

1 communities and adapting to and mitigating climate change
2 is high. The City of Bends' recent effort to adopt a
3 climate action ordinance is just one example of the
4 costly commitments needed to preserve the future
5 environmental and economic prosperity of our community.

6 The Federal Coal Program doesn't account for its
7 contributions to climate change and the resulting impacts
8 facing communities everywhere. It's time to factor in
9 the environmental and economic burden of a warmer climate
10 when considering the future of the program.

11 We need to internalize these costs while easing the
12 transition to more sustainable economies throughout the
13 country, but especially in coal country. By adequately
14 considering the scope of impact, we can more
15 appropriately factor in coal's associated costs.

16 I support the Interior's Departments efforts to
17 reform the Federal Coal Program and urge them to account
18 for coal's contribution to climate change. The coal
19 industry's declining across the country and it's time to
20 invest in new revenue streams that foster healthy
21 communities and economies and the environment across the
22 West. Thank you very much.

23 MR. CORNELISON: Hello. My name is
24 Peter Cornelison. I am a city council member from the
25 City of Hood River, Oregon. We are just seven miles west

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1 of Mosier where the oil train derailment and fire
2 happened. Our community is directly threatened by oil
3 and coal because the largest coal export terminal is
4 proposed for Longview, Washington, downstream about 70
5 miles from Hood River.

6 We have coal cars rattling through the Gorge every
7 day depositing inches of coal on the ground and in the
8 water. We're currently engaged in a Clean Water Act
9 lawsuit against Burlington Northern Railroad and I'm
10 going to be giving a deposition to their attorneys
11 tomorrow on the coal pollution they're causing.

12 Our entire region is feeling the impacts of climate
13 change. We've got decreased snowpacks. We have river
14 temperatures that are exceeding 70 degrees Fahrenheit
15 above which salmon cannot live, which is the backbone of
16 our region.

17 And we really need the Department of Interior to
18 account for the toll of climate change and internalize
19 all the factors when considering the future of the
20 federal coal and its contributions to a warmer climate.

21 The economy of Hood River is supported by outdoor
22 recreation and tourism. The effects of climate change on
23 the region are apparent and threaten the livelihoods of
24 many people who work and make their homes in the Columbia
25 River Gorge. The cost of carbon emissions directly

1 related to coal outweigh its benefits, and I urge the
2 Department of Interior to take this into account.
3 Externalizing climate costs must be incorporated into the
4 internal valuation of coal.

5 The City of Hood River urges the Department of
6 Interior to do three things: Update the coal royalty
7 rate for fossil fuels extracted on public lands; number
8 two, help diversify those rural economies and create new
9 jobs and investments where the coal miners will be
10 displaced; and number three, tighten the bonding
11 requirements for coal. As we've heard, there's huge
12 scars on the land. We're not sure the coal companies
13 have the wherewithal financially to recover that. That
14 needs to be inspected.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

16 MR. BATTIS: If you have Speaker Card
17 No. 4, come on down.

18 MR. GREUEL: Good morning. My name is
19 Ben Greuel. I'm the Washington state director for the
20 Wilderness Society.

21 Here in the Pacific Northwest we are lucky to have a
22 wealth of public lands, parks, juniper dunes, wilderness
23 area, BLM's only wilderness area in Washington State,
24 it's one of my favorite places, so I just visited there a
25 few months back.