

Kaeyas mesek Oskew
(It's old and it's new)

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Fade in

COLD OPEN-

SUPER: 2031

INT. SUSAN WESTON'S CAR - DAY

SUSAN WESTON (30) drives, looks into the rearview mirror.
ISAIAH WESTON (7) (her son) slumps into his seat, despondent.

SUSAN
What's the matter, *nekiqs?

CLOSED CAPTION: MY SON

ISAIAH
I don't want to leave yet. It was cool being up here, learning what you did.

SUSAN
Well, we have to go home now. But first, I have a surprise for you.

ISAIAH
Cool. Is it ice cream?

SUSAN
It's better, but you'll have to sit tight. We'll be there before you know it.

ISAIAH
Okay, Mom-

Isaiah flips open a box on the seat next to him. Pulls out a packet of papers; a conference agenda and name badge.

ISAIAH POV: A GLOSSY PAMPHLET WITH THE TITLE,
"15TH ANNIVERSARY MENOMINEE RIVER DEFENDERS CONFERENCE-
APPLYING THE LESSONS FROM THE PAST TO THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY."
JULY 17-19, 2031
A NAME BADGE READS: SUSAN WESTON - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ISAIAH
Mom, can you tell me how you stopped the mine again?

SUSAN

You sure you want to hear that story? You just heard it last night.

ISAIAH

Please mom?

SUSAN

You've heard it so many times you could probably tell it to me.

ISAIAH

I can! It was your last day of Junior Year in High School, you were sitting out front of the Menominee Indian High School with your two best friends...

EXT. MENOMINEE INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL - THE WALL - DAY

SUPER: THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - 3:17 PM 2016

SUSAN WESTON (16) modest, sits with her best friends JASMINE JAMES (16) and LILY WHITEWOLF (16) on a bench outside of school. The trio look at their phones.

In the background, ALEX GARCIA (16) attempts and fails a skateboarding trick. (freeze mid-fall)

SUPER: ALEX GARCIA - SKATEBOARDUS EPICUS FAILIOUS

LAMBERT (Lamby) films as Alex wipes out, Lamby laughs (freeze mid-laugh)

SUPER: LAMBERT "LAMBY" JONES - YOUTUBECOUS CELEBRARIAN MINORUS

Lamby checks on Alex, helps him up.

The girls look over their shoulders, look away, disinterested after Alex dusts himself off.

A text window pops up under Susan.

SUPER: TEXT FROM: JEREMY - IT'S BEEN 2 WEEKS I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU'RE IN. LAST CHANCE. 3:30 YOU KNOW WHERE...

Jasmine peers over Susan's shoulder.

JASMINE
Who's Jeremy?

LILY
Jasmine, why are you so nosey? But seriously, who is he?

SUSAN
He's the head of the CLS program.

JASMINE
CL-What? The Ice Bucket challenge thing?

LILY
That's ALS, genius.

SUSAN
It's nothing. Just something I did last Summer.

JASMINE
Oh, that's the thing you travelled to Belize for.

LILY
You should definitely do it. Text him back, treat yourself to a paid va-cay.

SUSAN
It's not like that, but I said I'd help. I don't want to, but I guess I gotta do it.

EXT. HIGHWAY 47 - CONTINUOUS

SUPER: 3:30

Susan walks along the sidewalk.

EXT. CMN - LEARNING PATH - WOODHENG - CONTINUOUS

A group of students mill around. A fire crackles in the fire pit. JEREMY COLT (34) speaks to the group.

Susan sneaks up to stand beside someone.

A lull, filled by the SNAP of a twig that Susan steps on.

SUPER: 3:47 *LATE (JAIL DOOR SLAM SOUND EFFECT)

All fourteen heads turn to look.

SUSAN POV:

Faces judge Susan.

NORMAL VIEW:

Susan looks over her shoulder along with everyone else.

JEREMY

Susan! Glad you could join us.

Jeremy addresses the group.

JEREMY

Everyone. This is Susan Weston. The writer I told you about.

GROUP

(drones)

Hi Susan.

Susan waves.

JEREMY

Okay, you have your assignments.
I'll be e-mailing you tonight with
research plans.

The entire group flows around Susan as they leave. Jeremy approaches.

Jeremy and Susan stroll around the fire within the inner-circle of the woodhenge.

SUSAN

Sorry I'm late-

JEREMY

It's fine, you're here now.
I'd like you to investigate
the energy inputs of the
proposed Front 20 mine.

SUSAN

Um, is it possible I could continue
my preserving oral tradition
project from last Summer?

