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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center
1500 Broadway
Tacoma, Washington

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
6:30 p.m.

1 PROCEEDINGS

2
3 MR. HUFFMAN: Good evening. So we're going to get
4 started here, but before we get started, my name's Peter
5 Huffman and I am the director of the City of Tacoma's
6 Planning and Development Services, and I am the SEPA
7 official overseeing this Environmental Impact Statement for
8 this project.

9 I want to thank everybody for coming this evening.
10 I think it's really encouraging that there's a lot of
11 interest in this community on this project, as well as all
12 of the projects that the City of Tacoma permits. I've been
13 doing planning for the City of Tacoma for over 20 years and
14 this is clearly probably, in this process, some of the most
15 turnout that I've had in many of the public meetings and
16 public hearings that I've held.

17 Having said that, as a resident of Tacoma, as a
18 city official for, like I said, over 20 years and for doing
19 land use planning in the City of Tacoma for 20 years, over
20 20 years on some projects that are rather contentious, one
21 thing that I pride myself as being a member of this
22 community is how this community respects one another, how
23 this community respects the divergence and differences of
24 opinions, and those of us who are from Tacoma should be very
25 proud of that: that we are open to having a very

1 transparent public process and that we respect the opinions
2 of others.

3 This is a scoping meeting. This is the second of
4 three scoping meetings. This is not a decision-making
5 meeting tonight. The purpose of this meeting is to get
6 feedback so that we can develop a scope of work to study in
7 the Environmental Impact Statement. There's drafts of a
8 scope of work that were developed based on the comments.
9 Ian Munce, the staff person working on this project, will
10 get into more detail on that, but I just want to be really
11 clear that it was absolutely wonderful at the last meeting,
12 despite the cramped conditions, how wonderful and respectful
13 everyone was. I expect that this evening. Speakers will be
14 given three minutes. If speakers do not keep to the three
15 minutes or if there is decorum or disrespectful behavior
16 occurring, you will be asked to yield your minutes. If
17 behavior like that continues through the meeting, you'll be
18 asked to leave; and frankly, if the meeting -- which I do
19 not think will happen because I have never experienced it in
20 my 20 years at the City of Tacoma and it did not happen last
21 time -- if the meeting does become a situation that is
22 uncomfortable for everyone, we will adjourn the meeting. So
23 I just want to be really clear on those ground rules. I
24 don't think we've going to have any issues with that.

25 I want to thank everybody who attended the last

1 meeting and all of their passion. This is a -- land use is,
2 I think, a very intense exercise. It's very important and
3 so I celebrate everybody's opinions, but I think that's what
4 we all need to do this evening, is respect other's opinions
5 and keep our behavior to that.

6 So, again, thank you very much for coming out and
7 spending your time on this important topic. I am now going
8 to turn it over to Ian Munce, who is on my staff who is
9 managing this process. Thank you.

10 MR. MUNCE: Thank you, everyone, and I'm delighted
11 there's enough space this evening because I just can't
12 apologize enough for the bad space last time. (Unclear)
13 space, too many people, not enough room.

14 What I've really been asked to do this evening is
15 sort of explain what's on your chair, a couple of documents.
16 So what we did was to take the written comments we got
17 through January 22nd, take the transcript of the comments
18 from the last hearing we had downstairs, and try and
19 summarize those through January 22nd. We plan to do this
20 again after this hearing and several more times and post
21 them on our Web page so you can see how we're summarizing
22 the comments that we have received, somewhere between 700
23 and 1,000 comments we have received so far.

24 The next thing we do is to take those comments and
25 put together a scope of work. You have a 14-page document

1 here that attempts to describe -- it's our first draft, but
2 it attempts to describe the issues that the staff feel,
3 based on your input and others', the issues that need to be
4 addressed in this Environmental Impact Statement.

5 So after March 4th, which is our cutoff, the City
6 will hire, more than likely, a national-level environmental
7 consulting firm to work on this scope of work. We will then
8 report back to you in September -- no firm date, but roughly
9 in September with a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
10 It will be several hundred pages long, and we will ask you
11 whether we have analyzed these issues correctly. And then
12 based on the input we receive in September, we go back and
13 do some more work and try and finalize this document by the
14 end of the year.

15 So that's our process. I'll be here afterwards.
16 You can call me. You can e-mail me for clarification. So
17 that's our process.

18 Once the Environmental Impact Statement is
19 finished, then the applicant can apply for permits, but
20 we're a year away from any applications. And one of the
21 things that will be in the Environmental Impact Statement --
22 and I've been asked this by many of you -- is a detailed
23 list of what permits are required for this project. It's
24 not just the City. There's the Puget Sound Clear Air
25 Agency. We have -- and we will describe -- and others. We

1 will describe in the document what permits are needed and
2 what the process is for those permits to be applied for and
3 what the public process will be for each of those.

4 So I apologize: It's just too big a crowd to take
5 procedural questions, but I do welcome them.

6 At this point, I'm going to turn it over to
7 Shirley, who's going to talk about the rules of engagement.

8 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you, Ian. We're going to check
9 a couple of logistical things here. Can people in the back
10 of the room hear okay? Up here it's really echoey.

11 Okay, so we have 110 people signed up to speak, so
12 it could be an evening, and I know that at the last meeting
13 people were very, very good about respecting the time and
14 respecting the request that cheers and applause be held,
15 because what it does is it takes time away from the speakers
16 that you want to hear.

17 Another thing that we're going to do this evening
18 to help things move a little faster is I'm going to call ten
19 names at a time. There's seats up here reserved so you can
20 pretend like you're at church and avoiding the front row,
21 and what I'd like is those ten people to come up and sit.
22 If you don't make it up when your name is called, I will try
23 to come back, but it will be at the end of the evening.

24 So I'm going to start with those first ten names,
25 and as those people come up here, I'm going to explain how

1 the timer works.

2 I would like Ian to go to the microphone and see if
3 our court reporter can actually hear you. We may need to
4 take a logistical break. She's having some real problems
5 understanding speakers.

6 (A logistics discussion was had.)

7 MS. SCHULTZ: Are people hearing the speakers okay?

8 THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

9 MS. SCHULTZ: So the request would be to speak very
10 slowly and state your name when you begin speaking, so this
11 is the time to use your elocution lessons.

12 On the first list of ten, I'm going to call these
13 names, and again, I apologize in advance for any names I
14 mangle.

15 (Recitation of names.)

16 MS. SCHULTZ: We have two podiums. The lights are
17 actually here. They may be hard to see from the podiums, so
18 I am going to use the colored paper methodology when you're
19 running out of time. You'll have green when you have three
20 minutes. Yellow when you get to, it looks like, 30 seconds.
21 And when your time is up, I'll start waving the red piece of
22 paper.

23 So with that, thank you, everyone, for coming. And
24 we'll take a break every so often when people start to flag.

25 So, Chris McClain, go ahead.

1 MR. McCLAIN: Good evening. My name is Chris
2 McClain. C-h-r-i-s. M-c-C-l-a-i-n. I represent
3 Ironworkers Local 86.

4 Just to be clear, I would like you guys to know
5 that we asked our folks to stay home this evening because
6 the last meeting, there was quite a level of, I would say,
7 a circus feeling, with a lot of animosity going back and
8 forth, and we didn't want to add to that this evening.

9 The last time I was here, we spoke about jobs and
10 not just minimum-wage jobs, not the \$12 an hour that Tacoma
11 is very proud of but that can't provide family wage living
12 conditions for people.

13 Tonight, though, we're here to ask for a
14 transparent study. We're asking you to dismiss some of the
15 false allegations that you're going to hear tonight and do a
16 full investigative study here. Do not accept the idea that
17 the louder I am, the more correct I am, because we don't
18 want to encourage a room full of Donald Trumps.

19 We would ask you to recognize that pollution does
20 not know borders. Current Chinese pollution will not stay
21 in China, but it does become our air that we breathe three
22 days after anything is put into the air in China.

23 This is an opportunity for Tacoma to lead America
24 in fighting climate change on a global scale, so please base
25 your decisions on facts, not conjecture.

1 I thank you for your time.

2 MR. KENDALL: Thank you. I am Bruce Kendall, the
3 CEO of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma/Pierce
4 County. We're a nonprofit organization focused on bringing
5 family-wage jobs to the citizens of Tacoma/Pierce County.
6 Thanks for this opportunity to comment on the draft. Our
7 membership is broadly representative of the private and
8 public sectors across Pierce County, including nine cities,
9 five community and technical colleges, large employers,
10 small businesses, and many others.

11 I want to compliment the City for the thorough
12 process it is undertaking to develop the EIS. We agree with
13 the language in the introduction of the draft scope which
14 states that the City's leadership has a strong commitment to
15 impartiality in the process. In looking at the February 5th
16 draft, I offer the following comments in the spirit of
17 exploring the central issues of the EIS. There are three
18 sections I would note.

19 In Section 4, entitled "Alternatives," as the scope
20 indicates, the property under consideration is zoned
21 industrial and has been used for industrial purposes for
22 decades. It is, by history and location, the very
23 definition of a working waterfront. The scope needs to take
24 this into account.

25 It is also worth noting that Tacoma and Pierce

1 County have always welcomed foreign investment to enrich our
2 economy. It's one of our strengths and provides jobs for
3 our citizens. We are known as a tolerant, open-minded,
4 forward-looking place, engaged in the global economy and
5 foreign cultures in a positive way. There are a number of
6 good examples of this throughout Tacoma and the rest of
7 Pierce County. The methanol facility would be another such
8 example.

9 The next section I'd like to comment on is Section
10 6, "Environmental Health and Safety." The scope's analysis
11 should include a focus on the fact that we may be one of the
12 safest places in the world to build and operate this plant.
13 A comparison with other U.S. and Pacific Rim locations would
14 likely reveal that Washington state's exacting and heavily
15 monitored environmental and safety regulations make this a
16 premier location for safe and healthy industrial production.

17 The third section I'll mention, and last, is,
18 "Socio-Economic Impacts." This section notes that the EIS
19 will consider the positive impacts of the plant in its
20 analysis as well as the negative. We encourage this
21 approach, and I want to thank you for this opportunity to
22 speak.

23 MS. PHILLIPS: Good evening. My name is Reverend
24 Jenny Phillips and I am here on behalf of United Methodists
25 throughout the region who have deep concerns about this

1 methanol plant.

2 Today is Ash Wednesday. It's a day when the church
3 reflects on its mortality and thinks about the ways in which
4 we have broken our relationship with God, the earth, and one
5 another and we think about how to repair those relationships
6 as well, and one of the ways we can enter into that process
7 of repair is by engaging in deep discernment when it comes
8 to issues like this one, and so I'm here tonight to invite
9 the City leaders into discernment on some serious questions.

10 First, what are the climate impacts of fracking the
11 natural gas for this plant and what are the impacts of the
12 gas leaks that will occur as the gas is transported and
13 used?

14 How will the water required for this plant impact
15 opportunities for future development in Tacoma and what
16 risks are there in building this plant in an earthquake zone
17 in a heavily populated area?

