

1 public, where's the health of -- of the social cost being  
2 spoken about here, when -- also when we talk about -- and  
3 I'm going to bring up race because it's the number one  
4 indicator to determining by the chances of someone being  
5 a next -- being exposed to pollution.

6 So we're talking about social economic impacts, but  
7 I ask you to really consider the social impacts. And  
8 there's no hospital costs that's being externalized the  
9 way that it's being affected to my family and our -- and  
10 my people.

11 So I'm -- I think -- I mean, it's been said time and  
12 time again we need to move past coal. I'm going to ask  
13 you all that you terminate the coal leasing program.  
14 There's enough coal -- there's enough to transition -- to  
15 do a just transition for the workers to find -- towards a  
16 more sustainable energy source. Thank you.

17 MR. GUNN: Hi, there. My name is  
18 Brian Gunn. I am a member of the Climate Reality Project  
19 and I also am chair of the Washington State Progressive  
20 Caucus, an organization that believes in putting people  
21 and the planet ahead of corporate profit.

22 Now, when I ran for state representative back in  
23 2012, I walked the neighborhoods in my hometown of Auburn  
24 with a petition that was calling on Washington state  
25 leaders to deny permitting of coal export terminals.

1 Now, these are folks who actually have coal trains  
2 running through their backyards. And they agreed that --  
3 they signed on to my petition because they agreed that  
4 increased coal train traffic through our city was bad for  
5 our health, bad for our economy, and bad for our quality  
6 of life.

7 And in the years since, one coal terminal after  
8 another has been rejected in the state of Washington due  
9 in large part to the determined opposition of regular  
10 folks like the ones who signed my petition.

11 The coal trains can still be seen on an almost daily  
12 basis in my hometown in the Auburn train yard. And U.S.  
13 still gets about a third of its power from coal-fired  
14 power plants, and we're still shipping millions of tons  
15 overseas to Asia.

16 So where does all that coal come from? Well, 41  
17 percent of it comes from public lands, lands which are  
18 owned by taxpayers like me and most of the people here in  
19 this room and yourselves included.

20 Now, are we getting a fair price for that coal?  
21 Well, Taxpayers for Common Sense says no. The National  
22 Resource Defense Council estimates that we may have been  
23 cheated by as much as \$30 billion over the last 30 years.  
24 You bring in the social cost of burning fossil fuels  
25 anywhere in the world and the damage to human health,

1 rising food costs from unproductive fields and property  
2 damage from extreme weather events, and the evidence is  
3 clear. The American people are getting a raw deal for  
4 allowing coal companies to extract our natural resources.

5 So that's why I'm asking -- I'm testifying here  
6 today and asking you to extend the moratorium on new  
7 leases and keep the coal in the ground. Detractors of  
8 this plan claim that the coal industry has made vital  
9 contributions to our economy, but as we have seen, that  
10 argument just doesn't add up.

11 Job growth in renewable energy sector is on the way  
12 up. The solar industry added 35,000 jobs in 2015 alone.  
13 And increasingly the power that can be generated through  
14 these greener sources of energy is on an -- is -- we've  
15 reached the parroting point where it's not going to cost  
16 taxpayers more to pay for energy produced from clean  
17 sources.

18 So -- and remember that fossil fuels are only  
19 inexpensive because they are being kept down by the  
20 subsidies that you and I are paying for. So coal  
21 companies are declaring bankruptcy right and left, and  
22 their share prices are at rock bottom, so let's face it:  
23 Fossil fuels are a bad investment. So please invest my  
24 resources and your resources in a greener, cleaner  
25 future. Thank you.