
16 islands and all the beauty that we have around. This
17 is what we should do. We should make all of them, not
18 just Plum Island, we should make all of them
19 incorporate into some beautiful national park which
20 will preserve for many years. Thank you.

21 MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. Gai.
22 Again, I'd ask all the speakers to recognize the
23 reporter. Speak to the reporter. The next speaker is
24 Mr. Charles Rothenberger.

25 MR. ROTHENBERGER: Wow. This is

1 better. Tough acts to follow. Here we go. I would
2 like to begin by thanking GSA for the opportunity to
3 speak this evening. While my comments are critical of
4 the EIS, I do hope that they'll be taken as
5 constructive criticism.

6 Save The Sound has several concerns
7 with the assumptions underlying the preparation of the
8 EIS as well as the content of the Draft EIS itself.
9 Specifically, the Draft EIS relies on incorrect and
10 faulty assumptions. It fails to adequately analyze
11 alternatives and fails to provide adequate support for
12 its conclusions, and the analysis it is provided fails
13 to meet the standards required by the National
14 Environmental Protection Act or NEPA.

15 First, we disagree with the
16 assumption, which is repeated throughout the document,
17 that GSA lacks the authority to impose any conditions
18 on the sale of Plum Island. This assumption is
19 contrary to the express charge under which the sale of
20 assets that support the Plum Island operation is to be
21 made. That legislation expressly directs that "any
22 sale," and I'm quoting, "be subject to such terms and
23 conditions as necessary to protect government
24 interests and meet program requirements." Thus,
25 Congress expressly directed the agency to evaluate

1 other government interests that could be impacted by
2 the sale and make the sale subject to the appropriate
3 conditions to protect those interests.

4 It's an express charge. Given Plum
5 Island's 2006 designation as a Long Island Sound
6 stewardship site, and the plethora of resources you
7 have heard about many speakers speak about, and I'm
8 sure others following me will speak to, it's clear
9 that any sale need to be conditioned on express
10 protection of those resources. If the GSA continues
11 to feel that that analysis, that role is beyond the
12 scope of its powers, then I think the reasoning behind
13 that determination should be set forth with some
14 specificity in EIS itself.

15 Second, the EIS fails to address the
16 likely impacts to natural resources against a thorough
17 and appropriate baseline measure of the existing flora
18 and fauna on the site. During the scoping process
19 several organizations, including U.S. EPA and U.S.
20 Fish and Wildlife Service, noted the necessity
21 performing a thorough and up-to-date inventory of the
22 biological resources existing on Plum Island.

23 They indicated that a survey should
24 be conducted over the course of at least one year in
25 order to adequately collect the necessary data. The

1 U.S. EPA, while noting the existence of older surveys,
2 urged that the EIS should further evaluate ecological
3 importance of this property through a thorough
4 inventory and an assessment of its natural resource
5 values and ecological functions.

6 However, rather than conducting the
7 suggested survey, EIS relies entirely on prior studies
8 and earlier evaluations of the property. The failure
9 of the EIS process to incorporate a four-season
10 biological survey is compounded by the fact that there
11 doesn't exist any urgency to completing the EIS. Plum
12 Island can't be sold until after the transfer of the
13 facilities to the Kansas site is complete. And as was
14 noted, the best and most optimistic estimates of when
15 that may occur is in the 2019 to 2021 timeframe.
16 Taking the time to perform a four or even an
17 eight-season survey in order to correct for annual
18 variability would in no way delay or interrupt the
19 projected closure and transfer of this facility.

20 We think that DHS also fails to
21 adequately analyze environmental impacts in light of
22 additional federal and state laws, and as noted,
23 although the EIS recognizes that additional
24 restrictions may be placed on the property by state or
25 local laws and catalogues more than 50 federal state

1 and local executive orders, laws and regulations, it
2 makes no attempt to analyze the likely restrictions
3 associated with those various laws and how they may
4 affect the likely environmental impacts.

5 The lack of analysis contravenes
6 NEPA's requirement that the EIS evaluate the
7 reasonably foreseeable impacts of the project.
8 Cumulative impacts need to be part of this analysis,
9 and NEPA requires a separate hard look at the
10 project's cumulative impacts and assumes that such
11 cumulative impacts, excuse me, and assuming that such
12 cumulative impacts will not materialize due to the
13 existence of separate permitting processes, it is not
14 an acceptable substitute for performing the
15 appropriate analysis. It is to provide for the
16 comprehensive and environmental analysis that may not
17 otherwise occur in a piecemeal, permit-by-permit
18 analysis of individual facilities and construction
19 activity.