18 I thank you for your deep discernment on these and
19 other issues that are raised tonight.

20 MS. DYE: Good evening. Right here. I hope this
21 is okay. My name is Jesse Dye. I'm here also because of my
22 faith.

23 Tonight is Ash Wednesday. There's several of us
24 with ashes on our forehead. Since the time I was a child, I
25 would go to church on a night like this and the priest would

1 say, "Remember that you are dust and into dust you will
2 return," and that is the question that I bring to you
3 tonight. We are not here for very long. 50 years from now,
4 most of us in the room won't be here. That's the message of
5 Ash Wednesday, and what do we want to leave behind us? What
6 do we want to be the quality of the water, of the air, of
7 the life cycle of plants and animals, of the salmon when we
8 are gone? Those are all questions that you should be asking
9 in the scoping hearing tonight.

10 In particular, I ask you to consider the safety
11 record of this industry. No decision should be made about
12 what Tacoma will be in 50 years when we are dust without
13 considering the industry record and the record of this
14 particular corporation. That's critical for the promises
15 they will make.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. BAUMGARTNER: My name is Laura Baumgartner, and
18 I am in seminary working toward ordination in the United
19 Methodist Church, but I have also taught chemistry for 24
20 years in our public schools and I'm a mother.

21 I am here tonight to ask you to consider water in
22 your deliberations about scope for this proposed methanol
23 plant. My life as a mother has made me acutely aware of the
24 role of water in our lives. Water is for cleaning and for
25 purifying. We use water for cooking and for drinking. As

1 we have learned from our brothers and sisters in Flint,
2 Michigan, our water determines the future for our children.

3 As a chemistry teacher, I also know about water.
4 Water is a unique liquid on planet Earth. It flows in our
5 rivers and streams. It carries nutrients from the forests
6 to the oceans and back again. It sustains life because of
7 its physical and chemical properties. Water will dissolve
8 what we put in it. As a seminarian, I tell you, water means
9 much more for our life, for our children, than it does just
10 as a conduit for nutrients. Water connects us spiritually
11 to the land on which we live. Water flows in us and through
12 us, reminding us every day, and especially today, Ash
13 Wednesday, that we are of this earth, and this proposed
14 methanol plant threatens the earth's water. It threatens
15 ground water that provides drinking water because it uses
16 methane procured from fracking. It threatens our rivers and
17 streams by requiring millions of gallons per year for the
18 processing of methane into methanol. It threatens the Puget
19 Sound by increasing boat traffic in and out of the Port of
20 Tacoma. Finally, it threatens the oceans by increasing
21 global plastic production, plastic which will end up in the
22 ocean pyres, vast areas of the ocean where plastic goes when
23 it's discarded.

24 This methanol plant threatens water from one side
25 of our country to the other and even beyond our country

1 throughout the world. Therefore, I urge you to consider all
2 the world's waterways as part of the environmental scope of
3 this proposal.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. MURRAY: I'm not used to speaking in a
6 microphone. Am I okay?

7 Okay, I wrote down what I want to say, but I just
8 wanted to add that I think it's really interesting that I
9 was thrown out earlier, at about 4:00, by the police
10 department because we are not allowed to have signs in
11 opposition to this, but Northwest Innovation Works is able
12 to hand out propaganda on your seats.

13 Okay, my name is Roxann Murray. I was born and
14 raised here. I graduated from U-Dub Tacoma. I'm a local
15 photographer and artist.

16 I am a first-time home buyer as of 2014. No one
17 told me that my soil was poisoned until after I bought my
18 house in north Tacoma. I would prefer it if my water wasn't
19 poisoned too. That is just one thing this methanol refinery
20 will do.

21 The National Institute of Health states that
22 methanol is highly toxic and exposure may cause breathing
23 problems, lack of coordination, dermatitis, headaches,
24 dizziness, insomnia, conjunctivitis, not to mention those
25 pesky cancers, autism, neurological illnesses, Parkinson's

1 and Alzheimer's. This refinery will be especially
2 detrimental to people like myself with chronic illness,
3 children, and the elderly.

4 The Pacific Northwest is located on what is known
5 as the Ring of Fire. When the next earthquake hits, this
6 methanol will be catastrophic, especially if Mount Rainier
7 blows. Let's remind ourselves that she is dormant. She is
8 not an extinct volcano.

9 You may shrug this off when we talk about
10 inevitable disasters with this plan, but before you do that,
11 research gas and chemical explosions and leaks. They are
12 not uncommon. According to a 2010 study, there was an
13 average of 155 incidents that happened annually with just
14 pipelines.

15 Trying to keep this plan covered up was a criminal
16 act on the Port and City's part. The people found out and
17 we will not stand down. At the City Council meeting last
18 night, a man from Browns Point asked the members if any of
19 them were publicly opposed to this barbaric plan. Not one
20 stood up or spoke up. This shows that we have to vote these
21 people out.

22 The City of Tacoma and the Port might be sell-outs,
23 but the majority of us in the room are not. I love money,
24 but this disastrous plan is not worth all the money in the
25 world.

1 I want to end with a Cree proverb: Only when the
2 last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and
3 the last fish has been caught will we realize we cannot eat
4 money.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. TALIENTO: Thank you. My name is Joseph
7 Taliento, and I'm a citizen.

8 I just want to say, Peter Huffman, who gave the
9 introduction tonight, said that it was encouraging that many
10 people came out to speak. Peter, this is not encouragement.
11 This is widespread dissent. It is dissent because of the
12 transparency -- or lack of transparency.

13 The Port of Tacoma signed with Northwest Innovation
14 Works a lease and notified the City of Tacoma a year later.
15 How is that even possible? Where were the plans for this
16 methanol plant?

17 I read about the plant in August of 2015, just a
18 few months ago, and when I read the details of the plant,
19 the use of electricity, the amount of water it would take,
20 (unclear) my mind, I couldn't believe it. The amount of
21 electricity to run the plant is as much as the people in the
22 city of Tacoma use all year. One year of the plant is equal
23 to one year of the usage of Tacoman citizens. How is it
24 possible? How can that be justified? I don't understand
25 that -- without even talking to the people who are involved.

1 There's another issue that I had and it was with
2 the pipeline (unclear) the natural gas, which is a detail
3 that seems to be missing, but the natural gas, the energy to
4 run the plant, is coming from a pipeline. It's a new
5 pipeline that's going to extend to the existing pipeline.
6 Where are the details for that? I don't see them anywhere.
7 They're not up on the timeline plans and there's no
8 information given on that. I would like to have more
9 research (unclear) answers to that question.

10 I am in opposition to this. Thank you.

11 MR. RICHARDSON: My name is Ron Richardson, retired
12 executive vice president of the Hotel Workers International
13 Union. I've been living here, since I retired, for about
14 ten years now.

15 I live in north Tacoma, right in the middle of the
16 Asarco plume. Obviously, I didn't know about it before I
17 bought the place, but we've got lead, arsenic, zinc, cadmium
18 polluting the ground all around us. Why would we want this
19 generation's Asarco to be this plant? Why would we want our
20 kids and our grandchildren to have to worry about clean-ups
21 and getting rid of the stuff that's in the air and the soil
22 and the water?

23 We've got two companies that are jointly going to
24 do this that signed this contract with this lease. One is a
25 Chinese government, and I hate to tell you this, but my wife

1 and I won't buy dog food or treats that are made in China
2 because we don't trust them. Why would we trust them to
3 take over Tacoma?

4 The second half of the combine is BP Oil and
5 they've got a great reputation. Talk to our friends in New
6 Orleans and see how they like it.

7 You know, people have talked about Tacoma in a bad
8 way for a long time. We had the odor of Tacoma, a gritty,
9 dirty town, and then we started cleaning it up. We built
10 the university, an art museum, a glass museum, an art
11 museum, some new hotels, and Tacoma looks like it's coming
12 back, like it's going to be a decent city. If we now build
13 the largest methane plant in the world in downtown Tacoma,
14 forget about hotels, forget about tourism, forget about the
15 reputation of our town, because it's going to be nothing.
16 No one is going to want to come here at all. We'll be known
17 as a dangerous industrial town that doesn't give a damn
18 about downtown, tourism, or its residents. Please don't let
19 this happen to us.

20 I've got a little bit of time left and the only
21 thing I'm going to ask is would everyone here who is against
22 this abomination please stand up and let them see you.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. MERRITT: Good evening. My name's Jim Merritt.
25 I'm a local architect and planner residing in Tacoma.

1 For 40 years, our community has been working to
2 change the image of Tacoma and define a new vision. The
3 infamous Tacoma aroma is gone. The cleaned-up Asarco site
4 is now the mixed-use community Point Ruston. The Port of
5 Tacoma is one of the premier container cargo ports in the
6 world, and Ruston Way and the Foss Waterway are people
7 places. The proposed methanol plant should not be built in
8 the center of our urban area within a few miles of more than
9 a million people. The proposed methanol plant does not fit
10 with our new image and vision for Tacoma's future.

11 My questions for the SEPA, number 1: What would be
12 the potential loss in companies and family-wage jobs that
13 would have considered Tacoma as a preferred site if not for
14 the location of the methanol plant in our community?

15 Question number 2: What would be the potential
16 perception of the outside world to our commitment to the
17 future vision of Tacoma if the largest methanol plant in the
18 world is located in our community?

19 Question number 3: Who will actually be liable and
20 responsible for any problems or future challenges other than
21 the LLC, the limited liability company?

22 Number 4: Will there be personal guarantees if the
23 LLC walks away from the plant or it goes bankrupt?

24 Number 5: Can a growing reserve fund like an
25 escrow fund be established to be controlled by the Port

1 and/or the City should the LLC abandon the plant or become
2 bankrupt?

3 Number 6: Will this plant limit future
4 opportunities for other uses of the site when the lease is
5 over, the LLC goes bankrupt, or the LLC abandons the plant?

6 Okay, now the fundamental questions are really
7 these to me:

8 Number 1: In the face of strong public rejection,
9 how can our elected officials still support this
10 questionable project?

11 Question number 2: Why did it have to get this far
12 before our elected officials heard what the citizens felt
13 about this project? If our elected officials are truly
14 behind the project and believe we could depend on mitigation
15 to address any concerns, they should be ashamed of their
16 shortsightedness and lack of believing in our vision. They
17 need to reach out to citizen groups to better clarify
18 decisions --

19 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Merritt, I'm going to have to ask
20 you to finish.

21 MR. MERRITT: -- for their decision-making.

22 Yes, one more sentence.

23 Let us refocus the vision for Tacoma that our
24 community has been struggling to build for the last four
25 decades. Say thanks, but no thanks, to the methanol plant.

1 Pull the plug now.

2 MS. SCHULTZ: So we have one last speaker in this
3 group of ten. We may want to take a short break in order to
4 move our court reporter. Just so you know, we are recording
5 this as well as having the court reporter, so if you are one
6 of the first ten speakers, no need to worry.

