



Ayveq Nangaghneghput Walrus & Our Way of Life

June 10, 2019

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (EST)

**188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510**

The purpose of the roundtable is to shed light on the cultural and economic importance of Pacific walrus, of carving walrus ivory through understanding the Inuit way of life and the sustainability; and management of walrus in a vastly changing Arctic. In 2016, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued a ban on the commercial trade of African elephant ivory. Six states (New York, New Jersey, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington) enacted broad bans on commercial ivory impacting the market for our Inuit artists who utilize walrus ivory. Inuit leaders will share efforts to maintain their way of life and support Inuit ivory carvers.

Roundtable Agenda and Participants:

Protecting Inuit Artists and Advancing Rural Economies

Senator Sullivan, U.S. Senator

Melanie Bahnke, President & CEO, Kawerak Inc.

Perry Pungowiyi, Yupik Artist and Hunter

Sylvester Ayek, Inuit Hunter, Carver and Elder

Ben Payenna, Executive Board Member, Kawerak Inc., Inuit Hunter, and Carver

Inuit Management & Health of the Walrus Population

Vera Metcalf, Director, Eskimo Walrus Commission

Stephen Wackowski, Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs, United States
Department of Interior

Dr. Peter Thomas, Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission

Audience Questions & Comment