

1 this blog that was in Alaskan waters, you know, North  
2 Pacific. They believe it affected some of the shellfish,  
3 and I heard that it destroyed millions of small salmon.  
4 So that's going to affect our runs here in the Puget.

5 It's all because of global warming. I'm really  
6 sure -- if I really looked into it, I'm sure that's what  
7 I would find out.

8 So I just want to encourage you, look into your  
9 heart, pray what the Creator would have you to do, do  
10 what's good for our people here, for our native people.  
11 You know, you've heard it said the treaty is the law of  
12 the land, and we're right up there with the U.S.  
13 government, supposedly. But like I've heard it said, we  
14 haven't been listened to. So hear us today.

15 MS. CORNELL: Thank you everyone here  
16 for your time today. My name is Cheri Cornell and I'm  
17 here today with my son Ethan Burger and my daughter  
18 Corinne Burger. I'm the executive director of  
19 coolmom.org where we see climate action as a moral  
20 imperative. Think of us as the Mothers Against Drunk  
21 Driving for climate change.

22 You may ask why a mom-led climate group? It's  
23 because there's nothing like motherhood to make global  
24 warming move from the esoteric to the painfully real. We  
25 are not simply worried about some future generation. We

1 are worried about what we are doing to our children now.

2 That's why I wanted to talk to you about  
3 intergenerational equity. This concept means that humans  
4 hold the environment of the earth in common both with  
5 other members of the present generation and with other  
6 generations past and future.

7 The coal industry by paying below-market rates which  
8 in no way account for the incredible social costs of  
9 burning coal is engaging in the opposite of  
10 intergenerational equity. The coal industry is engaged  
11 in wholesale generational theft. My federal government  
12 should not be complicit in this crime.

13 I am hopeful that the Interior Department's decision  
14 to engage in a Programmatic EIS of the federal coal  
15 leasing program is a sign that it intends to come down on  
16 the side of intergenerational equity.

17 Generational theft comes in two forms; environmental  
18 and economic. By undermining a move to cleaner energy,  
19 the current federal coal lease program and coal companies  
20 steal from my son Ethan and my daughter Corrine, and  
21 other children, their share of the relatively healthy  
22 climate that past generations have enjoyed. And that  
23 includes the children of Wyoming, where in Wyoming, they  
24 get 88 percent of the electric -- their electricity from  
25 coal. But in the winter of 2010 Wyoming issued ten

1 warnings for citizens to remain indoors in order to avoid  
2 spikes in pollution.

3 By allowing coal companies to pay below-market rates  
4 for coal and with no compensation for harm to the  
5 environment, the federal government condemns Ethan and  
6 other children to a loss of federal revenues which might  
7 not otherwise be there to help them.

8 Since the first recorded debt issuance in 1796 B.C.,  
9 one of the penalties for failure to repay the loan has  
10 been debt bondage, which the debtor paid with hard labor.  
11 Sometimes debt bondage included the debtor's children,  
12 essentially condemning them to the future -- the debtor  
13 family to perpetual slavery.

14 A federal coal leasing program that gives away coal  
15 leases at below-market rates and fails to account for the  
16 costs of climate change makes the adults in this room  
17 complicit in a scheme to condemn Ethan and Corrine and  
18 all the other children in this world to perpetual slavery  
19 and service of a ruined climate.

20 For my part, I will have none of it. Do not enslave  
21 our children by continuing to run a federal coal leasing  
22 program which delays the transition to clean energy and  
23 lines the pockets of predatory coal companies. Thank  
24 you.

25 MR. BATTIS: Thank you. So we're about