

1 industry, the salmon that come out of the Columbia River
2 fuel fisheries up and down the Pacific Coast.

3 Tillamook County, my child, my seven-year-old
4 daughter is highly dependent on the amount of timber that
5 comes off of public lands on state forests. Those also
6 fuel the education component of Tillamook County just as
7 coal does for Wyoming.

8 I think we would have a better time accepting the
9 impacts of coal if we found them to be good stewards of
10 the resource. 10 percent of the lands, only 10 percent
11 of the lands have been reclaimed. 90 percent remain in
12 terrible condition. Thank you.

13 MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

14 MR. PIAZZON: Thank you for this
15 opportunity to testify. Thank you for the opportunity to
16 stand up. I'm Gary Piazzon. I am the coal facilitator
17 of the Social and Environmental Justice Council of the
18 Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Whidbey Island. I
19 am also representing the Northwest UU Justice Network as
20 the climate justice leader for that section.

21 I live on Penn Cove which is home to the Penn Cove
22 shellfish industry, very famous and delicious seafood
23 that is threatened by ocean acidification. I am also a
24 retired physical therapist. I retired three years ago
25 when I realized that I had to devote my entire energy to

1 our major health care crisis.

2 Our world, our life support system, the biosphere is
3 failing. And we know why it's failing. Fossil fuels are
4 killing it. And those fossil fuels are led by coal as
5 the number one killer of life on the planet.

6 This, for many of us, including Pope Francis and
7 many religious leaders, is a moral issue. We need to get
8 a handle on our values, stop talking about money and
9 profit and start putting people and life-sustainable
10 practices first.

11 I'll give you -- in 2006 the Unitarian Universalist
12 General Assembly decided on a statement of conscious
13 about climate change. In 2014 the same UUA delegates
14 voted to divest from fossil fuels. In 2015 we passed an
15 action of immediate witness stating that this issue is
16 the greatest threat facing the world today and urging our
17 members, congregations, and leaderships not just to act
18 independently but to act publicly and stand in solidarity
19 with First Nations, in particular. This is a moral
20 issue.

21 There are exciting, healthy, economy-expanding
22 options to burning rocks in the 21st century. We must
23 reject the madness and injustice of this, accept the
24 reality and opportunities and keep coal in the hole.
25 Thank you.