Hello, My name is Kady Titus, I’m Koyukon Athabascan from the Interior of Alaska. I have been living in Eastern Washington for the past 10 years.

I was just a baby when Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into the Prince William Sound. The oil covered 1300 miles of coastline and killed hundreds of thousands of animals and sea life. Though I grew up 350 miles from Prince William Sound, the affects of the oil spill rippled through all the native communities in Alaska. There are 229 tribes in Alaska, most of which still live a subsistence life style, including mine, meaning they feed their family with what they are able to hunt, fish and gather, and nothing goes to waste.

As a child I remember my community members talking about the spill, how it was affecting our relatives on the coast and how it was going to affect us our hunting and fishing abilities since we are all connected. I remember my community organizing fundraisers, gathering resources to send down and sending our people through the years to continue the clean-up effort’s. This wasn’t just a point in time effort, it was a yearly event throughout my adolescent years.

It is estimated that Exxon Valdez killed 250,000 seabirds that are used for eggs, food, and trade. 3,000 Otters, which is 3,000 meals for just one family and material for winter clothing. 300 seals, just one seal can feed a village, and 22 Killer whales, one whale can feed a whole sub region of villages across the North Slope.

Exxon paid $2 Billion in clean-up cost and $1.8 Billion for habitat restoration. But it has been 35 years since that oil spill and pockets of crude oil still remain on the shores, wildlife numbers have not restored to pre spill numbers, and is thought to have played a collapse in Alaska’s salmon and herring numbers.

Canada's Trans Mountain Pipeline (Puget Sound), which transports Alberta tar sands to Washington State's northern refineries. A spill in this area could directly impact the Salish Sea and all rivers connected to it. Tar Sand is more difficult to clean up than crude oil, and should have a financial responsibility requirement that is based on a higher per barrel amount in order to address the higher oil spill response and damage costs for spills of tar sands products. The per-barrel cost for the Trans Mountain Pipeline should be increased to at least $60,153 per barrel.