

## **Press Release**

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### **Alaska Graduates to Tell an Inconvenient Truth**

*Teens from AYEА program selected to train with Al Gore on global warming outreach*

Verner Wilson, a Yupik Eskimo from Dillingham, Alaska, never dreamt he'd be hanging out with Al Gore on the his ranch in Nashville, Tennessee. But from September 24-26, 2006, that is where he will be, with fifty other people selected to participate in The Climate Project. The goal of the project is to train up to 1,000 people to give Al Gore's power point, famous from his film An Inconvenient Truth, and deliver the presentation to over one million people this year.

Wilson and another Alaska teen, Anchorage's Tim Treuer, were both selected by The Climate Project to participate in the national effort as a result of their impressive work on global warming last spring. Wilson and Treuer are graduates of the Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) program of the National Wildlife Federation. They were part of AYEА's grassroots youth movement in 2006 that led to the collection of 5,000 teen signatures from 105 Alaskan communities on a petition demanding national action on global warming.

"I wanted to be a part of this project because my home state and my culture are being drastically affected by climate change. My family cannot even pick berries or do many traditional things we used to because of such effects like unprecedented 90 degree weather in some summers," said Wilson. On a brighter note, he said, "There are many stories on how people around the world are being affected by climate change, but with these stories comes hope. Hope that we can educate others on how we can reduce the impacts of climate change. Hope that we will take action on a local, state, national and international level. It is my story and the story of hope that I am excited to spread to others, and this is why I am glad to be apart of this amazing and important project."

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to address the issue of global warming on such a level because it is the most important issue that our generation faces. Global warming has already had devastating effects on Alaska environmentally, socially and economically. It is the greatest test that we have faced and perhaps the first that humanity as a whole must address together," stated Treuer. "The coming years will perhaps be the most important in determining whether we pass or fail the test, which is why I am eager to do whatever I can to promote awareness and do my part to help foster that unity that will allow my generation and coming generations to flourish."

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