

HONOAPI'ILANI HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS
WEST MAUI, UKUMEHAME TO LAUNIUPOKO

PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION:

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025
5:00 P.M.

HELD AT

LAHAINALUNA HIGH SCHOOL

980 LAHAINALUNA ROAD

LAHAINA, HAWAII 96761

Nationwide

COURT REPORTING

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Τ	PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION:
2	DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
3	PUBLIC COMMENTS
4	TAKEN ON
5	THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025
6	5:00 P.M.
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8	MR. KAM: My name is Allen Kam. I'm from
9	WSP. We're really happy to see you all here
10	tonight. Happy to see you guys enjoying the open
11	house. We're going to have that open until about
12	6:00 p.m. We're going to start to have a little
13	presentation at 6:00 p.m. In the meantime please go
14	and check out all the information that's over here.
15	(Public Comments:)
16	MS. EMMERICH: Hi, my name's Kellee
17	Emmerich. I have been a Lahaina resident for almost
18	40 years. We owned a home on Lahainaluna Road. And
19	during the Lahaina Fire we lost our home. One of my
20	children, my daughter, and her family also lost
21	their home in Wahikuli.
22	And after living in at the Hyatt for
23	eight months we were it was very healing to move
24	to Ukumehame. We bought a property in Ukumehame.
25	And we put two tiny houses there, which we are

farming now. We have chickens. We planted over 20 1 trees. 2. And we have a barn that we're going to be 3 building. 4 And so it would be very inconvenient and 5 disappointing if -- the higher up the highway was, it would be possibly affecting our property. And so 6 7 my request is that it goes as low as possible through County land rather than through the resident 8 9 -- or the residential areas or the agricultural 10 areas or, yeah, private property. I'm concerned also about the noise from 11 12 the road noise. The closer up it comes to the --13 where the people are living. So my request is that 14 it would just stay as low as possible on the 15 highway. I think that's it. First and last name again? 16 THE REPORTER: 17 MR. EMMERICH: Brad Emmerich. 18 THE REPORTER: Okay. Ready when you are. 19 MR. EMMERICH: So after the fire I 20 realized that this is going to be something that 21 takes a long time. And so I needed to find a house 2.2 or something -- a place for my family to live. 23 that's when we lived at property there in Ukumehame. 24 I originally was trying to find a friend

or something like that or somebody that was wanting

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to allow me to put a -- either a mobile home or something on their property.

That's when somebody said, "Well, why don't you just look at the ones there in Ukumehame?" Which we had looked at earlier in the year but it was out of our ability.

Anyway, to make a long story short, so after the fire I realized it was going to take a long time before we could rebuild. So we went and found something there in Ukumehame.

And, like Kellee was saying, we were at the Hyatt for eight months. So while we were there we were working hard at trying to build something in Ukumehame. But it was difficult getting through all the process.

At any rate, now that we're there, of course, we really like the property and so we're more invested in what happens as far as the road is concerned. And there is property below us -- the property that's next to the highway that is all County property.

And there are no trespassing signs all over. But of course people have moved in there and, you know, they put up homesteads really -- gates and fences and right next to the "no trespassing" signs.

But it just -- it makes sense to me that the State 1 2. would put the highway there at the County property 3 at the bottom of Ukumehame development. 4 And then my other concern was the noise 5 mitigation -- if there was a way that they could -they would certainly -- my hope would be they would 6 consider that because right now we can hear the 7 highway noise. 8 9 But when we go inside, you know, then at 10 least you can't hear it when you're inside. the highway was closer it gets louder. And so my 11 hope would be that they would take that into 12 13 consideration also since we are a resident -- that 14 they would do something to try to mitigate the noise 15 -- lessen the noise. That's it. THE REPORTER: Perfect. 16 Thank you. 17 (Break in audio.) 18 Hi, my name is Raymond Ishii. MR. ISHII: 19 Is this thing on? Okay. I'm the president of the 20 Valley Isle Sports Shooters Club, which is the 21 oldest and largest user of Ukumehame Firing Range. 22 While I fully support moving the existing 23 highway, in that there are a number of concerns I 24 have. The roads appear to run parallel to fire

lines, which we are very grateful for, although

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there is a couple routes that were uncomfortably close. But my understanding is that's going to change.

The questions I have is right now to access the range and the Papalaua Wayside Park we have to drive past the range via the Viaduct exit to the Ukumehame subdivision, then backtrack on the existing highway.

The question I had, which was actually answered, was is the State going to maintain that highway to a correct standard where you can actually drive on it. And I was told that's going to be turned over to the County. So that's a County question now.