20 And finally, we think that the EIS
21 fails to adequately address site contamination for
22 hazardous waste and the necessary remediations. 20
23 percent of the identified CERCLA sites require
24 additional analysis and/or remediation efforts. While
25 the EIS adopts some of the recommendations made by the

1 New York Department of Environmental Conservation
2 during the sporking process, it fails to address
3 others. Specifically, it makes no mention of the need
4 to address outstanding groundwater issues related to
5 completed and ongoing RCRA closure. And although the
6 DES acknowledges an ongoing spilled oil recovery
7 process located in one portion of the site, it fails
8 to acknowledge the declining efficacy of the current
9 oil recovery process and the need to identify an
10 alternative.

11 For the reasons set forth above, we
12 believe that the EIS does not provide a full and fair
13 discussion of the significant environmental impacts of
14 the anticipated sale. We believe, based on the
15 recognized ecological value of the property, that if
16 Plum Island is to be sold, that the most appropriate
17 option is a conservation sale that preserves the
18 important and fragile ecological resources and habitat
19 function of the island, and I thank you for the
20 opportunity to comment.

21 MR. WALTON: Thank you. Next
22 speaker is Mr. Richard Blair.

23 MR. BLAIR: I knew it. I cannot
24 offer you any of the thoroughly professional analysis
25 that you have just received, but I would like to echo

1 what the gentleman from Save The Sound said and to
2 offer the criticisms that were made of the Draft
3 Impact Statement. It seemed to ignore your
4 responsibility to enforce the Endangered Species Act,
5 and also I'm under the impression that you people need
6 to or could, if you wish, impose certain conditions of
7 the sale, which would indeed provide for conservation
8 issues that were appropriate.

9 Recently I was sailing on the ferry
10 to Orient Point, and as I contemplated the fact that
11 our Congress had mandated the sale of Plum Island, it
12 came as an enormous shock. When you stop to think
13 about it, we've heard about what a unique place Plum
14 Island is, and it's sort of like selling your mother.
15 I mean, what is she worth?

16 The physics professor that spoke of
17 the prospect of a billionaire from China coming and
18 buying it or worse, from Russia, or why not some sheik
19 from Saudi Arabia? I mean, they could probably buy it
20 with their small change. So to think about selling
21 Plum Island under any circumstances I find as vulgar,
22 absurd and beyond all recognition.

23 Also, this time we don't have to buy
24 Plum Island in order to protect it. We already own
25 it. These folks here all own it along with you

1 gentlemen and myself, and to sell it for the pittance
2 that it would yield in terms of what it's worth, it
3 just seems to me beyond all reasonable rational
4 thought.

5 So as a fisherman, a long time
6 resident, a lover of the water, I think that as some
7 people have suggested, the proper place for Plum
8 Island is under the ownership of the Fish and Wildlife
9 Service of our own nation. Move it from agriculture
10 to conservation. Thank you.

11 MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. Blair.
12 Ms. Susan Tamulevich?

13 MS. TAMULEVICH: That was very well
14 done, thank you. My name is Susan Tamulevich. I am
15 the director of the New London Maritime Society, and
16 thank you, Mr. Kelly, and GSA for allowing us to give
17 our opinions today. I feel extremely optimistic at
18 this meeting, because people are expressing, you know,
19 what a jewel Plum Island is and how important it is
20 that we preserve it, and all the arguments I think
21 will win the day. I am convinced they will, because
22 we've lost so much already.

23 You know, we've got to change the
24 way we're doing things. So I'm going to proceed to
25 step to and Plum Island is not -- you know, we're

1 seeing it as a parcel, but it's part of three islands.
2 Great Gull and Little Gull form a whole habitat, and
3 today, as our friend, Moshe just mentioned, it was
4 sort of a banner day in the Lighthouse Protection Act,
5 National Lighthouse Protection Act history, because if
6 you can believe the Boston Globe, which is where I got
7 my statistics yesterday, the highest price ever paid
8 for an American lighthouse was like \$270,000. Is that
9 correct?

10 Today, the top price bid at the end
11 of the auction for Little Gull was \$381,000. It's the
12 high bid. I'm not saying it's the highest, because I
13 believe our bid in partnership with Save The Sound and
14 the Connecticut Fund for the Environment and the
15 Quebec Labrador Foundation is actually higher. The
16 cash part is only \$150,000, but it's the stewardship
17 of the Maritime Society for the lighthouse and the
18 stewardship again of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
19 Service for the habitat, and I know when that decision
20 is made that we also will win in a good way. The
21 highest goal will be served.

22 I just want to make a point, though,
23 that this is a combined habitat. And as I understand
24 it from Fish and Wildlife, we do have protected
25 species on Plum Island. But one of the predator

1 species lives on Little Gull and prays on the
2 rookeries. If it is not managed in a holistic
3 fashion, not just parcel, parcel, parcel, this threat
4 is going to continue.

5 I would like to just make a plea
6 that when you consider the final winner of the bid for
7 Little Gull, you put it in the context of what I know
8 will be a positive outcome for Plum Island and the
9 preservation and conservation of this important
10 habitat. Thank you.

