

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

1 turbines in their fields.

2 Every former coal worker will have a good family
3 wage job that lets them live long, full, healthy lives
4 and every living being can thrive, thanks to clean air,
5 pure water, and a stable climate.

6 But to get to that future instead of one where coal
7 workers and many others keep dying from pollution-driven
8 disease, until we all start dying of famine driven by
9 drought or driven by runaway climate disruption, we have
10 to leave more than 80 percent of known fossil fuel
11 reserves in the ground.

12 And when it comes to putting those reserves off
13 limits for further extraction, the coal under American
14 public lands is an excellent place to start. Our coal
15 industry, as people have noted, is already dying. As
16 cheap, renewable energy slowly takes over, not fast
17 enough, and 40 percent of their supply comes from federal
18 lease sales and certainty low prices. The commitments we
19 made in Paris, as people have noted, give the Obama
20 Administration a clear mandate to phase out this leasing
21 program and put us on track to a bright future of clean
22 energy and climate stability and healthy lives for all
23 people and indeed all living beings on earth.

24 Please give them the full scientific analysis
25 demonstrating the urgent need to win the war on coal.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. FREIBERG: Hello. I'm Pat
3 Freiberg from Vancouver, Washington, and I thank you for
4 facilitating this process, which will hopefully realign
5 the government's coal politics to be consistent with the
6 climate goals developed in Paris in December.

7 Of the six recurring themes that arose during the
8 five listening sessions held last summer, I'm primarily
9 aligned with concern about climate change and the impact
10 of coal and the impact of coal use on climate stability.

11 Of course I care that the American taxpayers aren't
12 receiving a fair return on public coal resources and I
13 care about reclamation of mine lands, but it is climate
14 instability that drives me to be here today.

15 This is the issue of our time. Greenhouse gas
16 emissions have raised the temperature of our planet and
17 the results are all around us. Most recently the die-off
18 of one-third of the Australian coral reef made headlines.
19 Before that, the melting away of our iconic starfish was
20 making the news. Orcas are barely hanging on in Puget
21 Sound and Willapa Bay is losing its oyster industry, all
22 due to a warming ocean that cannot support life as we
23 knew it.

24 Once fertile areas are becoming deserts causing
25 social and governmental collapse. Climate refugees are