Because that section of road -- if anybody's driven it -- is probably going to fall in the ocean pretty soon. Because if you look every so often you'll see the -- basically the ocean undercutting the existing jersey barriers. So the question I have is, number one, is that road going to be maintained?

The second question I have -- to avoid that, prior on the left side of the bypass would it be possible to just simply restripe existing road and put in a turn lane so we can get direct access

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and not have to basically bypass everything? That will give access to both the range and the beach park. Then, going back the other way, a merge lane.

My understanding is a viaduct is going to be 25 feet high, which is good so emergency vehicles can go under it. But the other question we had was during construction will people be allowed access basically to the range because they're going to build the viaduct over the existing road? And that's it for the range.

I have one comment though as far as the highway itself -- if there's any thought about putting protected passing lanes on that highway?

Because if anybody's driven it, what happens is you get behind somebody going 20, 30 miles an hour and you got a line of cars, you know, half mile, mile long.

Then you get one guy ten cars back who's late for work and he's going to start passing people. So has there been any thought about putting passing lanes on that highway? Not the whole thing but just intermittently to let people around slow people. That's all I got.

MR. KAM: Mahalo, Mr. Ishii.

Mr. McPherson?

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1	MR. MCPHERSON: Hi, my name is David
2	McPherson. I live in Kipuka Village. Most people
3	know it as Olowalu Village. I've been there for
4	about ten years with my family.
5	As we look at the alternate routes, it
6	seems and I would like to see it go a little bit
7	higher away from the homes. There's a lot more
8	space Mauka. Hopefully there's no park sites or
9	anything that would be that would hinder that to
10	be pushed further away from our homes.
11	We have a small little village there. And
12	it seems like it goes, you know, fairly close. So
13	that's one thing that I would really like to see
14	happen is that it would be pushed further away from
15	our homes for the noise.
16	And second of all, for the design team, if
17	you thought about putting guardrails up I know
18	guardrails are to stop cars when there's no other
19	runways that they can slow down.
20	But guardrails keep vagrants out of State-
21	covered lands. And that's a really putting
22	guardrails up would save our County and State
23	dollars in not having to clean up cars.

to Ukumehame you're going to see cars littered up

I mean, if you do the stretch from Olowalu

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there, especially if you take a helicopter and you fly over. It is unbelievable. And that takes a lot of money, a lot of effort, and it damages our wetland areas.

So to keep everybody out of there, guardrails would eliminate anybody really driving into State-covered land or places that they should not be trespassing. That's just one thing that I wanted to say on that. Thank you, everybody, for coming. Appreciate it.

MR. WOLFORD: Good evening. My name's Jason Wolford. I'm with SAST. We're a nonprofit training organization at Ukumehame Firing Range. We're a nonprofit. We teach firearm safety and training.

My concern is along with the fires when the range was closed -- people need accesses through that. So during the construction are we still going to be able to access that? Because people want to go hunt. They need to be able to sight rifles in for ethical hunting purposes and things like that.

If it's shut down another six to eight months during the construction of that, you're just going to have people going other places shooting and as well as being able to take firearms, classes, and

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trainings -- and safety trainings -- which is required by the State of Hawaii.

You're basically going to be locking people out of access to these constitutional rights as well if we don't have access to that.

And my second question is I understand they're making it three lanes for finances and things like that. What happens when there's an accident on that elevated roadway?

Whether there's guardrails and the vehicles are stopped there and people need to get through or -- how are you going to get people off of that? If there's a fatality we all know the road shuts down here for six to eight hours.

How are people going to get off of that elevated roadway to be able to at least go one way or the other to get back somewhere else rather than sitting in their cars for six to eight hours?

MR. FISCHER: Hello, my name is Van Fischer. I own six acres in Olowalu right where the wai stream goes up right below where the proposed highway is going to go through.

Fortunately, the new highway that's proposed barely clips the corner of my property. So I'm grateful that it misses mine. But my neighbors

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are not so fortunate.

I'm here to ask you to move the intersection of Luawai and the highway Mauka, like, 150 feet for a number of reasons. One, the way that it hits Luawai Street now is at an angle so it doesn't create a right-angle intersection.

So you're going to have to realign the side roads as opposed to realign the highway. If you just move the proposed highway up about 150 feet it changes the arc of the highway as it comes through.

And then it hits Luawai Street at a right angle so you have a proper intersection. That intersection's going to need to be signalized because it's going to be a very busy intersection going down into Olowalu Village.

Another issue is that on the back of our property lines -- Lot 20 and Lot 19 -- there's a subservice tributary to Mapua Stream.