11 MR. WALTON: Thank you. The next
12 speaker is Amy Ferland.

13 MS. FERLAND: Good evening. Thank
14 you for an opportunity to give my comments. My name
15 is Amy Ferland. I'm speaking as a concerned citizen.
16 As someone mentioned before, I'm also a science
17 teacher, and too often my conversations with my
18 students discuss environmental problems. I always
19 like to try to find some really positive things to say
20 to the kids, but oftentimes it really goes into
21 negative examples of things that we've done to our
22 environment.

23 I work with teenagers, and they
24 always have a lot of questions, and they always want
25 to know why, and they often think they can't believe

1 that we've made these choices that we have. So here
2 we have this opportunity to make a wonderful choice to
3 conserve this island, and I always tell the kids it
4 takes one person to speak up. So I'm going to be one
5 person out of many people in this room to offer my
6 comments.

7 Before I became a teacher I actually
8 worked as a biologist, and I studied harbor seals in
9 Long Island Sound, and I was authorized by the
10 National Fishery Service to do population surveys of
11 seals in Long Island Sound including Gull Island as
12 well as Plum Island. During these surveys I
13 consistently saw harbor seals and gray seals haul out
14 at these locations, and I wanted to talk about the
15 habitat of these animals, because I think a lot of
16 times they're just listed as, well, they're present.

17 But, yes, there's rocks in Long
18 Island Sound, and there's beaches in Long Island
19 Sound, but seals do not haul out at every single rock.
20 They don't haul out at every single beach. They are
21 not present in every town. In fact, there's stretches
22 of coastline where you would never see a seal. So
23 it's very unique to have harbor seals as well as gray
24 seals utilize Plum Island as their wintering habitat.

25 There's also scientific evidence

1 published in both coasts, California as well as Maine,
2 that frequent disturbances by humans, our pets, as
3 well as our activities will cause these animals to
4 abandon these haul out sites and move to other
5 locations.

6 Now, in Maine you might say, well,
7 there's plenty of coastline for these animals to move,
8 but we do not have that luxury here in Connecticut and
9 New York. There's not a lot of other places where
10 they can go where they are not disturbed by people or
11 their pets or boats or any activity. In the last five
12 years we have seen this happen in Long Island Sound in
13 western Long Island Sound at Sheffield Island. It's
14 one of the Norwalk Islands, actually, the only island
15 in the Norwalk Islands that has seals.

16 In the last five years we have seen
17 that colony disappear. They have chosen to move
18 elsewhere because of construction that's been going on
19 in the harbor area. So I'm very concerned with
20 low-density or high-density development at Plum Island
21 that you would see as occurring also at the island.

22 Now, these are protected by the
23 Marine Mammal Protection Act. I know they are an
24 abundant species, but they are protected, and they are
25 one of our few marine predators that we consistently

1 have in Long Island Sound, and we know from scientific
2 evidence that healthy ecosystem has to have top
3 predators. So it is important to conserve these
4 animals in our waters.

5 I also want to mention that as a
6 resident, I used to live in East Haven, Connecticut.
7 I used to live on Cozy Beach, and I was there during I
8 guess it was Tropical Storm Irene, and I saw the
9 damage that was done there. I'm concerned with the
10 high density or low density development on this
11 island, that you could see the same type of damage.
12 These storms don't happen frequently, but all you need
13 is one big storm to completely wipeout a habitat.

14 What I observed there was my house
15 is actually completely surrounded by the putrid, awful
16 water that lingered for weeks, actually pretty much
17 killed all the grass and the plants in the area. But
18 more importantly, the amount of debris, unfortunately,
19 from people's homes and larger structures covered not
20 only the beaches and caused chemical pollution as well
21 as physical pollution but also the salt marshes in
22 that area were completely covered with clothes and
23 parts of houses and insulation and all that.

24 Certainly if that happens right
25 there, it could certainly happen on Plum Island, which

1 is probably even less protected from these storms as
2 the coastline of Connecticut. So I hope that that's
3 put into consideration with your assessment, too, on
4 day-to-day operations but also these events, when we
5 have some really pretty horrific storms, these events
6 do occur in this area.

7 So I just want to -- again, I just
8 want to make sure that you consider the marine mammal
9 population area, that they are vulnerable to human
10 activities as well as the impact that we could have on
11 the island, and I hope that you consider conserving
12 this island for the future. Thank you.

13 MR. WALTON: Mr. Loiselles here?
14 Jerry Loiselles?

15 MR. LOISELLE: Thanks for this
16 opportunity. I will speak on behalf of a place that's
17 kind of an old friend of mine. From the Old Lyme
18 shores I have known Plum Island and admired it from
19 going back to the days when its main purpose was a
20 site for monitoring German submarines during World War
21 II. It's gone on to do other service on behalf of our
22 citizens, most recently as the site of animal disease
23 research, which has been of vital importance to U.S.
24 food industry as well as the health of consumers.

