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Seattle/Tacoma, Washington**

1 Congress currently that we believe is collaborative and  
2 balanced and we would urge your support as it moves  
3 through the process.

4 I want to thank you for the opportunity today.  
5 Thanks.

6 MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

7 MR. PETERSON: Thank you. Good  
8 morning. My name is Representative Strom Peterson  
9 representing the 21st District here in the great state of  
10 Washington in South Snohomish County.

11 I would like to give a thanks to all of the elected  
12 officials that traveled from Wyoming and other places.  
13 While we may disagree on this issue, I do have a great  
14 respect for your willingness to serve the people of  
15 Wyoming and other states.

16 And thanks to the crowd for showing respect to  
17 fellow elected officials. It's a tough job.

18 With the EIS issue, one of the issues that I would  
19 like for you all to look at are the transportation  
20 effects kind of across from Powder River to the ultimate  
21 coal terminals and beyond. But what especially affects  
22 my district here in the 21st is we have an at-grade train  
23 crossing with the ferry system, which for those of you  
24 not from the state of Washington, that would be an  
25 at-grade crossing to a major state highway.

1           So that not only affects the safety of the people of  
2 Edmonds, whether it's a coal train or oil train rumbling  
3 through town. It also affects our local economy. We are  
4 looking at an increasing numbers of trains throughout the  
5 system, and that delay in getting onto a ferry system is  
6 important to local jobs and important to our local  
7 economy, and I think that's something that this impact  
8 statement really needs to look at.

9           Edmonds is not alone in that. There are communities  
10 throughout Washington and I think throughout the region,  
11 from the Powder Basin on that would have these effects  
12 with increasing numbers of coal trains.

13          I think we also have to look at the, you know,  
14 economic effects when it comes to local health. I think  
15 this is something that the EIS has been looking at, but  
16 as we look where these trains load and unload, where  
17 these trains travel through, I think it especially  
18 affects communities of color that are already showing  
19 severe health, negative health effects from the coal dust  
20 as well as just from the pollution of these incredibly  
21 long trains. These are trains that are a mile long that  
22 go through -- incredibly slowly through our towns.

23          And finally, I think that the EIS also has to look  
24 at some of the public safety aspects, not only the force  
25 of derailment of one of these trains, as we just saw in

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1 Oregon, whether it's an oil train or a coal train, these  
2 have incredible public safety aspects. But we also have  
3 public safety issues when it gets -- when first  
4 responders need to respond either to that train or to  
5 something on the other side of the tracks.

6 In my town of Edmonds, Washington we have a senior  
7 center on the other side of the tracks and there are  
8 times where trains have been stopped and emergency  
9 medical personnel can't get to the other side.

10 These are kind of small things throughout the basin,  
11 throughout this region that I think the EIS really has to  
12 dive down and take a good look at.

13 Again, I appreciate your time here and again, thanks  
14 to everybody for showing up.

15 MS. BROWN: Thank you. I'm Elizabeth  
16 Brown and I am from Gillette, Wyoming. Nobody paid me to  
17 be here.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

19 MS. BROWN: I am from Gillette,  
20 Wyoming. I am coal miner --

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Get closer to the  
22 mic.

23 MS. BROWN: Nobody paid me for being  
24 here.

25 I'll get closer.