7 I'd also like to point out, I'm keeping track, and
8 Mr. Merritt was interrupted for 15 seconds of his speaking
9 time by cheering. I understand everyone is enthusiastic and
10 wants to show their support. We have a long evening ahead
11 of us and the seconds really add up, so if you can restrain
12 your applause until in between speakers, that would be very
13 helpful.

14 Mr. Kupinse, it's now your turn, and then I'll call
15 the next ten.

16 MR. KUPINSE: Thank you. My name is Bill Kupinse,
17 and I've been a resident of Tacoma for 13 years. I am also
18 a faculty member at the University of Puget Sound.

19 Yesterday, at the monthly meeting of the faculty at
20 the University of Puget Sound, the faculty voted on a
21 resolution concerning the methanol refinery proposed for the
22 Port of Tacoma. Recognizing the University's commitment to
23 community engagement which states, in part, its goal, quote,
24 "To collaborate with stakeholders in enhancing the quality
25 of life of our neighborhood, our great City of Tacoma, and

1 the Puget Sound region as we enrich the educational
2 experience of our learning community and advance the
3 frontiers of knowledge," end quote, the assembled faculty
4 approved, by a wide margin, the following resolution:

5 Regarding the natural gas to methanol refinery
6 proposed by Northwest Innovation Works in the Port of
7 Tacoma, Whereas, the proposed refinery poses a grave and
8 perpetual threat to the health of the University of Puget
9 Sound and Tacoma communities, to student recruitment and
10 retention and to the area's environment; and, Whereas, such
11 a facility is inherently dangerous because of the storage of
12 large amounts of methanol and natural gas; and, Whereas, we
13 believe that no changes or revisions to the proposal can
14 make the proposal acceptable, then be it resolved that the
15 faculty at the University of Puget Sound strongly oppose the
16 construction of the natural gas to methanol refinery
17 proposed by Northwest Innovation Works in the Port of
18 Tacoma.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. SCHULTZ: I think this is actually working
21 really well, this ten at a time. Our next ten speakers will
22 be:

23 (Recitation of names.)

24 MS. RIEDNER: Hi. My name is Claudia Riedner. I'm
25 a local resident and an artist, and I'm a volunteer on the

1 Central Neighborhood Council, even though I am not speaking
2 for the Central Neighborhood Council. I am here (unclear).

3 In 1992, the Tacoma City Council established
4 Tacoma's eight neighborhood councils to advise them on
5 issues of local importance and to seek consensus among
6 residents on specific plans of actions. I have served on
7 the Central Neighborhood Council for three years now. We
8 have had presentations from WSDOT, from Sound Transit,
9 Community Based Services, from the Emergency Management
10 Team. AT&T showed up about the placement of a cell tower.
11 The director of the Environmental Services presented. The
12 charter schools presented. Public Works came to talk to us
13 about the new pavement. Safe Streets presented. Laurie
14 Jenkins keeps us to date. Julie Anderson from Pierce County
15 Auditor's Office explained the election process. Fire,
16 police, Metro Parks, the school districts all show up every
17 month. The city manager's office gives a report every
18 month. Yet up until last week, the methanol refinery was
19 not mentioned once by anyone.

20 The system is broken. Communication is not
21 working. I'm a dedicated volunteer. I spend countless
22 hours to be a dedicated community volunteer. My ears are
23 open. My eyes are open. I'm on Facebook. I'm on e-mail.
24 I'm at meetings. I listen. I pay attention. I read the
25 newspaper. Why did we not hear from the Port and why did we

1 not hear from the City? This is the saddest of all; this is
2 the saddest of all: We are your people. Please inform us.
3 We want to know.

4 On another note, as humanity we do not inherit the
5 planet from previous generations. We are borrowing the
6 planet from future generations and we cannot destroy it
7 along the way for a few quick dollars just right now.

8 Let me close with a quote by Murray Morgan. He
9 says, "The waters that leap upon the shores of Puget Sound
10 carry out to the oceans of the world." Let not the waves be
11 made from methanol to turn into plastic.

12 MS. SKAAR: Hello. My name is Suzanne Skaar. I
13 currently serve on the Human Rights Commission for the City
14 of Tacoma, although I am not representing the Commission.
15 I'm here speaking as a south Tacoma resident and as a
16 mother. I do believe, though, that this process is a
17 reflection of the City of Tacoma's view on human rights. I
18 think that there has been a lack of political representation
19 by the citizens in this process, and we have a right to
20 transparency. I also believe that we have a right, as
21 citizens, to safety, the ability to address how basic
22 community resources are used, such as water.

23 The effects this will have on the prisoners in the
24 Northwest Immigration Detention Center is appalling. They
25 will not be evacuated if something were to happen. They

1 will be told to shelter in place. What do you think will
2 happen if the methanol plant were to explode? I don't know
3 about you, but I'm not going to be hiding under desks.

4 So my other concern, as citizens we have a right to
5 a clean environment. Polluted air affects the health of
6 every resident in this city. Some populations will be
7 affected more than others: children, pregnant women,
8 immunocompromised citizens, the elderly, and those without
9 the financial resources to seek medical care in a timely
10 manner.

11 In communities across the U.S., from coastal
12 Alabama's BP spill effects, to the current Flint crisis and
13 EPA Superfund sites like Tacoma, it is the poor that stand
14 the most to lose and have the least support when tragedy
15 strikes.

16 This project is not in the best interests of the
17 greater community. Shut this plant down.

18 MR. CRESO: I'm Charles Creso, one of the tens of
19 thousands of downwinders who will be harmed by the
20 construction of the world's largest methanol plant.

21 Why did Port commissioners steamroll forward with
22 an agreement long before those who will be most harmed were
23 notified? Port commissioners knew about the tens of
24 thousands of downwinders who would be adversely affected by
25 this plant, but they purposely chose -- I repeat, they

1 purposely chose not to inform us or invite our input before
2 entering into a contract with the methanol plant owners.
3 They purposely avoided this obligation, with the strategic
4 intent of keeping its existence as low profile as possible
5 for as long as possible, and they succeeded in keeping it
6 hidden from view for far too long.

7 Due diligence is defined as the care that a
8 reasonable person exercises to avoid harm to others. The
9 principle of due diligence is especially relevant when it
10 comes to entering into contracts. If Port commissioners
11 were practicing due diligence, properly informing all
12 potential impacted parties, they would have informed the
13 tens of thousands of downwinders long before entering into
14 the lease negotiation process. They did not.

15 When negotiating on behalf of the people, elected
16 Port commissioners had a fiduciary responsibility to inform
17 the people of potential negative impacts before entering
18 into an agreement on behalf of the people. They did not.
19 When a public official fails to act in accordance with their
20 responsibilities and violates the public trust, we must ask,
21 does this violation rise to the definition of malfeasance?

22 Like many downwinders, I believe Port commissioners
23 were derelict in the performance of their obligations of
24 elected office and that the decision-making process
25 commissioners employed for the methanol plant is riddled

1 with corruption, a viewpoint widely held by many of Tacoma's
2 citizens.

3 Before downwinders ever had an opportunity to voice
4 their concerns, Connie Bacon was declaring the methanol
5 plant was wonderful. She chose to ignore the people who put
6 her in office. Port commissioners made their decision
7 despite your concerns. Tonight I call for Port President
8 Connie Bacon's resignation.

9 MR. HAMILTON: First off, I'd like to acknowledge
10 the man who brought up the (unclear). Well done.

11 My name is Thomas Hamilton, and I grew up here and
12 I live here. Like you, I'm a child of the universe, a
13 citizen of this planet, and a fellow human being.

14 New and better technologies evolve in a linear
15 manner. We must be patient, stay passionate, but above all,
16 we must be inclusive and compassionate. Now we are involved
17 in a world struggle for an environmental balance. This
18 balance must be sensitive to all peoples and places, with a
19 view for cultural transition subject to time and to the
20 times in which we live. Otherwise, the sense of fairness is
21 lost.

22 Sometimes our imaginations produce an -- excuse me.
23 Sometimes our imaginations and emotions produce manic
24 thinking, resulting in underinformed and imperfect decision-
25 making. Mother Nature runs this planet. She's a law unto

1 herself, and like it or not, we are subservient to her
2 uncontrollable rages and creative impulses.

3 Even if collectively as a species we stopped all
4 greenhouse gases, we could not arrest the evolutionary
5 movement of the planet. The procession of the planet is a
6 scientific fact, and the elimination of all negative
7 emission releases, including cattle, will not stop it. By
8 far the greatest influence to climate change is procession.
9 We have in place comprehensive regulatory oversight and
10 technological advantages with an eye on the future that keep
11 us safe and mitigates damage to our environment. Our
12 industrial sophistication requires us to be responsible to
13 the needs of the planet, and part of that responsibility
14 involves sacrifice.

15 This plant will be built somewhere. China's
16 government has determined that their need for methanol gives
17 cause. The proverbial pebble will be dropped into the pond,
18 and none of us anywhere in this bubble will escape that
19 vibration. We have the opportunity at this time and place,
20 the ability, to be good stewards of industry and the earth.
21 We have the mechanisms already in place. Do we have the
22 strength and foresight?

23 We have one of the most educated and committed
24 industrial work forces on the planet, which includes
25 scientists, engineers, innovators and entrepreneurs, but

1 history tells us that short-term financial cost structures
2 often undermine our future well-being.

3 Because of population growth and the inevitability
4 of cyclical drought and the amounts of water and power
5 generation scaled for this project, I would propose that NIW
6 be required to protect the future of Tacoma and Pierce
7 County residents and include in their budget the cost of
8 building a desalinization plant and a natural gas fire
9 powered generation unit with (unclear) rights for
10 distribution of excess power. Also, they should be required
11 to clean their own wastewater and reintroduce that water to
12 their processes, if possible. These (unclear) will create
13 long-term cost savings for the company and for the people of
14 Pierce County.

15 Along with these additions, they should have a
16 drainage system that can handle all runoff water, natural
17 and man-caused, complete with concrete retaining wall that
18 surrounds the site and is sufficient enough to ensure that
19 no toxic spill can enter our sacred waterways.

20 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Hamilton.

21 MR. HAMILTON: I'm tired of corporate malfeasance
22 and wantonness that result in bigger tax burdens and higher
23 utility rates. This is the new century.

24 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Hamilton, I am going to have to
25 ask you to wrap up.

1 MR. HAMILTON: The people are going to demand that
2 the (unclear) of business be held to the highest standards
3 for environmental protection; in effect, that they be more
4 efficient and self-sustaining.

5 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Hamilton.

6 MR. HAMILTON: The NIW and their Chinese partners
7 can be an example to the world of how to be environmentally
8 and fiscally responsible at the same time. The short-term
9 costs are superceded by the long-term benefits. Thank you.

10 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Hamilton, your time is elapsed.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. ELDAGO: All right, thanks.

13 All right, one, RECs, Renewable Energy Credits:
14 Tacoma currently does not meet the needs of the Renewable
15 Energy Credit law and is looking to have to purchase
16 high-priced electricity from another source or pay fines for
17 not meeting the regulations.