25 Selling Plum Island to the highest

1 bidder just does not seem to be a just reward for this
2 island in view of its past, and it doesn't seem to be
3 in the interest of U.S. citizens either. There are
4 too few locations of that beauty and pristine nature
5 along our eastern seaboard to let one of them slip out
6 of our hands and become built-up and industrialized
7 and no longer useful as open space.

8 Letting it fall to a developer's
9 shovel is something I think we should fight very hard
10 to prevent. If there is a supreme being who looks
11 down someday and expecting to see a nice, little,
12 green pristine dot but instead sees a wart-like growth
13 coming up looking like an Trump Tower, she's going to
14 be pissed off and so are a lot of us.

15 There are a couple of alternatives.
16 One that I can see and one would be to deed it to New
17 York. New York does a pretty good job of the state
18 parks. They make a lot of nice land and features
19 available to the public, and they also generate
20 revenue by promoting tourism. If there needs to be
21 some capital infusion in order to justify disposing of
22 Plum Island, I would think that maybe we can find a
23 limited development type of a builder who would create
24 for us a little fishing community that could be very
25 constrained in its size.

1 It could be -- certainly leave most
2 of the acreage as open space and perhaps only use part
3 of the land that's currently developed, but it could
4 be a miniature Stonington or a miniature version of
5 the other little fishing towns that are located in New
6 England, and I could see the buildup could include
7 perhaps an inn, some commercial docks, and some
8 restaurants, but no chains, no chain restaurants, and
9 it would attract tourists including a shuttle boat,
10 maybe some parking space at Orient Point to facilitate
11 people being able to get there without having their
12 vehicles on the island.

13 Having recently had an opportunity
14 for the very first time to have a tour of that island
15 by virtue of membership in the Mystic Seaport
16 Association, I can attest there's tons and tons of
17 wonderful beach areas and places to picnic, and it
18 would be a lovely place, and I'm sure it would attract
19 a good following and serve the public, continue to
20 serve the public but in a new kind of way. Thank you
21 very much.

22 MR. WALTON: Thank you. Several
23 more commenters. Just a quick break as a reminder
24 that, again, the focus is comment on the draft EIS
25 concerning public sale of Plum Island. I don't want

1 to squelch creativity and open comment, but do want to
2 remind you of the focus. Next speaker is Mr. David
3 Sutherland.

4 MR. SUTHERLAND: Thank you. My name
5 is David Sutherland, and I work with the nature
6 conservancy here in Connecticut, and my colleague,
7 Randall Parsons from our Long Island chapter will be
8 submitting formal written comments tomorrow night, but
9 I just wanted to mention a few high points.

10 First of all, thank you all for
11 coming up to Connecticut and to New York tomorrow
12 evening. It's a long trip for some of you, and I
13 appreciate you taking the time to hear everyone's
14 comments. The draft EIS represents a lot of work that
15 you folks have put into, it and we applaud you for
16 that, but we do feel that there are some inadequacies
17 in the draft EIS.

18 First of all, as one previous
19 speaker mentioned, we do feel that it is essential to
20 really assess these ecological impacts, environmental
21 impacts and that a four-season biological inventory be
22 done on the island. The nature conservancy funded a
23 study by New York's Natural Heritage Program that
24 compiled a lot of existing information, biological
25 information, and it's probably the most comprehensive

1 single document, but we would be the first to say that
2 it is still very inadequate.

3 There has not been enough inventory
4 done on the island partly due to some constraints on
5 being out there to inventory the resources, and we
6 feel that both our study and your assessment is
7 inadequate really judging that the breadth of the
8 species that are out there on this important island.
9 So we think a four-season inventory is absolutely
10 crucial.

11 We feel that the draft inadequately
12 assesses the phrase government interests in section
13 540 of that Comprehensive Appropriations Act where it
14 said the sale should be subject to such terms and
15 conditions as necessary to protect government
16 interests, and we feel that the draft takes too narrow
17 a view of what government interests are.

18 First of all, just as one example,
19 it should assess the impacts of the proposed sale on
20 the National Estuary Program. Peconic Bay and Long
21 Island Sound are both national estuaries, and they are
22 part of the National Estuary Program. That's a
23 federal program. Clearly these are Federal interests,
24 and the draft EIS should do a much more thorough
25 examination of what impact development of the island

1 would have on that program.

2 There's -- we feel that there is
3 inadequate consideration of the letter that the U.S.
4 Fish and Wildlife Service submitted in I think it was
5 April, 2010. It was during 2010. We just feel that
6 there needs to be more thorough examination in the EIS
7 of that key operating agency's submittal to you, and
8 also we feel that there should be a more thorough
9 examination of the positive impacts of the alternative
10 of a conservation sale.

11 So we just feel that the EIS is a
12 good start, the draft is a good start, but it needs
13 much more information, and we feel like we would
14 strongly encourage the agency to expand its view of
15 government interests as mandated by the Congressional
16 language. Thank you very much.