JEREMY
(shakes his head)
Sorry, Susan. That topic's already
been picked by Thomas.

Susan looks to the ground, slows down. Jeremy takes two more
steps before he notices. He puts a hand on her shoulder.

JEREMY
You can help preserve our language
in another way. By protecting the
site of our origin story.

Susan remains quiet.

JEREMY
The secret's out kid, you're one of
the most talented young writers
around. The people need to hear
your voice.

Jeremy flips through his clipboard. Reads from a page.

JEREMY
(reads Susan's essay)
"... I want to help the people. I
want to rebuild our relationship to
the water, plants, and animals. We
need a new understanding of power
and energy, an understanding that
comes from the wisdom of our
ancestors that looks out for our
great-grandchildren." That's from
your essay Susan. It made my wife
cry when she read it. The people
need to hear this voice.

Susan regards Jeremy.

SUSAN
(hesitant)
I said I'd help, so I'll do it. But
I don't know about this.

JEREMY
We'll work together. You'll have
help.

EXT. CMN - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

MAKENIT (30's) professorial, a live-wire, strides out from the exit doors of the library. She stops, situates her bag to reach her phone. She reads.

SUPER: TEXT FROM: JEREMY. MOCK, FOUND US A STUDENT WRITER, SUSAN WESTON SENDING HER TO MEET WITH U. SHOULD BE THERE NOW.

Makenit looks up from her phone, puts it away. Susan walks into her field of view, she approaches Susan.

MAKENIT
Posoh, Susan?

Susan seems surprised for an instant, shakes it off.

SUSAN
Yeah. I'm Susan Weston.

MAKENIT
(reaching out her hand)
My name's Makenit. Jeremy says you could use some help writing about the mine?

SUSAN
(shakes hand)
Yes, I'm actually not sure how to start.

MAKENIT
Let's go to my office.

INT. COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION - MAKENIT'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Makenit sits behind her desk, scans a document. Susan waits in a chair opposite the desk.

MAKENIT
(re: document)
It looks like you need to compose a research paper. Have you written one before?

SUSAN
Yes, I wrote a three page research paper on photosynthesis this year.

MAKENIT
Good, who was your teacher?

SUSAN
Mrs. Stevens.

EXT. RIVER MART - SMOKE SIGNALS BOARD - SAME

STEPHANIE STEVENS (30's) Raven-haired, bespectacled, staples a flyer to a community message board. She leaves the frame.

The flyer reads "*Water Walk to Stop the Front 20 mine*" in 72 font. The name "*Javelin King*" is printed under the title in equally big, bolded lettering.

SARAH (late 30's) enters the frame, reads the flyer. Jasmine and Lily join her. Sarah looks back over her shoulder.

SARAH
(to Stephanie)
Excuse me? Did you just post this?

STEPHANIE, half-way in her vehicle, addresses Sarah.

STEPHANIE
Yes, I did.

SARAH
(Re:Flyer)
Oh, okay. My sisters and I would like to help.

STEPHANIE walks around her car, hands a flyer to Sarah.

STEPHANIE
Good, we could use you. It's taking place two weeks from now. I'm just getting the word out a little early. People's busy summers ya know?

Sarah regards the flyer, smiles.

SARAH
Okay, we'll be there. Lily (lip points) started a petition opposing the mine.

STEPHANIE
I know Lily and Jasmine. That's great. Hey, hi girls.

BOTH
Hi Mrs. Stevens.

STEPHANIE

Be sure to bring the petition along to the walk. You'll get plenty of signatures.

CUT TO:

EXT. WESTON HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Bill and Metaemoh play Scrabble.

INT. WESTON HOUSE - SUSAN'S ROOM - SAME

Susan stares at a screen. She types, erases, frustrated.

A gentle knock on the door.

SUSAN

Come in.

The door opens enough for BILL WESTON (70), Susan's maternal grandfather, to lean in.

BILL

Hey, Suze. How was your last day of Junior year?

SUSAN

(sighs)
It was good.

BILL

Just good? What's the matter? Looks like you're still in homework mode.

Susan spins around in her office chair to face Bill.

SUSAN

Kind of. You remember that summer program I'm doing? The CLS?

Bill nods.

SUSAN

Well, I need to write a research paper on the proposed mine. The head of the program, Jeremy, just sent me a research packet to read. It's just... a lot.

BILL

The front twenty mine?

SUSAN

Yeah, they want to extract minerals
it looks like.

BILL

Your grandmother and I fought
against mining in the state several
times.

SUSAN

Did you win?