18 How is the increased usage of the methanol plant,
19 up to the equivalent of 320,000 homes, going to affect the
20 outcome of the cost, and is that cost going to be charged to
21 our citizens? Are the elders and plant officials willing to
22 sign a verifiable agreement to hold them responsible for the
23 price difference so there's no increase per kilowatt hour
24 for our residents?

25 Two: According to the National Academy of Science,

1 methanol is one of the most potent greenhouse gases,
2 trapping heat more than 86 times as efficiently as CO2 for
3 the first couple of decades as it is released in the
4 atmosphere. If the average temperature goes up just two
5 degrees for western Washington, the sea level will rise 4.7
6 meters, or 15.4 feet. That means the Port of Tacoma and the
7 methanol plant will be under water. It also means parts of
8 Tacoma and Fife will be flooded, and the Puyallup River will
9 become the Puyallup delta at high tide.

10 Three: If city elders wish to make money
11 responsibly, then why not put rip tide turbine generators on
12 the bridges of the Narrows and build a third combination
13 bridge and (unclear) turbine generator, electrical generator
14 that would (unclear) -- would be used to (unclear) excess
15 peak traffic during peak hours.

16 There has already been funded by Tacoma a
17 feasibility study, and the conclusions were not only that it
18 is feasible, but necessary, to pass the Renewable Energy
19 Credit requirement that will become already -- Tacoma could
20 use -- sorry -- that we basically right now, in order to
21 pass the Renewable Energy Credits, we have to do this
22 anyway. Otherwise, we're going to pay fines or pay it out
23 of our pocket. Okay, the Narrows energy could also provide
24 to cover peak periods needed for management.

25 Also, on the Tideflats, we could build a hydrogen-

1 powered generator that would use electrolysis and bring the
2 hydrogen and oxygen back, making zero carbon imprint simply
3 because it makes H2O: water. That's the vapor. That's the
4 only byproduct there would be.

5 Four, and finally: One terrorist or malcontent
6 could use a Cessna airplane to crash into the methanol plant
7 and cause a catastrophic catastrophe for this region and for
8 the people, the economy.

9 This methanol is going to be supplied by fracking.
10 That is causing flaring and gas release all over the United
11 States. The fracking is on public land that is supposed to
12 be for our children's energy, for the future. Why are we
13 shipping our children's future to China? What will they use
14 when it is gone? Why are we shipping our future and letting
15 our country be controlled by greedy monkey humans?

16 That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

17 MR. PURCELL: Hi. My name is Evan Purcell.
18 E-v-a-n. P-u-r-c-e-l-l.

19 My family owns a little cabin on Marine View Drive.
20 My sister and my brother-in-law live there. It's just down
21 the road from this methanol plant, maybe a mile or so. It's
22 well within the blast zone and the chemical soup that would
23 follow this disaster if it were to happen. There are many
24 of us that live on that road and up in the hills that
25 overlook the bay.

1 This toxic machine, built on the site of another
2 toxic machine, speaks of a city that I had hoped we had left
3 behind. That old city, the Tacoma with the aroma attached
4 to it we left behind for a reason. We needed to see Tacoma
5 in a new light and not just as the dumping ground of factory
6 waste.

7 You say that this machine will bring good jobs. In
8 fact, I heard from the representative from the union here,
9 the very first speaker -- I don't know how soon you have to
10 get here to be first, but you got to get here pretty early.
11 I understand the need for good jobs in this city. This city
12 was built on the backs of these good jobs, but I want a job
13 that doesn't come with a blast zone. I want jobs that don't
14 bleed our water supply dry. I want jobs that don't
15 overwhelm our power grid and wastewater plant, and I want
16 the kind of jobs in my city, the city that I have called
17 home since 1981, the city I was married in and that I raised
18 my family in and that I bought a home in, to give us the
19 kind of jobs that don't need this methanol monster in our
20 Tideflats. You can come with us. This sea of red, all of
21 these people out here want the same thing as the jobs and
22 the unions do. We want good jobs, but not at this price.
23 Come with us forward.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. NORTON LIND: My name is Cathy Norton Lind.

1 I'm a life-long resident of Tacoma.

2 Tell me, what is wrong with this question:

3 "Grandma, do you live in the blast zone?" No plan should
4 require that question to be asked.

5 Something has changed in Tacoma in the last 20
6 years. The citizens of Tacoma are no longer satisfied with
7 their public elected representatives taking care of the
8 business of the City and Port for us and without us. The
9 citizens now expect responsive representatives. In other
10 words, when the people of Tacoma say they do not want to
11 give the lion's share of our fresh water to a methanol
12 plant, we understand that our water supply is finite.

13 We are lucky to live here and be slightly ahead of
14 the curve when it comes to water supply, but the rules of
15 climate change and growing population and drought apply to
16 us as they do to the rest of the world, something the City
17 of Tacoma's own 2009 water use projections report predicted.
18 Using their own report, they know this plan is untenable.

19 There are no accommodations in planning this plant
20 that will change this reality. Used is used. Gone is gone.
21 When we express our disbelief that a plan requiring natural
22 gas to be piped into an earthquake and lahar zone, we
23 understand there is no changing the reality of where we
24 live. We live in an earthquake and a lahar zone.

25 There should be no surprise by our level of

1 concern. In September 2014, in an article titled, "Mega-
2 Mega Methanol Plants Planned in U.S. to Feed China MTO," in
3 the energy publication ICIS, John Floren, CEO of Methanex,
4 stated that to get these plants built in the Pacific
5 Northwest would be, I quote, "...no small hurdle because the
6 U.S. Northwest is not as comfortable with smokestack
7 industries and particularly those that make chemicals."

8 We were not informed of this plan that could have a
9 myriad of adverse effects before contracts were signed. Now
10 that we finally know and we're locked into this process --

11 MS. SCHULTZ: Ms. Lind.

12 MS. NORTON LIND: -- I can guarantee, we are not
13 going away.

14 MALE SPEAKER: Welcome to Methapotamia.

15 Roughly 22, 23 years ago, maybe 21 years ago, the
16 City of Tacoma spent something like a quarter of a million
17 dollars on a future for Tacoma. It was called Tacoma 2010.
18 The hue and cry of this huge study -- and it was a big
19 one -- was public stewardship. Yeah, what's that? What is
20 public stewardship? It got left behind. There's no public
21 stewardship in this town. I am appalled, but not surprised,
22 that this thing got as far along as it did before anybody I
23 know ever heard of it.

24 Ten million gallons of water a day? Really?

25 This is short. All I have to say is this: If it

1 comes about that this travesty actually comes to fruition,
2 apply this simple old adage or analogy, a little bit
3 crude -- it follows up on what Roxann Murphy said, though,
4 and a couple other people: When you're done, please pull
5 down my nightgown and leave the money on the dresser.

6 MS. KOPEC: Good evening. I'm Cheryl Kopec. I
7 have lived in Tacoma for over a quarter century. I retired
8 from the military here, and I have made my home here and
9 hope to be here for the rest of my days. I don't have any
10 eloquent statement tonight, just some questions.

11 What will protect citizens' uninterrupted access to
12 fresh drinking water, not bottled, in the event of another
13 drought?

14 This all assumes that the plant is built.

15 What assurances will Tacoma rate payers have that
16 utility rates will not rise in response to massively
17 increased water, electricity, and wastewater treatment
18 demand?

19 How will increased ship traffic impact wildlife in
20 the Sound?

21 How can we be certain that any spills will actually
22 be cleaned up and not dispersed, as with the BP Gulf gusher?

23 Tacoma's property values are already depressed.
24 What effect will a nearby giant methanol plant have on
25 property values and home insurance rates?

1 What measures will be taken to render the plant
2 able to withstand any lahar, earthquake, or tsunami, all of
3 which could conceivably impact that very site?

4 How would the detention center be safely evacuated
5 in the event of a catastrophic accident?

6 How would the plant's total emissions affect
7 Tacoma's already substandard air quality?

8 What will the global environmental costs be of
9 acquiring this huge amount of natural gas via fracking? How
10 much CO2 will be released via fracking? How much radiation
11 will be released? What will be the sociopolitical costs to
12 the communities in the regions of the fracking? Will our
13 support of the industry there weaken those who are trying to
14 stop it in their own communities? How much methane will be
15 leaked in fracking and via the thousands of miles of piping
16 to get it here?

17 What will be the environmental costs of shipping
18 the methanol to China?

19 What will be the effect on the oceans if we support
20 the current market of plastic with methanol?

21 And what will be the sociopolitical costs of
22 maintaining this industry in China, in particular in the
23 city of Dalian, the sole city where it is proposed to be
24 shipped which has had multiple demonstrations against the
25 plastic industry there due to its toxic footprint.

1 I urge that this permit must be denied and any
2 plans for this plant be scrapped as of right now.

3 MALE SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt. Doug said I
4 could do it. I've got a little bit left here. I have a
5 question. It might be rhetorical.

6 Our good friends to the -- just over here, past the
7 Tideflats here, our indigenous first nations of people, the
8 Puyallup Indian Tribe, are they represented here? And if
9 not, if we know any of them, can we get ahold of them?

10 Doug.

11 MR. MACKEY: Thank you. My name is Doug Mackey.
12 I was born at Tacoma General Hospital, as were my parents.
13 My paternal grandfather was a longshoreman on the Tacoma
14 waterfront. My maternal grandfather owned a roof trust
15 business on the Tacoma waterfront. I am a Tacoman, and
16 Tacoma is better than this.

17 The deceit begins with the name Northwest
18 Innovation Works. Giving something a sunny, green name does
19 not make it so. See Healthy Forests Restoration Act or
20 Clear Skies Initiative. And then there's what follows:
21 LLC, limited liability company.

22 There are tens, hundreds, over 200,000 reasons to
23 stop the world's largest methanol plant in Tacoma. Among
24 the biggest are its unfathomable consumption of water and
25 power. And if you think it can be provided without

1 environmental impact to salmon, a federal issue, and all
2 other species tied to it, including humans, you are failing
3 to grasp the scope of the project. Water and power markets
4 would have to be created, or sought, to double availability
5 in increasingly drought-prone times and the bill would come
6 to us, Tacoma Public Utilities. Take shorter showers, they
7 tell us. Don't water your lawns, we're told.

8 As Seattle fills up, becomes increasingly
9 expensive, as commuter transit options improve, Tacoma is
10 poised to become an affordable residential option for the
11 employees of the high-tech businesses proliferating to the
12 north. As people move to our city, those businesses will
13 want to follow, but not if we double up and reinforce our
14 reasonable reputation as a toxic dump, Seattle's dirty
15 backyard, the Tacoma aroma.

16 I am a union member as well and I'm sympathetic to
17 those union people who hold the hope that they might be
18 employed temporarily or permanently by this project. But
19 this -- as it was compared to at the last meeting in this
20 building, this is not the second Narrows Bridge or anything
21 like it. There's no concern for a blast zone at the Tacoma
22 Narrows Bridge. No, this is different.

