

Hi there. I'm Kevin Newell. I work for myself. I'm a fishing guide from Longview, Washington. That's the same place they want to put the coal terminal there on the lower Columbia River. Hey, by the way, I went fishing yesterday over here on the Platte below the dam, and whatever you guys are doing, keep it up. Those fish are huge, and there are a lot of them in there. It was great fishing. I had a good time and look forward to coming back. I represent myself, my family, the Northwest Anglers Association. Our membership takes over 10,000 acres on the Columbia River taking folks just like yourselves fishing for salmon. The fishing industry in the Northwest is a three-and-a-half billion dollar industry. It represents 16,000 jobs. They depend on good fishing, not okay fishing, not inconsistent fishing, but fishing that we know will be there for the long term -- today, tomorrow, and forever. I'm here -- I'm not going to sugar-coat it. I'm just like the rest of you folks. I'm concerned for my way of life. I'm concerned for my job. I'm concerned for our fish. That's the notes that I have to work off of. Coal trains. We already got a couple coming down the Columbia River. So we know what's happening. Coal flies out of the cars. It's deposited on the railroad tracks and in the riparian zone next to the river, and it also goes in the river. It acidifies when it gets in the river. Our baby salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead are supposed to live in this water. How is that a safe healthy environment for our fish? Who is going to clean that up? Is it even possible to clean it up? And what are the long-term impacts and costs of this? I ask you to please look at that. Let's talk about coal and carbon. There's carbon emissions when you burn it. It's inhospitable for these salmon when they get to the ocean. It's not a good place to live. It's not clean. It's not healthy. It's not the moderate temperatures they need. It has too high acid levels. It has too little food, too high temperatures, and too little oxygen, and that's getting worse. Folks, I'm talking about the food chain here. If we lose our food chain, we are going to lose a lot more than just our salmon. We're going to lose the whole thing. How many billions of dollars are at stake there? Not just my job, but everything you eat, everything that's happening up and down the West Coast and in our other oceans. What is the cost of losing our salmon and polluting our oceans? What is the cost of sending this coal to China and letting them burn it?

In closing, this isn't hillbilly math. This isn't something that Kevin came up with in the back of his boat. This is real. It's not hypothetical. It's happening. It's getting worse. We're headed in the wrong direction. We owe it to future generations to give them something better than what we have. We owe it to them to provide more wild places, more wild things, and a better environment that's not polluted. I can't imagine a world without salmon. I ask you to take a long-term global vision of this issue.