BILL

Both times. As much as you can win
against corporations anyway. They
never go away. Now my granddaughter
has to fight them. As much as we
talk about seventh generation
thinking, corporations have their
version too.

SUSAN

How did you beat them?

BILL

I didn't. We beat them. The tribes,
environmental groups, non-profit
wildlife organizations, local and
state officials, scientists, and
concerned citizens.

SUSAN

(slumps)

I have a ton of data to go through.

BILL

The more you know...

SUSAN

Hey! You think I could interview
you for my paper?

BILL

(expectant)

It's possible, sure.

A moment of silence. Susan chuckles.

SUSAN

May I interview you for my paper?

BILL

Let's see. I'm pretty busy this
week.

I was going to rebuild the dock tomorrow. How about if you help out with that, I'll give you an interview?

SUSAN

Deal.

BILL

Deal. Oh, there's leftovers in the fridge, when you get hungry.

SUSAN

Okay, grandpa. Thanks.

BILL

No problem. Try to get some sleep, aye? Busy day tomorrow.

Bill clicks the door shut.

Susan refocuses.

CUT TO:

EXT. KESHENA FALLS - TWO WEEKS LATER

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

Sarah parks. She, Jasmine, and Lily exit. The girls stretch, rub sleep from their eyes.

Volunteers mill around.

ROSE (16) and BREE (16) are very stylishly dressed. Rose and Bree lean on a railing, shield their smart phones from the sun, laugh.

BREE

So what do you think about my sketches for Javelin King's dress?

ROSE

I think they're really great, but you should use more colors.

BREE

Which colors were you thinking?

ROSE

Like maybe Sky Blue? Something lighter.

BREE

Okay, I'll think about it. But I don't want it too over the top. I want people to be like "OMG this is the greatest applique dress ever."

ROSE

Hopefully Lamby and Alex pay us back so we can get material.

BREE

Yeah right. We'll probably have to bin dive again.

METAEMOH walks up from the river, addresses Stephanie.

METAEMOH

Stephanie! We need to get ready, it's a water walk not a water talk.

Stephanie speaks to SHAUN YOUNG (father of Steven). STEVEN YOUNG (16) stands off to the side.

STEPHANIE

Nahaw, Metaemoh. Mr. Young I'm hoping you'll do your research about the long-term effect the mine will have on the environment when you make your environmental impact study.

SHAUN

I didn't come here to get preached to. I just dropped my son off to take part in this walk. He needs to do it for summer school. I'm contracted to provide the study, I've been doing this for a lot of years. I don't question your professionalism, Ms. Stevens, don't question mine. I just wanted you to know where I stand.

STEPHANIE

I appreciate you bringing Steven. I'm disappointed you won't walk with us to oppose the mine. But I guess we know where your loyalties lie. (Makes a money grub motion)

Shaun stammers for a response. Dismisses Stephanie as he walks away.

CUT TO:

SAME - 30 MINUTES LATER

Community members gather around Metaemoh.

METAEMOH

I just offered a bundle to this water. We do this to pay respect, to pray for the life in that water. We offer some of the gifts the creator shares with us, tobacco, maple syrup, and manoomin.

Metaemoh's voice echoes and fades.

DISSOLVE TO:

MENOMINEE ORIGIN STORY PERFORMANCES

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY 47 - WATER WALK - CONTINUOUS

Metaemoh carries a copper kettle containing water, Steven walks on her left, carrying a staff.

STEVEN

(rambling)

...sorry about my dad. You know he's all about his work. He's gotten worse since this mining thing.

METAEMOH

Yeah, I know. But money isn't everything. How do you feel about this mine?

STEVEN

I don't know. I kind of don't feel anything about it.

Metaemoh sighs. A silence hangs, the pair walks along. Steven is SLAPPED in the face by a sugar maple branch.

METAEMOH
 (motions to the roadside)
 Come walk on this side. You're
 supposed to anyways. Men are
 supposed to protect women.

Steven changes sides, walks near the highway.

STEVEN
 Sorry, Auntie. *Stupid tree.*

METAEMOH
 Guess it didn't hit you hard
 enough. Those trees are sacred to
 us, you know? They gift us maple
 sugar.

STEVEN
 I love maple sugar candy.

METAEMOH
 Lots of energy goes into making
 those candies. You have to burn a
 lot of wood to boil the sap down,
 work long hours. Some people think
 it's too much labor, 'til they
 taste it. Not everyone knows
 though. Big food companies don't
 want us to know about our food
 anymore. It reminds me of a story.
 It was the spring...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. JEREMY'S TRUCK - HIGHWAY 47 - 1999

SUPER: 1999

Jeremy sings Prince's 1999 at the top of his lungs.