And there's an old pumphouse right where you're putting your highway through where if you go down in there you can see there's water flowing under there. And that is a tributary into Mapua Stream, which runs right through mine and Dave's property just down further.

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The rest of Mapua Stream up above is also subterranean. But in the section through our property it's an open stream and there's tons of life in there. And we would like to protect it and enhance it if possible. And putting the highway through there is not going to accomplish that.

There is a substantial topography difference between the area where the highway can go right above Lots 19 and 20 as opposed to below. There's about a 12-foot vertical bank. And if it were moved up then you wouldn't have to deal with that bank.

If you do have to deal with the bank, behind my property's going to be a 20-foot-high embankment to support that highway up there. So for these reasons I'd like to ask that you move it.

The most important reason probably is that right where you go through Lot 20 there was two parcels there -- A and B -- just on the southside of the wai stream where there was two two-and-a-halfacre parcels there with two local families who are in contract to buy those to build their homes on.

And now they can't build their homes You're going right through those properties. And all it would take is to move it 150 feet Mauka

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into an open space tract that's already there that nobody's going to be building on.

So I would appreciate it if you would look into it. I feel really good. I spoke with Jamie about this and I feel like she really understood and cared about what I was saying. So I'm hopeful that you will take this into consideration. Thank you.

MR. NIELSON: Hello, my name is Nick
Nielson. I'm a property owner in Ukumehame. Most
of my concerns have been addressed so far so I'm
just going to note one concern for us. We're kind
of concerned about the hours of construction -- if
there's going to be limits or it's going to be a 24hour operation and how that noise will be addressed
and recorded before and after construction. Will
there be a decibel meter at our location now and
that's compared to construction? That's it.

MS. KEAHI: Aloha. I'm Malihini Keahi.

I'm from Lahaina all my life. You know, my dad was

Moon Keahi. And my father used to help a lot of

representatives who were trying to make a change on

the west side.

And the craziest thing was that every time they wanted to add a road something else was coming. So again, you know, I live in Leali'i. I spoke my

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piece up there. I think what I'm afraid of more so 1 2. is the highway.

So you take up more land. You open up the And then you infringe on people in highway. Olowalu. Some of them are wanting the changes. But you know what? I think leave Olowalu as peaceful as it is.

It doesn't stop traffic to come into Today I had an appointment on the other Lahaina. I came back this way. Traffic was backed up on the bypass. And I think the more road you make the more people come.

And with what Lahaina has just already gone through it's, like, this is too much. just too much. I think Lahaina, Olowalu needs to be rethink -- I know they were wanting to make a whole village and a whole town.

That place is sacred. I think the few people that know about it and the people that have learned about it in this last 20 years is plenty enough. We need to speak -- we need to share the history of Olowalu, not condemn it because we're going to have more people coming in.

You know, that area -- it's been sacred for me all my life growing up. Whenever we were

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gathering with my grandmother there we'd always end up down by Olowalu Pier and we would spend a week or a month, especially when my grandparents were alive, and we'd all gather.

Everybody who was from Pu'ukoli'i on this side of the island -- we'd go to Olowalu. That is gone now. Yeah. My babies grew up there. My grandbabies today -- they don't -- they enjoy it there because of the feeling and as we grew up there.

But Olowalu is special. And those of you that are there, you're very blessed. And I just feel that this whole highway thing -- and I know progress is progress. But, like I said, every time we add a road something else is happening. It gets developed.

All the work that Tanya did of exposing our history is going to be covered all over again. Maybe not all the areas, but most of it -- of her hard work, of our past.

And that is today that is going on -- that we get to know of our past, our history. For our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren -- they'll never see that. It's going to be covered. And you add one more road --

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that's not going to help.

You know what? After the fire, traffic was very little. People respected and got only on the bypass through Lahaina and Keawe. And that got all messed up, yes.

And then we asked these two, "Why couldn't you do the road Mauka and take it to Honokowai?" We said no more money. But you talk about money. So why don't you work on that part? You know, above --

MR. KAM: Three minutes is up. Please wrap up.

MS. KEAHI: So, anyway, I didn't mean to come talk but I had to say something. And I have my family Naho'oikaikas Olowalu and I was really worried where that road was going to change because they're right above the store. And that's why I'm here.

MS. KEELE: So mahalo to having this in Lahaina. I think that's really helpful. I want to recognize that, Director Sniffen, you've done this a couple times now. So thank you -- coming to the community to have conversations.

I'm happy to see so many people from the area that we're discussing because I found out about this meeting because I opened my, like, Lahaina

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Strong weekly email today. So they happened to have it in there.

