

**Byers & Anderson Court Reporters/Video/Videoconferencing
Seattle/Tacoma, Washington**

1 move over to Microphone 2.

2 MR. OLSON: My name is Court Olson and
3 I want to compliment the three of you over there for --
4 you're holding up very well. I haven't seen a single one
5 of you nod off yet, so congratulations and thanks for
6 being here.

7 I have three objectives that I hope I can cover in
8 three minutes. I have an -- I have a unique personal
9 connection to this particular subject that I'm going to
10 share with you and give you my background comment with
11 the story on the moral imperative that I've experienced
12 and then some practical imperatives that relate to what
13 I've been doing lately.

14 I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska which is the
15 headquarters for the Union Pacific Railroad that had that
16 unfortunate oil spill in Oregon recently and other
17 places. I know well how the railroad is important to the
18 economy. I also have a father or had a father, just
19 passed away recently, who is in sort of the coal
20 business, in that he was a CEO of a Midwestern utility,
21 public utility, and he built a new coal-fired power plant
22 right near his home in Central Nebraska, which I pass
23 frequently when I go back to visit relatives there. It
24 even has his name on it.

25 And yet, as I've traveled through the spaces between

1 here and there, I've seen Gillette, Wyoming and Casper
2 and Devil's Tower and parts of Montana all doing
3 reasonably well and flourishing. I respect their
4 economic concerns and interests, but I have to say that
5 we've got to get beyond the economic value of the moment
6 and get with more imperative.

7 My professional career, I'm a civil engineer and
8 construction management professional by training, has
9 involved a lot of green buildings and I'm very committed
10 to that.

11 Let me share with you a little story. In 2001 I
12 took an eco trip of sorts and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro
13 in the center of Africa and got familiar with the culture
14 there more than the physical environment and spoke with
15 many of the people that lived there. And I saw how
16 they're very dependent on the waters from Kilimanjaro
17 which come from glaciers that are by now totally melted,
18 as is all the glacier activity in Glacier National Park.

19 So to relate our fossil fuel consumption to the rest
20 of the world I think is a big moral imperative. Those
21 people with subsistence living are just barely living off
22 the land and are dependent on the water that's going away
23 because of our fossil fuel diet.

24 I could go on to more, but my time is running out so
25 I'm going to close by saying I know, because I've studied

1 the science very carefully, we've got all the means to
2 get off of the fossil fuel habit. It's just time to do
3 it and we have to do it fast because the window of
4 opportunity to prevent disaster is closing rapidly.
5 Thank you.

6 DR. SOMAN: Hi. Thanks for coming to
7 Seattle. I'm Michael Soman. I'm a physician. I'm a
8 member of Washington Physicians for Social
9 Responsibility; there's 800 of us. I also have a
10 graduate degree in public health. And until recently I
11 was the president of Group Health Physicians, so that's a
12 thousand physicians caring for nearly 450,000
13 Washingtonians, so I take public health really seriously.

14 And I would urge you to invoke a creed, and I'm
15 telling you as a physician, as a grandfather, but this is
16 an old creed that's supposed to guide all health care
17 professionals. And that is: First do no harm.

18 I'm delighted that the Department of Interior
19 created this temporary moratorium. I think that was
20 enlightened and wonderful on new coal leases and that's
21 especially true in light of what I know to be true about
22 health impacts of coal which I'll get to in a minute.

23 I want to say, though, that really this commitment
24 needs to extend to be a permanent moratorium, and that's
25 for the good of our people, our communities and our