23 This thing, which makes us essentially a Chinese
24 industrial colony, robs us of our water, our electricity,
25 our safety, our health, and as much as anything, our civic

1 pride, our Tacoma pride. That's what brought us here
2 tonight, and that's what really hurts. To send us backwards
3 in time, building Superfund site upon Superfund site,
4 ensuring that we continue to be the region's ugly, toxic,
5 foul-smelling joke for another century, I don't want that.
6 I don't want to go back. We don't want to go back. Tacoma
7 is better than this.

8 MS. SCHULTZ: Okay, our next ten speakers:

9 (Recitation of names.)

10 MR. ADAMS: Thank you for giving me the opportunity
11 to speak tonight. My name is Bill Adams. I live in Des
12 Moines, just a bit north of here, but I have a soft spot in
13 my heart for Tacoma. I lived here from 1951 through 1964.
14 I attended the University of Puget Sound while it was then
15 the College of Puget Sound, received my bachelor's degree in
16 business from the college. After my stint in the military,
17 I brought my young family back here and we enjoyed many fine
18 hours of recreational saltwater fishing on Commencement Bay
19 in the Point Defiance area, did a lot of beachcombing and
20 really enjoyed the city. I was transferred to Seattle in
21 1964, but you guys still are in my heart.

22 I'd like to specifically address Section 7.2 of the
23 DEIS, which is entitled "Wastewater." I think this might be
24 the Achille's heel of the whole project. It says that the
25 plant will produce up to 1.44 million gallons of wastewater

1 a day, and that's seven days a week, 365 days a year.

2 Now, treatment is addressed and it's fairly
3 detailed, but what I don't see and what I would strongly
4 recommend be added to the EIS is a risk assessment or a risk
5 analysis of what the probability would be for a breakdown in
6 the treatment facilities. And let's face it, it's Murphy's
7 law: Failures occur. Breakages will occur. They can be
8 caused also by earthquakes, tidal waves, prolonged
9 electrical outages. Even solar flares can affect
10 electricity. So with the interests of keeping this a really
11 pristine part of the Salish Sea and a real gem, I think you
12 ought to be really seriously looking at the possibility if
13 there's any risk whatsoever in a breakdown of the treatment
14 facilities, then this should not go ahead.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. HONDA: Thank you. My name is Susan Honda, and
17 I am a council member from the City of Federal Way. I want
18 to thank you for holding this meeting tonight.

19 I grew up in Browns Point. I attended Stadium High
20 School, Class of '76, and the Tacoma General Hospital School
21 of Nursing.

22 The proposed plant will not just affect those that
23 reside in Tacoma. It will affect the entire region. As one
24 of several cities that borders Tacoma, I would ask that you
25 listen very carefully and review every question and concern

1 that comes up. It sounds great to build a facility that
2 will employ hundreds, perhaps thousands of people. We all
3 want more jobs in the region, but at what price? Is this
4 the best location? The what-ifs are continuing to grow.
5 Please take the time necessary to study all the questions
6 and concerns. This process cannot be rushed, and most of
7 all, keep the process public.

8 Tomorrow evening at 6 p.m., there will be a special
9 Council meeting held in Federal Way. We will have
10 information presented on the proposed plant, and there will
11 be time for the public to speak. Everyone is welcome to
12 come. If you are unable to come but would like to send us
13 your thoughts and comments, you're welcome to send us
14 e-mails.

15 On a personal note, I have three little grandsons:
16 Tatum, Kengie, and Owen. I want to bring them to Tacoma to
17 show them where I grew up, to Point Defiance, to the
18 waterfront, to my grandma's house. I want them to love
19 Tacoma as much as I love Tacoma. Please think about this:
20 Tacoma isn't the place to build this. Let's keep Tacoma the
21 way it is.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. MALONEY: Good evening. Sorry. One short, one
24 tall.

25 My name is Kelly Maloney. I'm a Federal Way

1 resident, and I am also a Federal Way City Council member.

2 I am here tonight to express my concerns about the
3 methanol plant, the proposed methanol plant. I'm concerned
4 about safety, the water supply, the environment from water,
5 land to air, as well as the potential for an explosion --
6 as I understand, it is highly combustible -- or a leak and
7 security.

8 You have heard from and will hear from hundreds of
9 people who are opposed to siting a methanol plant in or
10 around Tacoma in the Tideflats, and I am opposed to it also.
11 So many people oppose this plant, in fact, an emergency
12 bill, House Bill 2980, has been dropped in the House by
13 representatives Linda Kochmar, Teri Hickel, and Matt
14 Manweller. This bill will prohibit the siting of certain
15 new facilities that would jeopardize air quality in areas
16 that have recently failed to meet air quality standards,
17 among other elements, and declaring an emergency.

18 Additionally, a Senate bill sponsored by Senator
19 Darneille, Senate Bill 6650, is focused on eliminating the
20 manufacturing machinery and equipment exemption for methanol
21 manufactured in part from liquid natural gas or compressed
22 natural gas.

23 I oppose providing tax incentives to foreign
24 governments. Federal Way has been working very hard for
25 many years on creating prosperity for all of our residents.

1 We have done a number of initiatives and my fear is that the
2 proposed methanol plant has the potential of significantly
3 negating much of the work that we have done, possibly
4 through decreased property values, among many other things.

5 After hearing from several city council members,
6 myself included, our mayor has decided to hold an emergency
7 city council meeting tomorrow night, as Council Member Honda
8 already mentioned, at 6 p.m. in City Hall in Federal Way.
9 We do invite you to be there and we are looking for more
10 information, and we will hopefully make a decision tomorrow
11 about our position.

12 I appreciate your consideration and hope that when
13 it comes to time to vote, Council and Port Commissioners, on
14 whether to let this project come to fruition, you vote
15 against it. Thank you.

16 MR. CALL: Good evening. My name is Ryan Call.
17 I'm Assistant City Attorney for the City of Federal Way.
18 I'm here tonight on behalf of Mayor Jim Ferrell.

19 Mayor Ferrell has been closely monitoring this
20 proposal and considering the implications of it. Today he
21 asked me to appear on his behalf and express his profound
22 concerns regarding the potential impact to health and safety
23 of many thousands of Federal Way residents who live one mile
24 from the proposed site.

25 The Federal Way Mayor's Office implores both the

1 City and Port of Tacoma to reconsider this ill-conceived
2 plan. As you do that, please consider the dangers it poses
3 to not only your own residents, but to the residents of your
4 neighbors who live very close to this site to the north.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. GALLEHER: Hello. My name is Julia Galleher,
7 and I'm a real estate broker for Keller Williams Puget
8 Sound. I've been a realtor for 28 years. I live in
9 northeast Tacoma and my home looks over the Port of Tacoma.

10 My intention here is to educate based on past
11 experience. I'm very concerned about the property values
12 due to the environment and safety issues. These are based
13 on my personal experience in the industry and a very lengthy
14 53-page report from the Department of Economics at Princeton
15 University, UC Davis, Berkeley, MIT, plus many other
16 organizations. The title is, "Environmental Health Risks
17 and Housing Values: Evidence From 1,600 Toxic Plant
18 Openings and Closings." These studies have shown that
19 properties within a half a mile of the plant drop 11 percent
20 in value.

21 I will not focus on the birth defects, because of
22 time at this point.

23 The analysis focuses in particular on the plants
24 that report toxic emissions to the U.S. Environmental
25 Protection Agency's toxic release inventory. They link

1 information on these toxic plants with administrative data
2 and provide detailed information on the near universe of
3 housing transactions and birth outcomes in these states.
4 The estimates are based on millions of births and hundreds
5 of thousands of housing transactions. This research design
6 reveals that housing prices drop, within a half a mile of a
7 toxic plant, approximately 11 percent. This decline implies
8 an aggregated loss in housing values of approximately
9 \$425 million for every plant opening. This reports the
10 date, price, mortgage amount, the address of all property
11 sales from 1998 to 2005.

12 So what does that mean to us? At a price point of
13 \$400,000, that is a \$44,000 drop. Many homeowners are just
14 recovering from our recession and may try to sell short, a
15 short sale, selling for less than what they owe, or letting
16 the property go into foreclosure, causing the property
17 values to plummet even further. I have seen this when the
18 third runway went in and the Port bought out most of those
19 properties at a highly reduced rate. We do not have that
20 option. How will Northwest Innovation Works make up for any
21 financial loss to the resident? How will the losses be
22 assessed and how frequent? They are an LLC.

23 This could also affect homeowner insurance rates
24 due to being in the zone. I know personally from the flood
25 zones in Green River, the fire zones in California and

1 Washington, you would expect at those points that the fire
2 insurance rates will go up. Well, also, the flood insurance
3 rates went up because there was no vegetation to hold the
4 ground. It dropped values for one particular woman, and her
5 insurance rate went up \$12,000 a year and she cannot afford
6 to live in her home.

7 Thank you.

8 This will also be published on the site if you want
9 to review it.

10 MS. HERBERT: I'm Patricia Herbert and I live on
11 Vashon, and we heard about this process three weeks ago. It
12 was never mentioned in our newspaper any time before that.

13 I have participated in a lot of Environmental
14 Impact Statement and scoping plans all over this state, and
15 the only way that they can be honest is to listen to the
16 people, to make sure that you get all the comments and you
17 read them, and then you need to make a decision that most of
18 the people are talking about. And it seems to me, in this
19 room people are talking about not wanting the plant at all,
20 and I think that is a good decision that they're making,
21 knowing this area, knowing what has happened to Vashon and
22 Tacoma and the surrounding areas.

23 I also have an idea that I want to put forth that I
24 think a lot of people gave me over the days when I've been
25 thinking about this.

1 Here's a fact: China has built three islands.
2 There are countries on our planet that are converting ocean
3 water to drinking water. It's a technology that they know.
4 Why is not China putting a plant on one of those islands?
5 With the climate changes that we have, with the oceans
6 producing more water, the glaciers are melting, it seems to
7 me that it would be logical to grab some of the water out of
8 the ocean.

9 That's all that I wanted to say.

10 MR. HOUGHTON: Good evening. My name is Baxter
11 Houghton, and I'm in sixth grade at Jason Lee Middle School.

12 I'm here to comment on environmental concern about
13 the methanol plant, because I love Tacoma and I want it to
14 stay a safe place to live in. I've grown up in Tacoma, with
15 beautiful water, being safe from air pollution and other --
16 and from air pollution and safe from explosions.

17 I also want safe jobs for the port workers and
18 other citizens of Tacoma.

19 I'm surprised that the mayor and Port commissioners
20 didn't inform us earlier about the methanol plant. Now, the
21 citizens of Tacoma, I ask respectfully that you keep us
22 informed of the major safety and health issues. I love
23 living here in Tacoma because I feel safe. If this methanol
24 plant is built, I'm afraid of what it is to come in the
25 future.

1 Thank you for hearing my comments.

2 MR. HIGLEY: Thank you for taking public comment on
3 the scoping of the EIS for the methanol plant in Tacoma. My
4 name is Rus Higley, H-i-g-l-e-y.

