

1 And unfortunately, for the past 30 years, the U.S.
2 government has effectively selected coal as a primary
3 energy source to power the nation's electric grid.
4 Market analysts have concluded that the coal's dominance
5 has effectively prevented the development of
6 public-private partnership programs and policies to
7 improve energy diversity in the United States.

8 So you know, we could have other jobs if we get on
9 with the program. So I'm urging you to make the coal
10 lease moratorium permanent.

11 MS. SHERMAN-PETERSON: Hi. My name is
12 Deejah Sherman-Peterson and I'm here as a mother and a
13 grandmother of three, ages seven, four and two. And I'm
14 also here because I co-chair the climate action team at
15 University Unitarian Church. Yep, I'm another unitarian
16 standing up here.

17 We have -- we have seven principles of our faith,
18 and three of them pertain to today's discussion. One is
19 the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The
20 second one is justice equity and compassion in human
21 relations, and I feel that's where this whole jobs issue
22 ends up. We need jobs in renewable energy rather than in
23 the coal industry, and we need to be also very cognizant
24 of what we're doing to the people in the global south
25 whose -- who have no fault in this whole climate warming

1 issue.

2 Our seventh principle is respect for the
3 interdependent web of all existence of which we are a
4 part. And I feel that we humans, because we have
5 intelligence and power, we have a special duty to the
6 rest of the earth. And if we continue to extract fossil
7 fuels and build new fossil fuel infrastructure to export
8 and refine and transport and use those fuels, we will
9 cause radical damage to the earth's global ecosystems.
10 And straight from a scientist member of our climate
11 action team, we will leave our decedents a world
12 fundamentally different from the one in which we evolved
13 and developed agriculture and civilization.

14 They will inherit a world bereft of much of the
15 climate's diversity of life, about 10 percent species
16 loss per each rise of 1 degree Celsius.

17 Coal-fueled climate change is already hurting
18 Washington and the other Western states. We have a lower
19 snowpack, we have droughts, we have flooding. We have
20 longer and more intense wildfire seasons.

21 According to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric
22 Administration, 2015 was Washington State's hottest on
23 record. 2016 will probably beat that. Last month was
24 the 13th consecutive month to set a global warming
25 record.

1 In conclusion, I think we must consider the entire
2 lifespan of coal from mining to transport to burning and
3 the impact it has on air and water quality, the health of
4 all of us, animals and plants, and earth's climate fossil
5 fuels must remain in the ground so that our beautiful
6 planet continues to support the myriad life forms with
7 which we have been blessed.

8 MR. SIBELMAN: Hi. My name is
9 Benjamin Sibelman. I am a volunteer with the Sierra Club
10 which is part of the global climate movement, and I'm
11 here to tell you that the conservatives are right.
12 Progressives like us are fighting a war against coal.
13 It's not a war against people or states who are currently
14 dependent on coal.

15 We intend to do everything possible to help them
16 transition smoothly and fairly to less destructive ways
17 of life. The coal industry started this war by filling
18 our air, water, and soil with a dozen kinds of pollution
19 and threatening the world with civilization-ending
20 climate catastrophe.

21 But we intend to finish it. When the war is over,
22 everyone will have solar panels on our roofs, yes, even
23 in cloudy Seattle, and travel in electric vehicles.
24 Every farmer will grow food organically with no fossil
25 fuel inputs and will have a second income from the wind