17 MR. WALTON: Thank you,
18 Mr. Sutherland. Ms. Sandy Breslin.

19 MS. BRESLIN: I would also like to
20 thank the GSA and Department of Homeland Security for
21 the opportunity to address the DEIS this evening. My
22 name is Sandy Breslin. I'm the director of
23 Governmental Affairs for Audubon, Connecticut. We're
24 the state organization of the National Audubon
25 Society, and together with our colleagues at Audubon,

1 New York we will be submitting written comments for
2 your consideration, but I do want to just touch on a
3 few brief points from our perspective and amplify a
4 bit on what some of our colleagues have said.

5 The Audubon Society is to serve and
6 restore natural ecosystems focusing on birds, other
7 wildlife for the benefit of people, and the earth's
8 biological diversity. We have been very is active
9 since our inception and preservation -- can you hear
10 me -- preservation and restoration of Long Island
11 Sound, and with our partners at Audubon, New York we
12 have worked to monitor some of the bird species on
13 Plum Island. However, not adequately so.

14 But based on that information we
15 urge the protection of the irreplaceable resources and
16 habitats found on Plum Island. We have a
17 once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect an
18 absolutely unspoiled jewel in Long Island Sound, and
19 we need to take that action. As others have said,
20 those natural resources already belong to the public,
21 and the federal government has a special obligation to
22 see that those resources are conserved before any kind
23 of a sale or disposition of the property goes forward.

24 With its mix of rocky shoreline,
25 sandy beaches, wetlands, and various shrub grassland

1 and forest habitats, this is all on this small little
2 island, this diversity, and richness of habitat. Plum
3 Island stands out as a critically important migratory
4 bird stop oversight.

5 The Atlantic flyway in Long Island
6 Sound in 1997, it was recognized as part of the Orient
7 Point to Plum Island important bird area, and my
8 colleague Corrine Folsom-O'Keefe from Audubon will say
9 a little bit more about what that important bird area
10 program means, but it was recognized because it
11 supports such a great diversity of at-risk species,
12 including large concentrations of waterbirds.

13 The island, as you've heard, is part
14 of a chain of islands in Long Island Sound. A unique
15 and wonderful feature of our estuary, and it also
16 provides globally significant nesting habitat and
17 foraging habitat for terns as part of that island
18 chain with Great Gull Island, which is the largest,
19 one of the largest concentrations of nesting roseates
20 in the entire world.

21 We very much appreciate the hard
22 work that has gone into the development of the DEIS,
23 and we appreciate your recognition of the island's
24 important bird area status, but we, too, feel that the
25 information underlying your analysis needs to be

1 revised and improved.

2 There's just not sufficient
3 information about the birds, wildlife, plant
4 communities, etcetera, found on the island, and the
5 alternatives presented do not go far enough to ensure
6 that Plum Island's unique natural resources will be
7 protected during a potential sale.

8 So we really join with our
9 colleagues at the nature conservancy and others in
10 calling as strongly as possible for a full four-season
11 biological inventory so that we can have the
12 information we need to make a rational and
13 science-based decision about next steps for the
14 island.

15 We believe that upon completion of
16 that survey the DEIS should be revised and reissued.
17 We also would join with the nature conservancy and
18 others in strongly supporting option No. 4, the
19 conservation preservation option, and we believe that
20 it is well within your purview to protect those
21 government interests by adopting that option.

22 I would just note someone mentioned
23 earlier how we should -- David, you mentioned we
24 should focus on the positive impacts of Plum Island,
25 economic impacts, and I would just say that protecting

1 the ecological integrity of Plum Island not only makes
2 good environmental sense, but it also makes good
3 economic sense, and I'll just put in a little plug.

4 Bird watching is considered the
5 fastest growing outdoor sport in the nation, in
6 Connecticut and New York. In 2010 over a million
7 Connecticut Residents participated in some form of
8 wildlife watching, and they pumped almost a billion
9 dollars into our state's economy. In New York I don't
10 have the most current figures, but in 2006 there were
11 3.8 million birdwatchers, and they spent or
12 contributed \$1.6 billion to the state's economy. So
13 it's not just good for wildlife, but it's good for the
14 economy as well.

15 I thank you very much for the
16 opportunity, and I hope that everyone gets a chance to
17 see the beautiful habitat of Plum Island sometime
18 soon.

19 MR. WALTON: Thank you. Our
20 microphone stand has decided that it's tired, so I'm
21 going to take a different approach here. Ms. Corrine
22 Folsom-O'Keefe. I'll bring this to you.

23 A. I just want to thank the GSA for giving me
24 the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact
25 Statement. My name is Corrine Folsom-O'Keefe, and I

1 am the important bird area program coordinator for
2 Audubon, Connecticut, which is the state program of
3 the National Audubon Society.