5 I have lived in the Pacific Northwest all of my
6 life and the last 15 years in Tacoma. I teach environmental
7 science, oceanography, and marine biology at the University
8 of Washington and Highline College. I run a public aquarium
9 on the waters of the Puget Sound in the Redondo neighborhood
10 of Des Moines, just a few miles north of the proposed plant.
11 My wife started a business in Tacoma. My oldest just
12 graduated from Tacoma public schools, and my youngest is a
13 student here as well. I am speaking today only as a
14 concerned citizen.

15 I am also on the Sustainable Tacoma Commission and
16 am deeply concerned that we found out about it via our
17 personal Facebook accounts in December. I sadly believe
18 that STC is little more than a green washing by the City of
19 Tacoma, so consequently I am joining Ellen Moore and am
20 submitting my resignation effective immediately.

21 If we are to consider environmental impacts and
22 related costs, we must look beyond Tacoma. The tiered
23 approach that is described in the draft scope of work
24 published February 5th of this year is not appropriate for
25 the largest methanol plant in the world. As the first- or

1 second-largest source of carbon dioxide in the state, this
2 project will have county, regional, state-wide, national and
3 global impacts. All of these must be evaluated by the EIS
4 and not focus on Tacoma.

5 It is true that the production of methanol via
6 natural gas is much cleaner than oil or coal but only if you
7 take into account the production of the materials going into
8 the plant. The extraction of natural gas and the relative
9 related fugitive emissions must be measured in environmental
10 costs.

11 The old adage of divide and conquer is appropriate
12 here, with all three NWIW projects being determined by
13 separate entities such as the City of Tacoma. Sadly, the
14 legal framework of the EIS and the passing of responsibility
15 to the separate and local viewpoints of Tacoma, Kalama, and
16 St. Helens encourages a narrow and shortsighted view of
17 environmental impacts.

18 The EIS must take into account the combined impact
19 of all three facilities to the Pacific Northwest and should
20 take into account expanded production of methanol elsewhere
21 in the U.S. and the world.

22 In 2014, Eric de Place of Sightline Institute wrote
23 an article describing the concept of the thin green line.
24 Although applied to oil and coal, my understanding of the
25 key idea is that the Northwest has a larger responsibility,

1 a moral responsibility beyond our local economies and
2 boundaries to think and make decisions based on global
3 impacts. An increasing supply of methanol will facilitate
4 the production of even more plastic, which has global
5 environmental impacts from cradle to grave and therefore
6 must be explored by this Environmental Impact Statement.
7 The choice we shouldn't be looking at is whether we should
8 build a methanol plant in Tacoma. The choice is whether we
9 should build it at all.

10 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Higley.

11 MR. HIGLEY: This is what the EIS should look at.

12 MALE SPEAKER: Madam chairman, one quick question.

13 MS. SCHULTZ: Absolutely, it's all being recorded.

14 MALE SPEAKER: Isn't it great that we have city
15 council members from Federal Way and their attorney?

16 MS. SCHULTZ: Sir --

17 MALE SPEAKER: Where are our city council members?
18 Who's protecting us?

19 MS. SCHULTZ: All right, I'd like to go back to the
20 beginning of the meeting. If people insist on speaking out
21 of turn and being unruly, we will end this meeting and
22 comments will only be taken in written form.

23 (Inaudible audience comments.)

24 MS. SCHULTZ: I'd like to remind people, if people
25 cannot be orderly, we will call an end to the meeting. I'd

1 like to ask people to stay in turn.

2 (Inaudible audience comments.)

3 MS. SCHULTZ: Sir, would you like to be asked to
4 leave?

5 (Inaudible audience comments.)

6 MS. SCHULTZ: It's not your turn to speak. I'd ask
7 people to stay in turn. We have a long evening ahead of us.
8 We are not even to 30 speakers, and I'd like to give
9 Mr. Young his chance to speak.

10 Mr. Young.

11 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. My name is Kevin Young.
12 I'm retiring from the Army after 16 years of service and
13 making Washington state my home, which means you are all my
14 neighbors.

15 I think it's silly that if the United States
16 military will not put an ammo dump next to the barracks, why
17 we would want to put a methanol plant next to a city that's
18 trying to grow.

19 More to the point, if we're going to build -- I
20 looked online. It says it's going to take \$3.4 billion to
21 build a plant of this size and scope. If they're going
22 to -- I'm sorry to say this, but after a little research,
23 this is going to cost a hell of a lot -- a heck of a lot
24 more -- excuse me -- a heck of a lot more to build something
25 that's earthquake proof. It's probably going to be double

1 or triple that, and it's going to take longer to build in
2 order to make it safe for any of you to feel safe.

3 If they do build this, there better be a
4 substantial set-aside fund of at least \$10 billion covering
5 any health, property losses, and emergencies, and not to
6 mention, I know from what I have heard -- and correct me if
7 I am wrong -- you have an emergency spill team over there by
8 where the docks are, where this plant is going to be built.
9 If it blows up, it takes them out with that and there's
10 nobody to help us, not to mention the training and equipment
11 they need.

12 So, please, if this plan goes through, they better
13 have a \$10 billion plan ahead, including paying for an
14 electrical plant at their expense to cover their power, and
15 also an additional water purification facility at their
16 expense, not ours.

17 And also, all those people losing property values
18 better get some money every year that they live there, if
19 they lived there all their lives, to compensate for the loss
20 of property value which they lose for having the plant
21 there.

22 Please, be careful when you make a decision. If
23 it's too much to too many people, build a university, build
24 some homeless training facilities down there so they can
25 learn how to do trades on the docks. Build some places down

1 there. Do something with it like a recycle facility. Let's
2 make a partnership with South Korea, who has cities this
3 small -- this big with 600,000 in it that know how to build
4 recycle facilities that are world renown and then can make
5 everything we throw away -- instead of a lot of bags, we
6 have a little trash bag. We can burn that trash bag to put
7 power back in our city.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. WADLAND: Thank you for holding these public
10 comments. My name is Justin Wadland, and my wife and I are
11 raising two boys here in Tacoma.

12 I'm concerned about the huge amount of water that
13 the proposed methanol plant will use. The environmental
14 scoping document says it will be 10.4 million gallons a day,
15 an amount that rivals residential usage, and yet citizens
16 have had little say about this demand on their water supply
17 except for this public commenting process.

18 As a librarian and a writer with a strong interest
19 in local history, I recently came across the curious story
20 of how Tacoma started getting its water from the Green River
21 over a century ago. Back then the city's local water supply
22 was inadequate and polluted and there was a huge controversy
23 about how to respond. Some wanted to use wells. Well, the
24 mayor at the time, George Wright, favored a gravity line
25 from the Green River. The decision was put to a vote in

1 1907. To encourage citizens to see his side of things,
2 Mayor Wright shut off water to the entire south Tacoma
3 neighborhood. Largely because of this move, he failed to
4 get his way the first time around. The proposal would not
5 pass until 1910. By 1913, Tacoma was piping in 42 million
6 gallons from the headwaters of the Green River.

7 Tacoma Public Utility's own history tells of these
8 events, and I bring them up tonight because we would not be
9 considering this methanol plant if it were not for decisions
10 made a century ago, decisions that gave this city access to
11 an abundance of fresh, clean water. What is remarkable to
12 me, what stands out in this story, is that during an era of
13 strong-arm politics when a mayor could shut off water to an
14 entire sector of the city, citizens still had a chance to
15 vote on the source of water.

16 As I read the draft scoping document, I had --
17 there were many troubling questions that came to mind, but
18 the biggest one was, how will public opinion be reflected in
19 the Environmental Impact Statement? This may not be a
20 conventional part of this document, but these proceedings
21 seem far from conventional. Many are using the public
22 hearing to offer opinions on the proposed methanol plant
23 because we feel locked out of the decision-making process.
24 Since we did not -- since we do not yet have any other means
25 of participating, I would like the document to reflect that

1 a large number of people oppose this plant. We will never
2 know for certain if this was, in fact, a majority unless
3 citizens are given a chance to vote on this use of our water
4 supply.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you. We're going to take a
7 ten-minute break and reconvene at 8:15.

8 (A short recess was taken.)

9 MS. SCHULTZ: Will people please take their seats
10 and sit whenever you want. Get comfortable.

11 All right, let's call our next ten speakers.

12 (Recitation of names.)

13 MS. SCHULTZ: We are up to 31, just for reference
14 for people, so go ahead, sir.

15 MR. FIGUEROA: My name is Javier Figueroa. I'm the
16 mayor of the great city of University Place. I do not speak
17 on behalf of my council members, but I do speak on behalf of
18 my constituents who have called me numerous times about this
19 issue. I speak as a resident of Pierce County.

20 Foremost, I want to say that I oppose this plant
21 being built in Tacoma, so I'll give you a few key reasons.
22 One may not be -- you've heard many technical and scientific
23 reasons why, why not -- mostly why not. You have plenty of
24 that, but I'm speaking to the elected officials who will be
25 making the decision, because what we're hearing tonight and

1 what I think is the true compass for making this decision
2 will be the moral principles of what needs to be done.

3 So we have Hanford, a WPPSS kind of a deal. We
4 still have a lot of clean-up there. Private contractors,
5 government has yet to figure out how to clean up that mess:
6 not enough money, not enough expertise. WPPSS, the nuclear
7 plants, it was a total mess between private companies and
8 government. Big Bertha, downtown Seattle, it is a total
9 mess with finger pointing, who should do what and why.
10 We're talking about a lot of money that is taxpayers' money.
11 Asarco, which we for decades worked on, it was sold to a
12 Mexican company who decided not to obey the laws of the
13 United States. We have the Olympic pipeline who a decade
14 and a half ago had its pipeline blow up in Bellingham, who
15 said -- and I was very intricately involved in the
16 negotiations of their pipeline that was going to go across
17 the trails in Washington state -- that that's impossible
18 because how they built these things. Well, it blew up. I
19 oppose it for all those reasons.

20 I oppose it because for the principle that this
21 is -- the product is going to be all used up and purchased
22 by a foreign company. There's no benefit to the citizens of
23 this great nation or this county.

24 And furthermore, it's all about, I really feel, our
25 elected officials -- not the planners, not the engineers,

1 not all the technical people -- but it's going to be our
2 elected officials who will be making this decision and I ask
3 them to please look at it from the moral principle and the
4 moral compass that we as Pierce County would love to see
5 Tacoma and Pierce County grow.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. ANDERSON NEWHAM: Thank you. My name is Susan
8 Anderson Newham, and I have grave reservations about the
9 building of this methanol plant.

10 I strongly question the assertion that it will be
11 entirely safe. There were four explosions at methanol
12 plants in China between August 12 and September 7 of last
13 year alone. The largest one killed 160 people and injured
14 800. It was equivalent to 21 tons of dynamite and it blew
15 out the windows of buildings two miles away -- and that was
16 not the largest methanol plant in the world. No. That
17 distinction will be ours.

18 And even if this is state-of-the art and we don't
19 experience our overdue earthquake and there's never another
20 drought, I believe the tax-paying citizens of Tacoma have a
21 right to know the plan for protecting us from a terrorist
22 attack, because largest methanol plant in the world, knowing
23 the explosive nature of methanol, sounds equivalent to
24 drawing a giant bull's eye around Tacoma.

