

1 Thank you.

2 MS. FREIBERG: Hello. I'm Pat
3 Freiberg from Vancouver, Washington, and I thank you for
4 facilitating this process, which will hopefully realign
5 the government's coal politics to be consistent with the
6 climate goals developed in Paris in December.

7 Of the six recurring themes that arose during the
8 five listening sessions held last summer, I'm primarily
9 aligned with concern about climate change and the impact
10 of coal and the impact of coal use on climate stability.

11 Of course I care that the American taxpayers aren't
12 receiving a fair return on public coal resources and I
13 care about reclamation of mine lands, but it is climate
14 instability that drives me to be here today.

15 This is the issue of our time. Greenhouse gas
16 emissions have raised the temperature of our planet and
17 the results are all around us. Most recently the die-off
18 of one-third of the Australian coral reef made headlines.
19 Before that, the melting away of our iconic starfish was
20 making the news. Orcas are barely hanging on in Puget
21 Sound and Willapa Bay is losing its oyster industry, all
22 due to a warming ocean that cannot support life as we
23 knew it.

24 Once fertile areas are becoming deserts causing
25 social and governmental collapse. Climate refugees are

1 forced to leave their homeland, risking life and limb to
2 find a habitable place to live, work, and build a life.

3 We've entered a sixth major planetary extinction and
4 it's totally self-imposed. From my vantage point I say
5 the disruption wrought by burning coal cannot be
6 mitigated. The substance fouls our air, land and
7 waterways.

8 I brought you a small sample of a coal residue that
9 I collected last Saturday. I went to a BNSF crossing
10 between Washington State's Highway 14 and the Columbia
11 River. This residue blew off a coal car that had been
12 sprayed with surfactant in Pasco, about 60 miles to the
13 east. May I present you with three teaspoons of coal
14 residue.

15 Oh. Meanwhile, in the midst of all this
16 destruction, 40 percent of global electricity is produced
17 by burning coal. A halt in this system could cause
18 social and governmental collapse and that collapse would
19 be equal to the climate collapse that we're hoping to
20 avoid, so we're in a Catch-22, a balancing act.

21 Ultimately, cheap coal has driven us into this
22 corner and I believe we must find a way to hold the coal
23 industry responsible for the environmental and health
24 destruction that it causes. Once the true cost of coal
25 is reflected in the marketplace, renewable energy will be

1 better able to thrive.

2 You have it in your power to repair a dysfunctional
3 system. It's a matter of political will. We need to
4 keep as much of our coal reserves in the ground as
5 possible in order to brace up life on planet earth. We
6 are going to have to endure some serious lifestyle
7 changes in the future in order to survive this crisis.

8 As President Obama said, We're the first generation
9 to feel the impact of climate change and the last one
10 that can do something about it. So let's do it.

11 MS. MILLER: Hello, and thank you for
12 giving me the opportunity to testify today. My name is
13 Anne Miller and I'm here because as a person of faith and
14 as a mother I am deeply concerned about our environment.
15 At a time when both our president and our military have
16 said that climate change is an urgent and growing threat
17 to our national security, I don't really know why we're
18 arguing about this.

19 Our government must take action to move our country
20 away from the dependence on fossil fuels and move us
21 instead towards a clean energy future that will open up
22 millions of jobs for Americans, that will reduce threats
23 to our health, and will protect the natural resources
24 that we depend on, that you also depend on, and your
25 families depend on for survival.