4 The National Audubon Society has
5 recently developed a new strategic plan focusing on
6 flyways with Connecticut, New York and Long Island
7 Sound being part of the Atlantic flyway. Part of this
8 strategy involves identifying important bird areas.
9 Important bird areas are habitats critical to at-risk
10 species of birds throughout their lifecycle on their
11 breeding grounds up here in the north, on their
12 wintering grounds to the south, and places that are
13 important during their migration.

14 Now, one thing I want to just tell
15 you guys about the important bird area program is that
16 they are identified through a scientific process.
17 Before a site can be officially recognized as an IBA,
18 it's reviewed by a technical committee consisting of
19 scientists, experts, and often state wildlife agency
20 officials. I want to thank the GSA for recognizing in
21 the Environmental Impact Statement that Plum Island is
22 a recognized important bird area.

23 The island has a number of species
24 of conservation concern such as piping plover, roseate
25 tern, peregrine falcons, and there are large

1 concentrations of waterbirds in the area. Thousands
2 of black scoters, surf scoters and wide-winged scoters
3 can be found in the waters just off Plum Island during
4 winter and during migration.

5 The island is also an important
6 stopover habitat for migrating songbirds. Audubon,
7 New York has recorded large numbers of species and
8 large numbers of individuals of those species on Plum
9 Island during spring and fall migration. One thing
10 that we've already talked about a lot is that Plum
11 Island is adjacent to Great Gull Island. Great Gull
12 Island has one of the largest roseate tern
13 populations, actually, is the largest roseate tern
14 breeding population in the western hemisphere. That's
15 only a thousand pairs. That's, you know, the largest
16 one in the western hemisphere.

17 This is a globally threatened
18 species. You know, terns are sensitive to
19 disturbance. So things that happen on Plum Island
20 could very well affect these roseate terns. One of
21 the things of Plum Island it also is home to 10,000
22 pairs of common terns. So there are a lot of birds in
23 the surrounding area, and that's something that, as
24 the important bird area coordinator for Connecticut, I
25 think really needs to be taken into account in the

1 Environmental Impact Statement. As my colleague Sandy
2 said, Audubon recommends that a full year four-seasons
3 survey of the birds and wildlife be conducted on Plum
4 Island and that the ESI, yeah, EIS be revised to, you
5 know, to address, you know, what's found during that
6 four-year survey.

7 We would like to see the impacts of
8 development on the island, you know, or what effect
9 the impacts of development on the island might have on
10 birds is fully understood and lastly just as the IBA
11 coordinator to IConnect. I want to urge this group to
12 protect this important bird area and the species it
13 supports.

14 MR. WALTON: Sanford D'Esopo.

15 MR. D'ESOPO: I'll move up here
16 because of the feedback. Just about broke my lung
17 function here. How's that? Good. My name is Sandy
18 D'Esopo. I am a retired coffee roaster and I live in
19 Groton. I think that I heard Donald Trump's name
20 mentioned or Trump Tower. I think I would almost
21 rather see the island go to the Saudis than to wake up
22 in the morning, open the paper, and look and see that
23 the name of the island has been changed to Trump
24 Island. Please, please.

25 I was lucky enough to be on a tour a

1 few weeks ago. I have the hat over there to prove it,
2 and I am still thrilled with that day. It's one of
3 the most beautiful days in years. This is such a
4 jewel, unbelievable, but I want to discuss something a
5 little beyond the faith of Plum Island, and this is
6 what I have. It won't take long.

7 The main island trail system
8 comprises 190 islands strung along 350, 375 miles of
9 the Maine coast from Machias to Kennebunkport. I
10 propose that Plum Island be the first island in a
11 National Atlantic Island Trail System, which would run
12 from Machias to Key West. This -- I'm having trouble
13 seeing here.

14 Like the Maine islands, Atlantic
15 trails would be operated privately with government key
16 operation and support. You would be able to move to
17 take your vessel, your sailboat, kayak, small motor
18 boat, boat with oars and go from island to island.
19 We've already got islands in place, places in place.
20 There's Acadia. There's the Cape Cod National
21 Seashore.

22 Like the Maine island system, some
23 of that includes mainland sites also and -- sorry, I'm
24 still having trouble seeing here. In essence, this
25 island system would be an aquatic parallel to the

1 treasured and venerated, venerable Appalachian Trail.

2 It would operate that way. Thank you very much.

3 MR. WALTON: Jennifer Hillhouse.

4 MS. HILLHOUSE: Hello, everybody.

5 I'm an 80-year-old housewife. I am an environmental
6 activist. I've been out to Plum Island with the New
7 London Garden Club. I've banded terns on Faulkner
8 Island, and I've banded migrating raptors for 25 years
9 near my house. I live on the beach in Old Lyme or
10 almost on the beach, but I'm fortunate to be
11 surrounded by fields, and Griswold Point is right next
12 door.