25 And if the decision-makers choose to ignore the

1 health and safety of tax-paying, voting Tacoma citizens,
2 perhaps they will consider the questionable financial
3 outcomes for this plant. The profitability of this plant
4 depends entirely on the natural gas industry. Growth in the
5 natural gas industry depends entirely on fracking shale
6 deposits, but regions in 42 states have already passed bans
7 on fracking. Four states have banned it entirely.

8 A three-year, detailed study by an independent team
9 of geo-scientists, petroleum engineers, and economists --
10 not an industry team -- headed by the University of Texas at
11 Austin claims that the United States is setting itself up
12 for "a major fiasco" -- their quote -- in relation to the
13 natural gas industry. Their prediction is that the industry
14 will peak in 2020, followed by, and I quote again, "a sharp
15 decline."

16 I'm a union member and I want more high-value union
17 jobs in Tacoma as well, but not ones that will potentially
18 poison the workers as well as endanger residents and
19 potentially end up as a complete financial bust.

20 I'm proud of Tacoma's growth, diversity, and
21 natural beauty, but we need eyes on the future and not the
22 past. We need leaders focused on making Tacoma more
23 attractive for visitors and businesses and residents and not
24 a place to avoid, and I expect my elected leaders to accept
25 responsibility and then act responsibly.

1 MR. CARLTON: Hi. I'm John Carlton. I'm a
2 resident of Tacoma.

3 I've been following this issue for awhile and
4 gathering questions that I have. I was going to read a few
5 of them tonight, but I'll spare you. But I'll submit them,
6 and I encourage everyone else to submit their questions to
7 the City of Tacoma so that they can be answered.

8 I want to say what a great turnout. It is
9 fantastic to see the community of Tacoma get together and
10 say, "No methanol refinery in Tacoma."

11 I will also want to address a relationship -- a
12 related topic, which is the already approved liquified
13 natural gas storage facility planned for building not far
14 from the location of the refinery. If you haven't heard
15 about that, you need to look it up. We need to address this
16 issue. We need to put the clamps down on that as well. The
17 blast radius on that, if it were to go, has been compared to
18 a tactical nuclear weapon, so that's something that we have
19 to address after we take care of this methanol plant.

20 And then get ready: the oil trains. While we
21 already lead the Northwest with the most oil being shipped
22 through on rail, which is extremely dangerous and damaging
23 to the environment and potential disaster, the oil industry
24 is focusing its sights on Puget Sound to export abroad. The
25 export ban was lifted a month ago, and so this battle is not

1 over. This is...

2 I just think it's fantastic all of us are here.
3 Let's get ready and let's stop it, all of it. Thank you.

4 MS. ADKINS: Hi. My name is Jori Adkins, and we
5 need to have this stopped, but I have -- my things are
6 little -- I mean, kind of little.

7 But my first two, I've been reading the draft and I
8 want to -- I want to see something in here about aesthetics,
9 and I want to see something in here about some -- I don't
10 even know how to really express it -- it's like perception,
11 because to me, perception is really important. And I don't
12 know where that's going to fit, but it has to do with the
13 fact the reason why the price of houses is going to be less
14 may not be because they don't exist anymore because they
15 blew up, but because people perceive it as being really
16 dangerous and who wants to buy the houses. And so that's a
17 perception and so whatever that means, that needs to be in
18 this because it's really important.

19 It's something -- it's like if we perceive our town
20 as being crappy, then you get the last 40 years of
21 involvement in our government, which was nothing, and now,
22 look, people are starting to care. It's starting to look
23 better and people perceive it as being something that's
24 worth fighting for, and so that's what we're trying to do,
25 so perception.

1 Okay, so those are my two things, and I hope I have
2 a few more minutes, because I was reading this and in the --
3 just right up front in the proposed -- the description of
4 the proposal, it started talking about this other pipeline
5 that is going to go -- from where they're going to be
6 storing all this methanol, it's going to go across the Port
7 over to Blair Waterway, which is the deep-draft marine
8 terminal and that's where they'll load it on these big
9 ships. And then it says which -- okay, another pipeline
10 right across the Tideflats. Well, that's interesting.

11 Okay, but other than that, lowering for -- anyway,
12 okay, so the Port will be responsible for obtaining the
13 permits for this modification to any dock that needs to be
14 done, any kind of localized dredging that needs to be done
15 of the waterway to make it deep enough for these bigger
16 boats. And I was thinking about, the Port is going to start
17 doing things, like they're not just there as the lessor, but
18 they're actually being included in doing things? It seems
19 to me that all of a sudden, the Port is doing more than just
20 being a lessor. If that's true, then they are more
21 responsible than ever to us as people, and they have not
22 been at all and I'm really worried about that. So somehow
23 this has got to be connected to them somehow, because it's
24 not just the methanol plant, but it's the fact that they're
25 saying yes to it.

1 So thank you.

2 MR. STORMS: Good evening. My name is Steven
3 Storms. I am a resident that overlooks the proposed
4 methanol plant. I'm also a retired chemical engineer. I
5 have a professional engineering degree.

6 My whole career I've done work like this. Chemical
7 engineers are educated to design plants like this. My wife
8 got involved with this and she asked me to start looking at
9 it, so I was going to do it from an engineering view and not
10 be very passionate about it, but after I got to looking at
11 it, I could tell it was just such a bad idea, so I'm
12 speaking against it.

13 I'm sure that the world needs the world's largest
14 methanol plant to be built somewhere, but it sure doesn't
15 need to be built here. Lots and lots of things. I turned
16 in a ten-page analysis, but I can't do that in three
17 minutes, so I'll hit a few things that maybe people haven't
18 mentioned before.

19 Strain on resources, the water and electricity.
20 Water, if you believe in global warming and shrinking of
21 snowpack and glaciers, we're going to have less and less
22 water from now on, so I don't know how they're going to
23 provide that.

24 Electricity, the 400,000 mega -- 400 megawatts:
25 We're blessed with really, really low electrical rates here,

1 but if they do this, we won't see that because all the
2 hydropower will be gone and we'll be either building new
3 plants or buying it from someplace else. And they say it's
4 clean, but if we have to build it ourselves or buy it
5 someplace else, they're going to have to build new plants
6 and use fossil fuels for that, so that if we have to do
7 things like build new water plants and power plants, we're
8 going to have to have bond measures passed to pass the cost
9 on to us in a different way.

10 I'm looking at this and I think that we're doing an
11 EIS, but it looks like the federal government ought to be
12 the one having final approval.

13 I know that the waterway [sic] is going to endanger
14 protected species. I know that close to me, there's a bird
15 sanctuary; there's nesting eagle sites; there's migratory
16 birds that use that.

17 Methane is also the second-largest greenhouse
18 contributor in the world, mostly from the well sites and the
19 fracking.

20 One thing that I haven't heard mentioned tonight
21 was cooling towers. They're going to have to have massive
22 cooling towers, and if you see the plumes from the paper
23 mill, well, these are going to be down on the ground and
24 just cover everything.

25 So how bad is this going to be? You've heard about

1 the Chinese; and we've also had, in Kalama, a big explosion
2 with a pipeline, two explosions within two days, and it's
3 being built by the same company that's building the pipeline
4 here, so just in case.

5 In Port Hudson, there was a gas explosion and it
6 emitted 23 minutes. In the 23 minutes, it was equivalent --
7 the explosion was equivalent to ten Tomahawk missiles or
8 18 percent of a nuclear bomb. We're going to have much,
9 much more here. Instead of the 25 tons, the plant is going
10 to use 1,250 --

11 MS. SCHULTZ: Time.

12 MR. STORMS: -- 12,500 tons of methane, and the
13 ships are going to -- the storage tanks will be like 300,000
14 tons, and down the road when the bomb goes off, the --

15 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Storms.

16 MR. STORMS: -- target has millions of tons, so as
17 compared to 25 tons, that's how big the explosion will be.

18 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

19 MS. HAAS: I'm Katelynn Haas, a resident of Tacoma
20 since birth and now a senior at the University of Washington
21 Tacoma.

22 I stand here among the many others who feel their
23 voices of concern go unheard. Governor Inslee stated that
24 he is committed to Washington, shaping the low-carbon future
25 while simultaneously creating jobs for workers. I think

1 this is an important and necessary endeavor for our future
2 and jobs, but this proposal -- this proposed methanol plant
3 is not safe. If we are so committed to a more ethical,
4 low-carbon future, why then aren't we exploring more than
5 one alternative to reach the same outcome?

6 In places like California, people are creating
7 sustainable solar power and creating jobs with exponentially
8 less danger for its workers and the environment. Today's
9 solar industry employs over 208,000 people. 35,000 of these
10 jobs were added in just 2015 alone. Cities like Eugene,
11 Oregon, are testing solar-powered micro-grids with battery
12 storages in their attempt to displace natural gas plants
13 completely. Solar-powered growth is on the rise and
14 employing thousands of high-quality jobs while advancing our
15 environmental goals.

16 Not only are there other alternatives, but there's
17 no proof that fracking shale gas will even lower our CO2
18 emissions. In a recent study by BBC News, Inslee argued
19 that fracking lowered CO2 emissions by 11 percent. However,
20 these tests revealed that the drop in CO2 emissions had
21 little to nothing to do with the fracking and everything to
22 do with economic recession. It was the level of consumption
23 that lowered the greenhouse gas emissions, not the switch to
24 methanol gas. So not only are there other alternatives and
25 no proof that the plant will lower CO2 as promised, but the

1 dangers of the fracking are so extreme that it would be an
2 unequivocal mistake to continue with its construction.

3 Methanol can combust at a temperature as low as 52
4 degrees. This is the same temperature of any spring
5 afternoon in the Pacific Northwest.

6 In September of 2015, China reported its fourth
7 toxic blast from a methanol plant in just one month.

8 In a state with current natural disasters of fire,
9 we are also preparing for an upcoming drought. The Pacific
10 Northwest's greatest resource is water, yet this plant uses
11 three billion gallons of water per year. That is 10.3
12 million gallons of water per day.

13 I'm not saying that I don't want this methanol
14 plant just in the back yard of our city. I'm saying that I
15 don't want this plant anywhere. There are other avenues to
16 creating a truly low-carbon future like Governor Inslee is
17 so committed to, but I leave you with this one last
18 question: An inside source from Public Works has shared
19 with me that one of the pipelines running to Tacoma will
20 intersect directly beneath JBLM's jet fuel pipeline. Can
21 you tell me what safety precautions there would be so that
22 we don't all go up in flame -- if, by chance, we happen to
23 survive all other natural disasters -- from causing yet
24 another toxic blast?

25 MS. VITONE: All right, my name is Chelsea Vitone.

1 I am a student at U-Dub T. I was not born in Tacoma. I was
2 not raised in Tacoma, but that doesn't leave me with a good
3 feeling about this project. It doesn't matter where you're
4 from to know that this is a bad idea.

5 As a writer, I'm very concerned with language, the
6 way words are used, the way concepts are explained, the
7 rhetoric used to influence opinion.