METAEMOH
 (V.O.)
 ...of 1999. Jeremy Colt had just
 come back home from an internship
 up in Bad River. He spent six
 months researching sturgeon.

CUT TO:

INT. COLT HOUSE - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy sits, studies a tri-fold poster and post-it notes.

KATHRYN COLT

(O.S.)

Jeremy, come up for dinner!

INT. COLT HOUSE - DINNER TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy sits at the dinner table. KATHRYN COLT (40's) brings food to the table.

JEREMY

Where's dad?

Kathryn dishes up food.

KATHRYN COLT

Your dad's meeting with the dam representatives.

JEREMY

What? Mom?! Language.

Kathryn shakes her head.

KATHRYN COLT

You know what I mean.

JEREMY

I never knew dad was such a damn *sellout*.

KATHRYN COLT

Son, if some of our chiefs hadn't *sold out* way back when, we wouldn't have a reservation today.

JEREMY

It's not the same. If that dam goes up, the sturgeon won't be able to make it back to their original spawning grounds. The value of the environment outweighs the benefits of the dam.

KATHRYN COLT

Don't be dramatic. Sturgeon can spawn anywhere on the river.

JEREMY
Actually. Sturgeon are
potamodromous.

Kathryn stares.

JEREMY
Meaning, they *must* migrate back to
their original spawning ground.

Jeremy raises his eyebrows. Loud silverware clatter.

KATHRYN COLT
Fish are fish, Jeremy. This dam
will cut everyone's electric bill
by 20%. You'd care if you paid any
bills.

JEREMY
Nama'o is the first fish. Our
ancestors survival, our existence,
has been intertwined with theirs
for ten-thousand years.

KATHRYN COLT
There you go being dramatic again.

Awkward silence.

KATHRYN COLT
Look, you're twenty, it's
easy to be idealistic. When
you get to be your dad and
mine's age-

JEREMY
Idealistic? More like
realistic.

An awkward silence filled with silverware clatter.

An awkward clean up of the table.

JEREMY
I have to go get ready for my
presentations. I'll have to be
pretty convincing and change some
minds tomorrow.

KATHRYN COLT
Don't forget to say hello to your
dad and Shaun Young. They're coming
to hear what you have to say.

Jeremy enters the bedroom, comes back out.

JEREMY

Why the heck is Shaun Young coming?

KATHRYN COLT

Oh, your dad is working with him.
He owns an environmental consulting
firm, weird thing, but I guess he
makes good money. He makes sure
projects, like the dam, fall within
EPA guidelines.

JEREMY

Well, that doesn't mean they're
doing what's best for the
environment.

Kathryn grabs the sides of Jeremy's head, tilts it down so
she can plant a kiss on his forehead. Kathryn walks away.

KATHRYN COLT

Good night, son.

MONTAGE BEGINS:

- Jeremy plugs in his cellphone.
- Turns on an oscillating fan.
- Clicks on his TV.
- Plugs in, sets his alarm.
- Plays Sonic.
- Jeremy asleep, controller in lap.
- Sonic, arms crossed, toe tapping.

MATCH CUT TO:

- An alarm BLARES. Jeremy's eyes open.
- Jeremy SHAVES with an electric razor.
- BRUSHING of teeth. SPITS, circles down the drain.
- Syrup DRIPS on a Pancake.
- Dressed, on his way out the door, pancake in mouth.
- Jeremy driving.
- Handshake.

-An audience SHIFTS in their seats. Jeremy enters frame.

MONTAGE ENDS

INT. CULTURE BUILDING - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Jeremy begins his presentation, speaks to a large crowd.

Shaun Young whispers to members of the audience.

JEREMY

Posoh! I'm Jeremy Colt, a member of the Menominee Tribe. I'm newly graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in Limnology. I'm here today to talk about the proposed hydroelectric dam on the Menominee River.

This dam is being proposed to provide a cleaner form of energy to the Menominee River area. The dam is a cleaner source of energy because it doesn't pollute the air like coal and oil.

Dams can also generate electricity when other renewable energy sources can't, specifically when a solar panel doesn't get sunlight at night and or when there's no wind for a wind turbine.

Now you might be thinking, "*This is great, it's a continuous source of energy and it doesn't pump CO2 into the air! Sign me up!*" And that's exactly how the people who are in charge of it want you to think.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. SHIRLEY DALY HALL - ROOM 226 - LATER

Jeremy continues his presentation to a smaller audience in a smaller room. Shaun Young leans over, whispers to a neighbor. The listener furrows his brow.