And so just advertisement wise if there's something better that you guys could do for future engagement because our community is really overwhelmed. And so we need to have a little bit of notice so we can plan around things.

I do want to acknowledge that in the presentation it looks like someone did realize it since you had these printed because on the boards it does say "a grassy median" and that made me very uncomfortable. So I want to make sure that we are talking about that as a native plant median and not a grassy of some sort.

And then just engagement wise, you know,

I'm just kind of wondering, like, how you've done it

and how much you've done because this is something

that, especially on Maui, we've found is that we

just -- there just isn't really engagement.

People say there's engagement and, like, yeah, some people go the meetings but, like, it's always the same groups of us that do. And I appreciate the explanation of the preferred versus the alternatives. I think that was really helpful.

I do think that cultural concerns is very

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-- it's a very significant conversation for us to have. You know, we know that there's going to be Iwi where we're talking about.

And so having a plan for that -- because my understanding is, like, the state law, like, doesn't exist about it. Like, you find Iwi and you stop. And that's, like, the law. So, you know, just being mindful of those kind of things because we know that's going to happen.

And then to Dave's point, I really liked the comment about the guardrails. And I also enjoyed the comment about the passing lanes.

And I don't know that that's necessarily an option, but I do think that at the very least we should have signs that say, like, pull over to let other cars pass or something because that absolutely happens. And I think encouraging people to drive faster around isn't great.

But letting people know, like, "Hey, you're driving too slow -- get out of the way" is, like, very helpful to those in our community who have to commute every day and deal with all these tourists. And I think that's really it. Otherwise, everything's been covered. So mahalo for having this.

1	MS. KALUNA-PALAFOX: Aloha. Good evening.
2	My name is Victoria Kaluna-Palafox. I live in
3	Ukumehame. I am and we are Ukumehame restoration
4	wetlands and restoration of Limu projects working in
5	Ukumehame. Also working with Olowalu.
6	We pray that we connect with our ohanas
7	here in Lahaina so that we can continue the growth
8	of Limu to renourish our oceans again and to protect
9	our wetlands. And with that, Ukumehame for many,
10	many years has been very dry. The wetlands has had
11	no life until a couple years ago.
12	If you go to Pohaku Aeko Street there's,
13	like, a culvert they made. Over there it used to be
14	all dry. The only time that wetlands used to fill
15	up is when the rains used to come and a little
16	seepage from the ocean floor.
17	Today in that culvert there's water in
18	there and there's fishes. There is life right where
19	you're thinking of putting that highway. I ask you
20	not to do it.
21	I ask you to go ahead, bring your
22	scientists, and check our 'Aina Ukumehame because
23	it's coming alive again. There is fishes where you
24	wouldn't think there is fishes. There are water

pools in Ukumehame where there weren't water pools.

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It is starting to show us.

There was one developer -- and the only developer back there -- he tried to help the community by building eight cottages. In order to get their cottages built he covered up a wetland pool and put the eight houses on it.

My question to you -- how are you going to run your highway? With a big berm or are you doing dry pipe? If it is dry pipe I am against dry pipe because the wetlands are important for us, especially at this time.

We need to start concentrating on growing food for our people. And this is where it should be -- Ukumehame Olowalu -- the largest land in Lahaina. Open, barren, good 'Aina for grow food.

The other part that I am very concerned about is all the wetland pools. There's a special one that I talked to Tanya and I talked to Pua today. It was always kept within the Kupuna's, Mana', and Mo'olelo. We have not shared that space yet.

As Olowalu has a cave up in the valley filled with water and that land belonged to the Nahina and Ho'oikaika's, today Peter Martin wants to funnel that water out.

Ukumehame is the same. It is a land of 1 2. food growth. We need to look into that history. 3 The wetlands of Ukumehame starts from the pipe and it comes almost all the way to the river. 4 5 The reason why I'm saying almost to the river is because the river's water flow comes within 6 7 that passage so the wetlands could stop at one certain point. Again --8 MR. KAM: Your three minutes --9 10 MS. KALUNA-PALAFOX: Yeah. Again I will 11 repeat -- many years from the time of the first 12 development that area was all wet. Within the last 13 year or so water has been seeping under the road. 14 Kane has found his way, therefore bringing the 15 fishes back to where they was in time past. I thank you very much for the time. 16 17 MS. MAGALLANES: Aloha mai kakou. My name 18 is Linda Nahina Magallanes. I'm an original 19 descendant of Olowalu -- my biggest concern. 20 a lot of culture is significant in that area. 21 I had asked about cutting down the trees 2.2 through Olowalu -- the tunnel trees. I was told 23 they cannot. Why? You protect the trees but you're 24 not protecting the cultural significance of Olowalu.

