

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

1 privilege.

2 And I guess I will just say ditto to all the
3 comments by the physician who spoke just a bit ago. I
4 know as a Washingtonian the last year we had a record
5 fire season that killed three firefighters and cost the
6 state over \$250 million, and then also last year in
7 Canada had a terrible fire season. In the Southwest
8 right now they are having a heat wave where they are
9 looking at temperatures of 120 degrees.

10 And I see all over the world that there are, you
11 know, people suffering and dying on a regular basis from
12 droughts and severe weather and political instability and
13 mass migrations and we hear the oceans are becoming more
14 acidic, and those oceans produce a lot of the oxygen we
15 breathe, and I'm extremely concerned about that.

16 The thing you learn when you -- I've worked with
17 over 3,000 families and people who have life-ending
18 illness and I've heard many, many stories of people who
19 are very different than I, which is like I said, a
20 tremendous privilege. And one thing you learn when see
21 that much death is there are no guarantees in life and
22 you're not guaranteed -- you know, you're not guaranteed
23 health and nothing is permanent.

24 The walls of our house, it looks so, you know, so
25 immovable or not permanent. This room, the chair you're

1 sitting in, all these things will be gone one day. And I
2 also know a lot about denial from my work, the truths
3 that would just require too much of us, and I think as a
4 human species we've got to finish the work of confronting
5 that denial or we'll be faced with the reality of our
6 impermanence. Human beings have not been here forever.

7 I know also that we don't treat soldiers and our
8 armed forces right in this country as a result of my work
9 and people in my family, have two career military men
10 that I respect tremendously, although I reject violence,
11 and they also have -- they also know that there's just --
12 there's no guarantees in this life.

13 And our own forces pay the price for climate change.
14 The Department of Defense has issued a report in 2015,
15 again, describing as an urgent growing threat to our
16 national security the increased national disasters, the
17 refugee flows, and conflicts for basic resources. So I
18 have a nephew who is about to go into the Marines I
19 wonder what kind of world he's going to be in.

20 So just the last thing I want to say is there's 7.4
21 billion of us now and we can't meet the demands of the
22 21st century population by burning an 18th century fuel.
23 We have better options than that now and coal is part of
24 a geology and that's where it needs to stay.

25 MR. BATTIS: Thank you. We're still