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1 company can't pay their royalty, then they can't afford  
2 the lease.

3       Also, the leaser is supposed to have funds set aside  
4 to restore the land when finished. These funds need to  
5 be in place and untouchable by the coal company when the  
6 lease is awarded. The whole process needs to have close  
7 monitoring and to ensure the whole process is fair, no  
8 former coal company executives in the BLM or Department  
9 of the Interior should be allowed to be involved in the  
10 sales, processing, or oversight of leases.

11       Please include these suggestions in the PEIS and put  
12 them in the final rules.

13       The only things we get an abundance coming from Asia  
14 which burns this coal are CO<sub>2</sub>, which acidifies our  
15 oceans, and is mercury which poisons us. Thank you.

16                   MS. PATTERSON: Okay. We are missing  
17 Nos. 73, 74, and 75. If you are here, please come on  
18 down to Microphone No. 1 with Amy. And if Group No. 76  
19 through 80 can come to Microphone 2 with Molly, please.

20                   MS. CULVER: Hello. I can't begin to  
21 match the eloquence and passion of the speakers today.  
22 I'm just so impressed and I support just about everything  
23 I've heard today.

24       My name is Patricia Culver. I'm a resident of  
25 Skamania County. I live in the Columbia River Gorge.

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1 I'm about 200 feet from the Columbia River and about 200  
2 yards from the railroad track and the Highway 14 is  
3 immediately north of the railroad track.

4 My comments as -- are an individual concerned with  
5 current impacts and the potential acceleration of threats  
6 to our health and the environment. My concerns address  
7 the transporting of the coal, the dangers to communities  
8 bordering the train route from the Powder River Basin to  
9 the existing and through the proposed export facilities  
10 at the western end of the line.

11 My community of about 65 homes, it's called Skamania  
12 Landing, we contain a small spring-fed lake which is --  
13 opens to the Columbia River and it's directly under the  
14 railroad tracks. And I won't go into what an accident  
15 would do to our community.

16 The lake is between our houses and the railroad and  
17 the railroad track is just above the lake. Skamania  
18 Landing is bordered on the west by a national wildlife  
19 refuge which includes a small lake and fantastic wild  
20 fowl in the spring and fall as they migrate. On the east  
21 is another refuge with a small lake. It's home of  
22 repatriated western pond turtles, which were I think  
23 endangered a few years back, and these turtles are  
24 collected and raised to a survival size by the Oregon zoo  
25 in Portland and they're transplanted to three areas along

1 the Columbia River and they are in danger.

2 In the federal register which I read and thoroughly  
3 was impressed with the thought and consideration that's  
4 going into this, I'm glad that you're considering  
5 approaches to reform the Federal Coal Program and to  
6 address the potential impacts and to include public  
7 health and the environment as well as the effects of coal  
8 on the quality of water, on recent water resources, and  
9 the effects on visibility, which something that I see on  
10 the Gorge, and the effects on wildlife and the other land  
11 uses such as grazing and recreation. And we actually  
12 have cows to the right and the land over there and they  
13 are just below the railroad tracks.

14 So my concerns are quite clear. There's enormous  
15 opportunity to effect change. I would love to see the  
16 coal stay in the ground, but I realize there are --  
17 there's a lot of extenuating factors here, but I  
18 wholeheartedly applaud the approaches you are taking and  
19 I thank you for this opportunity.

20 MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

21 MR. GROUT: Hello. My name is Jon  
22 Grout and I'm here as a father of a two-year old, as a  
23 Washingtonian, and also as -- I'm a social worker. I  
24 work in hospice care. I provide comfort for people who  
25 are near the end of their lives, which is a great