JEREMY

However, what they didn't tell you is how it affects the ecology of the river.

The flora and fauna of that area have adapted and formed their own specific ecology for thousands of years, just for that area. The Hydropower Facility will impact the natural habitats of the animals and plants in the surrounding area. There can be physical impacts, water quality impacts, and cultural impacts.

An example of a physical impact would be that at the top of the dam, the flow of the water would be slowed down. The water would be so still, that algae will build up and die. That process decreases the oxygen available in the water, therefore killing fish. So you wouldn't be catching a lot of fish above the dam when you're out on the water enjoying the day with your family. In addition to fish above the dam, the fish below the dam are also affected by changes in the temperature profile the river. Small microorganisms rely on certain temperatures in their life cycle. Because dams disrupt normal temperature cycles, microorganisms aren't available for the fish to eat. Inadvertently, the fishing experiences on both sides of the dam are affected.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CULTURE BUILDING - BASEMENT ROOM - LATER

Only two people are in the audience.

JEREMY

Dams also affect historic sites and local cultures. Examples of this have been seen in my home areas of Keshena and Shawano. The Shawano and Balsam Row dams have affected traditions that are kept by the Menominee peoples for tens of thousands of years. This is due to the dam blocking off migrations of sturgeon that are supposed to happen.

In my home area, the two dams blocked the sturgeon from reaching their ancient spawning grounds in Keshena Falls and forced them to stay at the Shawano dam, about 10 miles downstream. This not only affected sturgeon spawning, but also the Menominee's cultural celebration of Nama'o, the sturgeon. A similar thing will happen in the Menominee River. About 90% of lake sturgeon from Lake Michigan use the Menominee River as the path to their ancient spawning grounds. This dam will stop that great, ancient migration dead in its tracks. So, although this Hydropower facility will bring in a new form of clean energy to the Menominee River area, are its benefits really worth all of its costs? The dam will destroy habitats, affecting the organisms in the area which have been there for centuries, the dam will affect water quality and flow, and the dam will stop migration cycles of fish like sturgeon indefinitely. We need to remember that all forms of energy have their downsides, are these consequences really worth it? Thank you for listening to me today. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or anything else you would like to talk to me about, my contact information is available at the back of the room.

Guy Reiter and Metaemoh applaud. Shaun Young approaches Jeremy.

SHAUN

(snide)

Good job protecting the natural environment, J.J.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY 47 - WATER WALK - NOW

Metaemoh and Steven continue the walk.

METAEMOH

Jeremy gave his presentation three times. There was good information in there. But for some reason, nobody listened, nobody cared.

Steven looks up from the ground.

STEVEN

Why? What happened?

METAEMOH

The way Jeremy tells it. The dam company suppressed his research. They didn't want the public to know any of that stuff.

STEVEN

That's messed up.

METAEMOH

Yeah, the dam went in. And now Nama'o can't make it home anymore.

A moment of sullen silence.

METAEMOH

Jeremy's been waiting to strike back for us ever since. I think he sees this mine as his chance.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY 47 - CONTINUOUS

Bill and Susan walk with the kettle and staff.

BILL

Wow, what a great day for a water walk, huh?

Grandpa Bill looks over at Susan. She shifts the kettle to one arm, types on her smart phone.

BILL

You going to put that thing away and enjoy this gorgeous day?

SUSAN

(caught off guard)
Huh? What? Oh... Yeah Grandpa I was-

BILL

Haha! I'm just giving you a hard time. What you doing on that contraption that's more important than carrying life itself? (re: kettle)

SUSAN

I was working on my CLS energy research project. I had to look something up before my battery died.

BILL

The batteries in that phone are part of the problem. You know what's in that battery?

SUSAN

I don't know, energy stuff.

BILL

Sure, energy stuff. But the battery is just a container. The materials needed for that container are what they're proposing to take out of the ground. Did I ever tell you your grandma and I were at the first earth day?

SUSAN

You mean like creation?

Bill chuckles.

BILL

Anyway... A few years ago on earth day at the college, Makenit had a presentation. Wait now... Oh yeah.

CUT TO:

EXT. COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION - CULTURE BUILDING - A FEW YEARS AGO

SUPER: A COUPLE YEARS AGO - EARTH DAY

Makenit works on her electrical substation. Sarah stands off to the side, stamps passports.

A pair of children look at the contents of the table. Sarah approaches the table.

SARAH
Hey guys, how's it going?

KID 1
Okay, can you stamp these? I need
to visit more tables to get a
prize.

