

1 ask that you guys really take this seriously and
2 understand that we are equal leaders and we should have
3 equal voices and this is a way to support us to
4 decolonize. This is a way to get back a lot of what has
5 been taken.

6 I wore this shirt of Celilo Falls because that was a
7 huge part of who we were that was taken from us and that
8 pain, that historical trauma, it's still inherited into
9 this generation. I still feel those effects.

10 This -- is if this continues, this will just be
11 contributing to that loss of identity and the U.S.
12 government's inability to understand our issues and to
13 support us in real ways. Thank you.

14 MR. CONSTANTINE: Good morning. My
15 name is Dow Constantine. I am the elected executive for
16 the 2.1 million people of King County in which we're
17 meeting this morning. Welcome.

18 I also chair the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance
19 which is a coalition of over 165 officials, tribal
20 officials, local and state government officials, from
21 across the Western United States and British Columbia who
22 are jointly advocating for full assessment of the risks
23 and costs of oil and coal export.

24 First and foremost, I want to thank President Obama,
25 Secretary Sally Jewell, the Department of the Interior,

1 and Bureau of Land Management for undertaking this review
2 of federal coal leasing, the first comprehensive review
3 in three decades.

4 The historically low royalty rates are effectively a
5 public subsidy that has widespread negative impacts on
6 our health, air and water quality, traffic, and our
7 economic development. As we've seen from coal export
8 facility proposals across the Pacific Northwest, the
9 impacts of coal extraction in places like Powder River
10 Basin do not stop at a county or a state line.

11 Movement of coal by rail in mile-and-a-half-long
12 trains delays rail transport of our agricultural and
13 manufactured products. It snarls traffic at at-grade
14 crossings, it burdens hundreds of communities with coal
15 dust and other impacts.

16 Ultimately, the burning of our coal in Asia comes
17 back to us in the form of pollutants here on the West
18 Coast while more than canceling out all of our state and
19 local efforts to reduce climate pollution.

20 Interior has asked specifically for comments on the
21 scope of the review of coal leasing. I support the
22 assessment of whether American taxpayers are receiving a
23 fair return from their publicly owned resources, and I
24 ask Interior to take a big-picture view of what "fair
25 return" means, a view that factors in the full range of

1 risks and costs borne by the public.

2 For example, this should include impacts across our
3 region to help in traffic, to our economy, to our air and
4 water quality from both rail and barge transport of coal
5 and from the end use of coal.

6 So in answer to an earlier question, yes,
7 externalities must be considered. We know that the coal
8 industry is on its way out. In 2015 U.S. coal production
9 fell by 10 percent from the year before. The U.S. Energy
10 Information Administration projects it will fall by
11 another 12 percent this year.

12 At the same time, the Office of Surface Mining
13 Reclamation and Enforcement estimates that there is an
14 over \$3.6 billion outstanding self-bonded reclamation
15 liability in the United States.

16 My concern -- I think this is a well-founded
17 concern -- is that U.S. taxpayers will be left holding
18 the bag for restoring public lands damaged by mining.

19 The review of the federal coal leasing program must
20 create a more certain path for those who have made the
21 millions to pay to repair the damage they have done to
22 our federal lands.

23 Interior's review should also confront the obvious
24 conflict between our ambitious U.S. climate goals and the
25 reality that coal from federal lands contributes roughly

1 10 percent of total U.S. climate emissions. In effect,
2 our current federal coal leasing policies don't just
3 allow; they subsidize the use of an energy source that
4 undermines other public investments in clean air and
5 water and economic development and in combating climate
6 change.

7 Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. And
8 I am submitting a copy of an earlier letter from our Safe
9 Energy Leadership Alliance for the record. Thank you so
10 much.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Good morning.
12 My name is James Byrd. I am a state representative from
13 the state of Wyoming. I represent House District 44.
14 For the record, my last is spelled B-Y-R-D.

15 I come here today to give the people that I
16 represent in the state of Wyoming a voice in this
17 proceeding. A little bit of history and background about
18 myself, my family homesteaded in the Wyoming territory
19 before it was a state, so I have some deep roots in the
20 area that I live and where I represent.

21 The people of my state are a very proud and
22 hard-working group of people, and they appreciate the
23 fact that they can participate in the security of this
24 nation by providing them with a resource that we don't
25 have to go overseas to get.