13 I was down on the beach today at
14 high tide and Griswold Point was awash. Yes, it's
15 been breached many times. I wonder sometimes if
16 there's a sequence. Is it breached every 150 years?
17 Every 300 years? It comes and goes, but as the
18 Appalachian, not the Appalachian, the Audubon lady
19 said, it's an important spot for migrating birds.

20 There's Plum Island. There's
21 Hammonasset. There's Sheffield Island. These places
22 are absolutely necessary for these birds who travel
23 thousands of miles to rest. Most of the shoreline is
24 covered with human development. I'm not a politician
25 so I can say easily that there are too damn many

1 people on this world. We've got to do something about
2 birth control.

3 When I was a kid -- seriously,
4 seriously. It's ridiculous. When I was a kid, there
5 were 1,800 people in Old Lyme. Now there are over
6 7,000 and getting up to 20,000 in the summer. It's
7 obscene. So please, tell your kids don't have four
8 kids. Have two.

9 But anyway, it really is terribly
10 important to save these wild places. They are few and
11 far between, and we don't have to populate every open
12 space with people. You see dead animals on the
13 highway all the time, because people have to drive too
14 fast, and they don't seem to care and people are
15 messy. I've been litter picking all my life on the
16 beach, and I picked up miles of monofilament.

17 The fishermen over on Ferry Road
18 where they have a lovely walkway, they've ripped the
19 copper off the top of the pilings, and they leave
20 their monofilament everywhere. The deflated balloons
21 are on the beach. One year we picked up 8,000
22 cigarette filters. None of this is good for the
23 wildlife.

24 We share this earth with wildlife.
25 We're custodians. We're not domineering or we

1 shouldn't be domineering. So please, gentlemen, look
2 at the long picture. Sell it to the consortium. Sell
3 it to the Fish and Wildlife. Sell it to Audubon and
4 nature conservancy and all the rest of us who love it
5 and want to take care of it. Thank you.

6 MR. WALTON: Thank you, Ms.
7 Hillhouse. Joan Smith.

8 MS. SMITH: My name is Joan Smith,
9 president of Groton Open Space Association, a 501-C-3
10 in Groton, Connecticut, and I write to offer my
11 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
12 for Plum Island, the federally-owned island off Orient
13 Point, New York.

14 Our organization was instrumental in
15 saving Bluff Point Coastal Reserve and Haley Farms
16 State Park, over a thousand acres on the Long Island
17 shore. The increasing development of The Sound's
18 shoreline has negatively impacted birds, turtles,
19 seals, other fauna and flora and related habitat.
20 Plum Island is a rare opportunity to preserve key
21 habitat for federally listed species.

22 The DEIS says "piping plover nests
23 have been documented on Plum Island from 1993 to 2010.
24 One pair of piping plovers bred on the island in 2011
25 fledgling one chick." In addition, "One of the

1 largest colonies of roseate terns in the Northeast is
2 located on nearby Great Gull Island. Adults forage in
3 the near shore waters surrounding Plum Island and
4 bring the fledglings to the shore of Plum Island to
5 loaf and forage in Plum Gut."

6 The state listed flora include
7 piping fauna, piping plover, common lute, common tern,
8 roseate tern, osprey, northern harrier, red shouldered
9 hawk, Cooper's hawk, sharp chinned hawk, northern
10 goshawk and peregrine falcon. State listed flora
11 include hop sedge, coastal sedge, spring ladies
12 tresses and sea beach knot weed.

13 As Plum Island is a
14 federally-recognized Long Island Sound stewardship
15 site and Audubon-recognized important bird area and a
16 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast coastal area
17 study habitat area of significance, it is therefore in
18 the public and governmental interest to preserve the
19 island's critical habitats.

20 Unfortunately, despite the rich
21 ecological significance of Plum Island, the DEIS does
22 not take a position on the best use of the island.
23 GOSA urges the United States General Services
24 Administration to recommend a conservation sale in its
25 final Environmental Impact Statement and to condition

1 any sale to ensure that Plum Island's undeveloped
2 fragile habitats and Long Island Sound's water quality
3 are protected.

4 We recommend Plum Island be
5 preserved as part of the National Wildlife Refuge
6 System or owned by another appropriate conservation
7 group with a track record of preserving and ensuring
8 optimal habitat. We do not recommend low-impact
9 development as the fragility of bird and turtle
10 nesting sites is well documented, and any increase in
11 traffic would have a negative impact on this rare wild
12 place. Please enter these comments into the record,
13 and thank you for your consideration.

14 MR. WALTON: Thank you, Ms. Smith.
15 If any other speakers read off of comments, and you
16 are able to leave your documents to help Ms. McCauley
17 with the record, if you would, please, that would be
18 kind. This works out perfectly. We have time for two
19 more comments. I have two more comment cards.
20 Christopher Zeeman.