Holds passport up. Sarah looks around.

SARAH
I think you have to hear...

Makenit, comes out from behind the substation. Kid 2 points
at the small model of the substation on the table, the real-
life substation is situated directly behind.

KID 2
What's that?

Makenit launches into a full-scale explanation.

MAKENIT
The idea is to store and conserve
surplus electrical energy from
renewable systems through the
process of methanation creating
methane gas. I hope to practice our
sovereign rights to find a way to
make larger units that could power
more than just a single house. They
could possibly meet the electricity
demands for an entire neighborhood,
if everybody's mindful about their
energy usage.

Kid 1 and Kid 2 stare, dumbfounded. A single stream of drool.

SARAH
That's a model of that.

Sarah points from the large-scale to the small.

KID 1
Oh, cool.

The kids hold their passports up to be stamped.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY 47 - WATER WALK - NOW

SUSAN

What does this have to do with my
cellphone?

BILL

I'm getting to it. So the kids were
there... Oh yeah...

CUT TO:

EXT. COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION - CULTURE BUILDING - A FEW
YEARS AGO

MAKENIT

(to Sarah)

Sorry you had to miss my
presentation before. I talked about
my plan to move the reservation
towards energy independence.
Independence of transportation,
residential electrical, and beyond.
Once that happens, we can scale up
and effect change in local
communities, and someday the world.
If we can only find efficient
renewable energy sources. Even
then, we'll need to change.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY 47 - WATER WALK - NOW

BILL

Or something like that. The point
being, there is no "magic bullet"
solution that's going to solve all
of our energy needs.

SUSAN

And this is about my cellphone how?

BILL

We're getting there. Makenit's idea
was great. But she ran into funding
problems so she went to find money.

CUT TO:

INT. NORTHWOODS INC. - BOARDROOM - A FEW YEARS AGO

Makenit stands in front of the same Earth Day presentation table only this time set up in the boardroom. She finishes her presentation to a panel.

MAKENIT

...Together we can shape sovereign energy policies for our tribal nations. Are there any questions?

PANEL MEMBER 1

Will these units be able to meet the increasing demand for electricity in our communities?

MAKENIT

There's two sides here. Supply and demand, it's an equation. One side is the electricity these units can realistically provide, the other is the electricity habits of our community. The policies we create together can strike the balance between the two.

PANEL MEMBER 2

These stations, would they be able to power-

BILL (V.O.)

Sturgeon!

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY 47 - WATER WALK - NOW

Susan, dumbfounded, looks to her grandfather.

Bill points to the river.

SUSAN

It's like... almost June. There's no sturgeon in the river now.

BILL

Oh yas, enit? So, long story longer, Makenit's invention was shelved. She couldn't get funding because she couldn't guarantee it would work on a large scale.

But I think it would, if we had
solar, wind, and a steady supply of
cow poop.

Bill stares into the distance.

BILL
It *could* work.

SUSAN
I guess it comes down to the
choices we each have to make.
Thanks Grandpa! You gave me a great
idea for my paper.

BILL
Speaking of cows. I could go for a
quarter pounder. What? A guy's
gotta eat.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE LOT - TWO WEEKS LATER - DAY

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

A crowd awaits the appearance of celebrity indigenous
environmentalist, JAVELIN KING.

Our group of friends mill around together. Rose, Bree, Alex,
and Lamby speak with Steven.

ROSE
Steven, I saw your dad at the pumps
the other day. He honked at us to
move. Why's he so mean?

Steven hesitates.

STEVEN
I don't know, man. He's been mean
to everyone lately. Even auntie.

LAMBY
Whoa, that's too far.

BREE
Yeah, we weren't going to say
anything to you but, we saw him
doing some shady stuff the other
night.

STEVEN

What?

ROSE

Go ahead, Lamby. Show him.

Lamby scrolls around his phone for a moment. He holds it up to Steven. Steven steadies the phone.

The camera pushes into and through the screen.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. THRIFT STORE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

LAMBERT CAMERA POV:

Alex Garcia rides his skateboard, doing tricks.

LAMBY

Oh man, cool trick.

Alex rides to the opposite end of the parking lot.

ALEX

(yells)

Lamby! Try to get this!

Lamby crouches into position to capture footage. Thumbs up.

Alex skateboards towards the camera. Performs a trick.

LAMBY

That was sweet, yo.

ALEX

Thanks, I've been working on that for awhile.

The pair high five. A loud CLUNK. The pair FREEZE.

ALEX

(whisper)

Did you hear that?

LAMBY

(whisper)

Yeah.