Every bit of Olowalu is significant

1	culturally. I know that because I'm also from
2	Olowalu with the connection of my ohana Naho'oikaika
3	and Keao. I used to live where the farm is right
4	now that by the highway that coconut farm and
5	butterfly I lived there until we moved into
6	Lahaina.
7	But my biggest concern is if you put the
8	road up higher what about the heiau on the top?
9	That heiau is still going strong. There's also Pu'u
10	Kilea, which is our Kupunas are buried on top.
11	You're going to put one highway through that.
12	You have Awalua, which is the outskirt of
13	Olowalu on the Lahaina side. Then you've got
14	Kapa'i, which is on the Wahikuli side of Olowalu.
15	So also these places need to be named correctly.
16	Not Kapa'i is not Olowalu. That's Kapa'i.
17	I said this in many meetings. I came to
18	many meetings. I also was on you guys' Zoom meeting
19	and somebody said they was going to get back to me
20	and to today never got back.
21	It really disappoints me because nobody
22	listened because it's all about the road. If you
23	cut the trees down, you got one road there. Use the
24	old cane haul road. What's so hard about that?
25	Instead of going up because even on the

cane haul there's -- the cane road to the regular 1 2. road has cemetery on the left. Check West Maui Land 3 EIS and put that together with your EIS. Something will go right. That's all I got to say. 4 5 I'm kind of angry and I'm sorry by coming out like this. But nobody listening to the people 6 who from here of Maui, of Lahaina, in Olowalu. 7 very upset because nobody listens. They're just 8 9 doing what they like, put roads where they like, but 10 not listening to the people -- listening to the 11 Thank you. money. 12 I'm from Ukumehame MR. KALUNA-PALAFOX: 13 We're the first ones that you guys gonna plow 14 through, you know, and come into our kuleana. 15 That's like taking a part of our livelihood. through how much you guys coming through, but you 16 17 still coming through our kuleana. It was two 18 generations. 19 For me hard because now we feel like we 20 are losing out again, you know, the kanaka -- always the ones to lose all their -- especially for a 21 generation. You know, how much more the kanaka 2.2 23 people got to lose? 24 You know, it's already there. It's

already stated. We're impacted. Land Commission

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awards but they no accept one TMK over that. You know, we become a loser again. You know, we suffering already with what we get.

We see all our beaches being destroyed, being used as recreation. Ukumehame is a recreational park. Outsiders come do surf lessons and the instructor is just as White as the person that came off of the plane.

You know, I could see with a local, but So our land is being used as a recreation. Economy. You can make money. What about the people that already is suffering -- all the kanaka? got to fight for Lahaina.

How is that? My wife -- generations, two generations. How come she got to fight just to stay Plenty kanaka kawai got to fight for on our land? our land. We already fighting for our water so we can make money.

The hotels, the greedy ones, sucking all up the water. But the people suffer with 20 percent of water. How is that? Even the kanaka -- they get first rights automatic -- first rights no questions They get the right for the water, for the asked. 'Aina.

You cannot just come through and think you

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own and just plow through all our cultural sites or our wetlands or the river and life. I mean, I'm pure Filipino. My dad came from the Philippines. Мy mom born here.

But my heart is so kanaka. And I cry about all of that because I know all these kanakas out here is suffering. They're suffering. know, I know it's hard for me. I got to see all this with my own eyes.

I mean, I'm 66 years old. I watch Maui from when I was born in to today how things look is all messed up. You know, I sorry. But the County and the State -- they making it more kapulu. You come with the machine, plow any kind, don't even -you, sorry, but half-ass -- kapulu.

> That's about time. MR. KAM:

MR. KALUNA-PALAFOX: I'm sorry. But I hope they will get to you guys. know, you guys -- we the first families. You guys coming through -- you know, I'm sorry. I no like you guys come through my property and my -- it's not my property, my kuleana.

And my great-great-grandkids behind me --I'd like them live the same life as me. So fix the old highway. You guys will save a lot more money by

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    just fixing it. Mahalo.
              MS. FELICE: You kind of just, I guess,
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    nipped it in the bud by saying that you're not going
 4
    to build a highway up north because we don't have
 5
    the funding. Right? But we need another way out of
 6
    Lahaina.
              If you were here during the fire you would
 7
    understand.
 8
              (Public comments concluded.)
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I, Chelsea Wilhelm, do hereby certify that I reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to the best of my ability.

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I further certify that I am neither related to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

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IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th of February, 2025.

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Che Wilm

Chelsea Wilhelm, #3541

January 23, 2025

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