

**Byers & Anderson Court Reporters/Video/Videoconferencing
Seattle/Tacoma, Washington**

1 No. 61 of which I have read twice.

2 Communities shoulder the cost of cancer,
3 environmental degradation, loss and preventable
4 destruction, not the coal companies. The director of the
5 BLM is in the report's words, quote, "Responsible for the
6 implementation of this order," end of quote Section 7A.

7 Please hold this responsibility seriously. I know
8 you are by your respect today. But also, please include
9 all of the tangible and the intangible costs of the
10 implementation of responsible public land management and
11 stewardship.

12 Please look at the international research treaties
13 and the precedent of our past leadership. I know our
14 current and future citizens rights to health, and any
15 agreements that are in place, I think they should be made
16 with those in mind for anyone who wants to lease or gain
17 benefit by private interest at the costs our citizens.

18 Please pause leases in your review. How, when, and
19 where is now and here. Thanks for your leadership and
20 thank you for your time, special consideration, and a
21 very thoughtful consideration.

22 MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

23 MS. BYRNE: Hello. My name is Ruth
24 Byrne. I come before you today just as a person living
25 in an impacted area of coal.

1 I would first like to thank you. Thank you for
2 recognizing the need for reform and giving me the
3 opportunity to speak to you directly.

4 This is my home. I live here. This is the air that
5 I breathe. And it's not just my lungs that are being
6 affected. It's children, women, men across all cultures.
7 Coal dust and toxins do not decide who they affect. But
8 the powers that be can.

9 I want us to imagine ten years from now. If coal
10 extraction and exports are allowed to continue, I want
11 you to imagine the tens of thousand of children
12 struggling for a breath because of the asthma that they
13 now have, the countless stillbirths, the polluted air,
14 water, and land, the native tribes whose livelihood is at
15 risk, the creatures of the air, water and land perishing.

16 If somebody came to you 10 years later and looked at
17 you and said, If you could do it all over again, would
18 you have stopped this? There's no doubt in my mind we
19 would all say yes. We would say yes to clean air, yes to
20 protecting the rights of future generations, yes to
21 seeing these issues not as a financial opportunity but a
22 moral obligation to do the right thing.

23 You can't put a price on human life. No amount of
24 money can undo something that has been done. We have a
25 priceless moment in time right now to stop this, to stop

1 any more destruction before it continues.

2 I'm asking you to do the right thing because
3 compassion, love, and empathy and kindness for others is
4 what makes us human. And to put the risk of many ahead
5 of the -- this was the closing line. This was the really
6 good one. Let me start over.

7 I'm asking you to do the right thing because
8 compassion, love, empathy, and the kindness for others is
9 what makes us human. And to put the risk of many for the
10 profit of the few is an inhumane decision to make.

11 Thank you for your time. Thank you for listening.
12 I really hope that you use this glimmer of time and
13 moment to make the right decision. Thank you.

14 MR. BATTIS: Okay. Thank you very
15 much.

16 No. 78? Okay. We're going to call down Group 86
17 through 90 over with Molly. And move over her to Katie
18 on Microphone 1, with No. 81.

19 MR. RUBY: I'm offering a comment to
20 you on methods for determining the lease price for coal
21 extraction and a method that I'm recommending that you
22 use in writing the EIS.

23 I want to suggest that you should include as one of
24 the elements in the price calculation the social costs of
25 carbon. When the coal is extracted and burned, it does,