ALEX

(lower whisper)

Let's go check it out.

The pair sneak across the parking lot. Alex wields his skateboard like an axe. They approach a bin where the sound seemed to come from.

Alex hops, hyping himself up ready to strike if needed.

Rose pops up out of a donation bin, prairie-dog style.

Alex and Lambert shriek. Alex drops the skateboard on Lamby's foot.

LAMBY

What the heck, bruh?

Bree's head pops up beside Rose.

ALEX

Bree? Rose? What are you doing?

ROSE

Well, look who it is. Alex Garcia and Lambert Jones. Where's our money?

BREE

Yeah, where's our money?

LAMBY

Where's your mon- What are you doing out here?

ALEX

We thought you were Raccoons.

Rose and Bree, offended.

BREE

Raccoons?! What would raccoons be doing here? And don't change the subject, you owe me fifty bucks.

ROSE

Yeah, me too.

ALEX

Ladies, ladies, let's not fight. None of us should actually be here. Considering it's past curfew, let's just go about our own business, and pretend that we never saw each other.

ROSE

Fine, just as long as you guys stop
filming us doing our thing.

Rose and Bree stare into camera.

Lambert brings the camera down. Immediately brings the camera
back up.

Rose and Bree sink back into the bin.

LAMBERT

What are you guys even doing out
here?

Bree pops back up. A bunch of clothes fly out behind her.

BREE

Glad you asked!

Bree sinks back down. Rose pops up. Wearing a fishing hat.

ROSE

Because *YOU* took all our money. We
have to find other ways of (air
quotes) "acquiring" materials for
our new fashion line.

ALEX

(indignant)

Fashion line? You're high
schoolers, you can't have a fashion
line!

Bree notices a noise in the distance.

BREE

Guys, do you hear tha-

ROSE

(louder)

Who says we can't!! We've
already designed clothes for
Javelin King.

The camera swings in the direction Bree is looking.

LAMBY

Guys, shut u-

ALEX

(louder)

Javelin King!! You're lying.
Why would she want-

LAMBERT AND BREE

(Shouting together)

GUYS!!!

ROSE AND ALEX
 (shouting together)
 WHAT!!

Two cars creep towards each other in the parking lot. Stop.

The camera moves from face to face.

GROUP
 (whisper-yell)
 HIDE.

Alex jumps into the bin with Rose and Bree. Lamby hides behind the bin, continues filming the cars.

ALEX (O.S.)
 (whispers)
 Is it Po-po?

The drivers of the cars exit their vehicles.

BREE (O.S.)
 (whispers)
 I don't think it was the cops.

The drivers carefully CLICK their doors shut.

ROSE (O.S.)
 (whispers)
 But who else would be out here at this time of night?

Drivers approach each other.

LAMBY (O.S.)
 Guys, I think that's Steven's dad's car. I can't see. I'm going to get a better shot.

Lamby serpentine along the edge of the parking lot. Rests his camera on the hood of a different parked car.

An OFFICIAL GUY (OG) addresses Shaun Young.

OG
 Hopefully, this small *donation* will ensure that the environmental impact study goes our way.

OG slides a briefcase across the trunk to Shaun. Shaun opens it, takes a deep breath. Looks to the ground.

Lamby adjusts, catches OG's attention.

OG
What was that?

SHAUN
What was what?

The camera clicks off.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE LOT - BACK OF THE CROWD

The camera pulls back out through the smart phone screen.
Steven stares.

STEVEN
What happened? Did they catch you
guys?

LAMBERT
No, I booked it.

BREE
We dipped out.

STEVEN
Where's that video? Can you forward
me the link?

LAMBERT
It's on my YouTube channel.
maryhadalittlelamby2000

Lamby pulls his phone back.

ALEX
(whispers, lip-points)
Steven, your dad's here.

The group looks in the direction Alex lip points.

Shaun Young descends the stairs. The group of friends drifts
away from Steven.

Shaun, oblivious, approaches.

SHAUN
Steven, I need to talk to-

STEVEN
Dad, I saw you do something
pretty messed up.

SHAUN
What are you talking about?

Steven waves Lamby over. Lamby hesitates for a moment, approaches, hands his phone to Steven.

STEVEN

I'm talking about *this*.

Steven holds the phone up to his father. Plays the video.

CUT TO:

SAME - FRONT OF CROWD

An empty lectern. Stephanie Stevens steps to the podium, adjusts the microphone. Clears her throat.