21 MR. ZEEMAN: Good evening. My name
22 is Christopher Zeeman. I am the current chairperson
23 of the Coast Defense Study Group otherwise known as
24 CDSG. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to
25 studying and preserving America's coastal forts, and

1 that's one area we feel is maybe underrepresented in
2 the report is the significant historical resources
3 associated with former Fort Terry.

4 As one gentleman eluded to before,
5 Plum Island was engaged in the business of homeland
6 defense. It was engaged in the business of coast
7 defense. Fort Terry was constructed starting in 1897,
8 was active right up through World War II and so
9 defended our country through a number of wars.

10 As part of the construction of the
11 fort, the government constructed a number of disbursed
12 gun batteries. These are made out of reinforced
13 concrete and covered with earthen embankments. Again,
14 these were constructed and in a disbursed manner in
15 just about every corner of the island. Along with
16 these hardened structures were various command posts,
17 observation posts and plotting rooms.

18 Additionally, there are searchlight
19 shelters and facilities associated with the mine
20 warfare so they could mine the bay to keep out enemy
21 ships. We feel these activities are underreported in
22 the report. So in addition to these hardened
23 structures is also a number of buildings that are
24 remaining from the original forth, including a number
25 of barracks, buildings, firemen quarters, post chapel,

1 post hospital, and also the original guardhouse are
2 still remaining.

3 We feel these structures are
4 eligible for entering in the National Historic
5 Register, and we would like to see them preserved in
6 some way. Thank you.

7 MR. WALTON: Thank you. And the
8 last speaker is Steve Marks-Hamilton.

9 MR. MARKS-HAMILTON: Good evening.
10 I just noticed that of all the speakers tonight I did
11 not hear a single speaker speak up for a golf course
12 or for a condominium development. I heard no speakers
13 speak up for hotels, and I heard many people speaking
14 up for preservation of the island as it is, and I
15 concur with that, and I am amazed that we are all on
16 the same page. Thank you.

17 MR. WALTON: Thank you, and thank
18 you all for your time and comments this evening.
19 There are additional comment cards available. If you
20 wanted to submit a written comment, didn't pick up one
21 on your way in, please do. Also, if you did not sign
22 in to indicate your attendance tonight, please do that
23 on your way out. And then, finally, if you didn't get
24 enough tonight, there is another meeting tomorrow
25 evening in Greenport. So take the ferry, and we would

1 be glad to see you there.

2 If you wish to mail in a comment
3 card rather than hand it to us tonight, please use the
4 address that's listed on the screen. We'll leave this
5 up on the screen so that you can have this information
6 and also the Web site address.

7 MR. BLAIR: So this is the first
8 hearing? The hearing that you are going to have on
9 Long Island tomorrow has yet to take place?

10 MR. WALTON: The public meeting
11 tomorrow evening is the same format, same discussion,
12 same presentation as this evening.

13 MR. BLAIR: I was under the
14 impression that Long Island came first.

15 MR. WALTON: No, sir. It's
16 tomorrow. Thank you all very much.

17 (Whereupon, this hearing was
18 concluded at 8:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Jacqueline V. McCauley, a Notary Public
duly commissioned and qualified in and for the State
of Connecticut, do hereby certify that pursuant to
Notice, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Sale
of Plum Island, New York Public Meeting dated the 17th
day of October, 2012 at 6:03 p.m., is a true and
accurate record of the hearing.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my seal this 24th day of October, 2012.

Jacqueline V. McCauley
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 5/31/14

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Sales of Plum Island, New York
Public Meeting on 10/17/2012 Index: \$1.6..accurate

	1997	61:6	350	67:8	840-acre
\$			375	67:8	13:9
\$1.6		2			8:00 75:18
\$150,000	20	29:15		4	
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\$270,000	20,000	69:6	40	34:13	9 13:9
49:8	2003	20:15			90 14:15
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40:14,19		43:5 63:10	50	33:12	A
\$381,000	2008	14:21		34:19	abandon 52:4
49:11	2009	14:24		44:25	ability 32:3
1		15:4	501-C-3	70:9	absolutely
1,800	2010	15:12	540	58:13	58:9 60:18
10,000		25:11	55	33:7	68:22
101		29:7,9	55,000	13:24	absurd 47:22
110-329		59:5 63:6			abundant
14:22	2011	70:24		6	52:24
14	2012	29:15	6:42	30:16	Acadia 67:20
15	2019	44:15	6:49	30:16	acceptable
150	2021	44:15			45:14
68:16	25	68:8		7	accepted
16	26	12:22	7,000	69:6	29:15
17		29:16 30:1	75	37:22	access 15:19
1897	26th	12:22			accomplished
190				8	18:4
1938	3		8,000	69:21	accordance
195	3.8	63:11			5:19
1969	30-day	29:2	80-year-old		account
1993	300	68:17	840	10:12	65:25
					accurate 5:9

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