STEPHANIE

I'm Stephanie Stevens, I'll be introducing our speaker, but I wanted to take time to thank all those who participated in our water walk a few weeks ago. I'd like to introduce an amazing lady. She's been fighting for indigenous sovereignty rights for years. She's a world-renowned essayist and activist for environmental causes. She came to speak to us today. Javelin King.

The crowd claps and whoops. JAVELIN KING wears an applique woodland dress, steps to the podium.

JAVELIN

I'm honored to stand here with you all today. My concerns are the same as yours. We are aware of the massive consequences that will come from the Front 20 Mine, not only for the Menominee River but the Menominee people will also be affected. But after all, we create the demand that results in an increase of mines all over the world. We are all, as a society, responsible for our actions.

Susan stands in the wings. Studies her speech on her phone. Experiences a moment of realization about what her grandpa was trying to tell her on the walk. She puts her phone away.

JAVELIN

It's time for us to slow down and take a look at the world around us.

What do we really want to see? How
do we want our children to grow up?

CUT TO:

SAME - BACK OF CROWD

Shaun looks away from the screen to the ground as Javelin continues to speak (O.S.)

Shaun looks at Steven.

SHAUN

Son, I didn't take that bribe. In fact, I came here to join you and the rest of the community. I can't, in good conscience, approve their plan.

Steven smiles. Shaun puts his arm around Steven's shoulders. They turn to listen to Javelin's speech.

JAVELIN

I've traveled across Indian Country, this issue of extractive practices are a concern for indigenous people all over the world. In order to effectively oppose these processes, a community must come together. It must say no to greed, and yes to preserving the land we all hold sacred. A remarkable young Menominee woman impressed me during my short time here. She shared a paper with me. Something she's been working on over the Summer and I've asked her to read the introduction for you all tonight. I'm honored to share the podium with Ms. Susan Weston.

Susan steps to the podium.

SUSAN

We each have a decision to make. It's not an easy choice. It's not as simple as saying we don't want a mine to destroy the land and lifestyle we love. It's about choosing if we want to be the generation who's consumption ruins the planet we all call home.

No matter where we stand on environmental protection, each of us needs energy to power the devices that run our lives. Those of us who know of the horrible consequences of a mine, choose to demand better. The first step is raising awareness, and each of us play a role...

MONTAGE BEGINS:

SUSAN (V.O.)
Some of us practice the 3 R's.
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

-Rose and Bree tailor a dress with Javelin King as the model. Piles of donated clothes. A sewing machine with a scrap of material hanging off.

SUSAN (V.O.)
Some started a petition and asked people to sign.

- Lily and Jasmine collect signatures outside of the Wolf River Mart

SUSAN (V.O.)
Others used technology to expose corruption.

- Lamby and Alex record skateboarding/ Lamby ducks behind a vehicle.

SUSAN (V.O.)
Some informed the community through years of research, striving to influence policy.

- Jeremy presents to a large crowd in the Culture Building. Makenit presents her substation to the panel members in the board room.

SUSAN (V.O.)
Many volunteered their time when it would've been easier not to.

-Sarah presents Lily and Jasmine to Stephanie as volunteers outside of the River Mart.

SUSAN (V.O.)

I pay respect to those who use our ways to keep the people strong in our beliefs.

- Bill walks next to Susan, carries the water walk staff.
Metaemoh walks next to Steven, carries the copper kettle.

SUSAN (V.O.)

And welcome those who have found a way to believe in what really matters.

- Shaun stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Steven, listens to Susan.

SUSAN (V.O.)

Finally, we must recognize the people in our communities who take the initiative to bring us all together.

- Stephanie posts flyers, greets people to the water walk.

SUSAN

The second step is taking actions that will save our planet. I ask you this... five, ten, even fifteen years from now will the next generation be able to enjoy the beautiful land we all love? Time will tell, but I for one promise to do my part to protect this planet. I promise to make a stand for Mother Earth. I pledge to save the world I love for my children to pass on to their children! I know I'm not alone. And this community's actions are proof that together we can do it! Who's with me?

CUT TO:

SUPER: 2031

SUSAN WESTON (30) drives, looks into rearview at her son ISAIAH (7). Smiles.

SUSAN

Wow, you *do* know that story. Next conference, you should be the keynote speaker.

ISAIAH

Thanks mom.

ISAIAH

Where are we?

Susan turns to the back seat.

SUSAN

This is it. This is the site where the mine would've been if we hadn't stopped it.

ISAIAH

Wow, this is beautiful, now I know why you had to protect it.

SUSAN

You know part of the reason, nekigs. But someday when you bring your own children here you'll truly understand why we fight for what's sacred to us.

FADE OUT