8 Since the first time I heard of this proposed
9 petrochemical facility, I noticed a nagging issue with
10 semantics. Our city, county, and state leaders have
11 promised over and over again that methanol is a clean energy
12 source and is clean to make. The only truth of it is that
13 it is cleaner than existing fossil fuels, but clean is not
14 the same as clean. When city leaders mislead Tacomans this
15 way, it is equivalent to a doctor telling their patient they
16 are cancer free, when in fact they have a malignant growth
17 inside of their bodies but perhaps only Stage 2 or 3 instead
18 of Stage 4. Cancer is cancer. You may talk -- you may balk
19 at the toxic comparison, brush it off as an exaggeration,
20 but the facts are clear. There is nothing clean about this
21 project.

22 You've already heard about the millions of gallons
23 of water that will be used per minute, per day. Northwest
24 Innovation Works scrambled to decrease their consumption
25 rate, but when the word "reduction" only means shifting from

1 ten million gallons per minute to seven, the reduced volume
2 is purely rhetorical. We are still talking about billions
3 of gallons per year.

4 Naturally, this pattern of obscure or misleading
5 phrasing has me worried for the upcoming Environmental
6 Impact Statement and the scoping process leading up to it.
7 If we are simply considering the word "environment" to mean
8 the geographic borders surrounding the 1,500-acre site of
9 the old smelting factory, we are behaving with woeful
10 ignorance of the environmental consequences of producing
11 methanol in Tacoma.

12 The Williams pipeline that would bring fracked gas
13 from Canada to Tacoma runs along the entire west coast of
14 Washington and Oregon. Anyone who has heard of Naomi Klein,
15 journalist, author, and climate ambassador, knows the
16 economic and environmental issues surrounding fossil fuels,
17 which includes natural gas, in Alberta. If you don't know
18 her, if you don't know about Naomi Klein, you should. This
19 changes everything: capitalism versus environment.

20 In order to be considered thorough, this EIS would
21 need to consider the documented and fugitive methane leaked
22 from pipelines and greenhouse gas up to 80 percent more
23 than -- which is 80 percent more powerful than carbon
24 dioxide. It would need to consider the effect of those
25 emissions and how it spits in the face of the nearly 200

1 countries who signed a legal agreement which set ambitious
2 goals to limit temperature rise and hold governments
3 accountable for reaching these targets, only two months ago
4 in Paris. How can Tacoma stand behind an agreement to
5 produce more chemical pollution, more plastic pollution,
6 more global pollution during this time of climate crisis?

7 The debate, if there ever really was one, is over.
8 The time is now. Tacomans deserve clean, renewable energy
9 and clean, sustainable jobs. This refinery will jeopardize
10 its workers, the surrounding neighborhoods, and people far
11 beyond its borders.

12 I call for a global scope for the EIS. It should
13 take into account the local and global water usage and
14 subsequent pollution, the local and global air pollution,
15 the local and global climate consequences.

16 I wish I could say I trust our officials to make
17 the right decision, but from the way this process has been
18 handled, I'm painfully skeptical.

19 This is Ben.

20 MR. BEN VITONE: I don't want this plant because it
21 will hurt the environment and take water from all of us. I
22 don't want this plant because if they want it in China, then
23 they can build it in China. This is my future. Please
24 protect it.

25 MS. DONAVAN: My name is Angi Donovan. I have

1 lived in Tacoma, Washington, for 17 and a half years. I
2 moved here because of my dad, but I've stayed here because
3 as Tacoma grows, her evolution continually resonates with my
4 values. She and I have been called hippie, gritty, liberal,
5 progressive, humanitarian, environmentally conscious,
6 artistically inclined, and definitely forward-thinking.

7 Being a yoga teacher in this beautiful city for the
8 last 11 and half years, I have definitely met and come to
9 know thousands of her inhabitants, hundreds of thousands of
10 people who continually make investments in her sustainable,
11 forward-thinking, thriving future, from Hilltop artists to
12 Fab-5, from SODA to SAMI, Grant Elementary, Spaceworks,
13 Geiger Elementary, Associated Ministries of Tacoma, the
14 U-Dub of Tacoma, Hope Sparks, the Grand Cinema, 2nd Cycle,
15 the Rainbow Center, the Guadalupe House, Tacoma Art Museum,
16 the Glass Museum, United Way of Pierce County, Tacoma Shine
17 Youth Athletics, Washington Women's Employment & Education,
18 Catherine's Place. We are even home to the Northwest Spay &
19 Neuter Center -- and so many more organizations work hard
20 every day for the better of Tacoma. We are home of over 35
21 community gardens and over a hundred city parks, including
22 the second-largest city park in the United States: Point
23 Defiance. She is the home of over 50 wellness, massage,
24 yoga, healing-based studios. Tacoma inhabitants care very
25 much about her, and again, hundreds of thousands of people

1 have invested their time and money into making her a better
2 place, each making her streets, air, land, and water safer.
3 We make up her environment and we stand up for her.

4 It may seem like this methanol plant is the answer
5 for cleaner energy and less pollution, but to really protect
6 and nourish the earth and humanity, we need to move in
7 another direction completely. It's time. It's time we stop
8 overdepending on plastics so that we are motivated to use
9 energy and make resources that do not harm humanity and the
10 earth, that has zero negative impact.

11 I am here because I believe in a city and because I
12 believe in making decisions that are intelligent and
13 sustainable. It is wise for us to continue conserving our
14 resources. It is intelligent for us to continue forward,
15 making our air and water even cleaner.

16 For those of the City Council members and all the
17 City officials listening, please remember, you do not work
18 for China. You were not -- you were not voted in by the
19 dollar bill. Your employers, the citizens of Tacoma, are
20 standing up right now and speaking loud and clear. It is
21 not too late for you to stand up too. There is still time
22 to (unclear) Tacoma's value, her beauty, her potential of
23 being the most forward-thinking city in the entire world.
24 It has to start somewhere.

25 MR. FEAR: My name is Dan Fear. I was born and

1 raised in Tacoma and I've lived here for more than 40 years.

2 There are many reasons I oppose this project. This
3 methanol plant is not a good idea for our city. Tonight,
4 though, I only want to talk about one issue and that's in
5 the Environmental Impact Statement and that is
6 transportation.

7 I live on the east side of Tacoma and right now
8 there's a major freeway construction project going on. It
9 affects my life daily. This project that's being built, the
10 methanol plant, is going to affect thousands of people
11 transportation-wise, those that live in northeast Tacoma,
12 those that have to travel through Fife, the Port of Tacoma.
13 Now, sometimes it only affects me occasionally, once, maybe
14 a minute a day; sometimes I change my route.

15 I've noticed this week -- and I went to northeast
16 Tacoma twice -- that the freeway was backed up and it was
17 backed up because of transportation issues related to the
18 traffic lights at the Port of Tacoma and the main
19 intersection in Fife. Now, when I travel down I-5, I am
20 aware of it and I move to the inside lane. This could have
21 a great effect on somebody coming around the Fife corner and
22 all of a sudden, and not paying attention, the traffic is
23 stopped ahead of him trying to exit off the freeway, and,
24 bam, they smash into the back of a truck or another vehicle.
25 This could be devastating. Maybe this plant and the

1 Environmental Impact Statement needs to take into account
2 the jobs, the construction material moving through that
3 area.

4 We hear a lot about the jobs it's going to create.
5 Are they going to drive there? What's going to happen?
6 This has a huge impact. It's going to affect the businesses
7 that are currently in Fife and along the Port of Tacoma.
8 How's it going to affect them? It's time. Whether it's one
9 minute or five minutes a day, that adds up over three years.
10 That's a huge impact, so I hope that the Environmental
11 Impact Statement carefully looks at this aspect of the
12 project.

13 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you. Our next ten speakers
14 are:

15 (Recitation of names.)

16 MS. DiNINO: I'm Lynn DiNino. Please add my name
17 to the groundswell of Tacoma area residents against the
18 development of the methanol plant.

19 There are many reasons to say no: the fact that it
20 will consume giant amounts of water with the possibility of
21 future drought in the area, will spew chemicals into the air
22 and will manufacture a product in the creation of yet more
23 plastic. On top of everything else, it is considered to be
24 an explosive hazard, with east Tacoma and Tideflat residents
25 living nearby. After scores of years in the clean-up of

1 past toxic manufacturing ventures, why would Tacoma or the
2 Port agree to this development in trade for so few permanent
3 jobs?

4 In a recent discussion with ex-councilman David
5 Boe, when I expressed my skepticism, he said that we already
6 had a high number of water-consuming and environmentally
7 dangerous businesses in the Tideflats. Why couldn't more be
8 added? The conversation made me wonder if this reflects the
9 attitude of our City Council and the Port.

10 When Chinese President Xi came to visit Tacoma last
11 September to cement this deal, which has been in the works
12 since 2014, we citizens were not fully aware. Does saving
13 face at this late date trump we anti-methanol plant citizens
14 who can supply long lists of reasons to back out of the
15 deal? Will democracy reign here or is it an already done
16 deal?

17 Thank you.

18 MS CAMPBELL: My name's -- oh, wow, that's loud.
19 My name's Sailor Campbell. I live in Hilltop.

20 I was reading in the Tacoma Weekly and I heard
21 about the refinery going up, and the first thing I thought
22 of was -- I started to say a vulgarity, but I won't. And it
23 was like I was complaining and I'm thinking, well, instead
24 of just complaining, I'll try to do something. The only
25 thing I could think of was when they were talking about they

1 were coming to the convention here to speak, well, let's do
2 that.

3 Well, the first thing I thought of was the only
4 people that are going to benefit from this refinery is
5 China. Nobody else is going to benefit from it. And in the
6 long run, neither will the jobs, because the jobs only going
7 to last for a while. I personally would not want a job that
8 would probably harm everybody. So the money, yeah, the
9 money's nice, but knowing maybe my kids are going to be sick
10 and I may not -- I'm going to be sick too. I probably won't
11 be alive by the time the refinery is even halfway built,
12 so...

13 But what about the Puyallup tribe? I don't even
14 know if they -- you know, they've got a lot of that fish
15 that they depend on and they'll be affected by it, all that
16 fish and all the air and water and us and our kids, Tacoma,
17 because Tacoma's beautiful and the water and everything.

18 I love Tacoma. I grew up here. I was gone for a
19 while, but I came back. And I love Tacoma and the people
20 and I'm not about to leave it, and I don't want it to leave
21 us.

22 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

23 MR. NIX: Hi. My name is Ben Nix.

24 When I first heard about this, I just couldn't
25 believe that our City Council and everybody is that stupid

1 to even think about it. I mean, I was -- my father was the
2 only man who served two terms as Commissioner of Police, so
3 I know a little bit about the laws and rules and how things
4 work and it's the stupidest thing I've ever heard of, so I'm
5 here to tell you that. But mainly, I'm here to tell the
6 Tacoma citizens something that it's been five years since
7 I've been able to say without the chance of going to --
8 losing my job or going to jail.

9 The City Council has always hid -- you guys just
10 found out about that. Well, you guys didn't know about the
11 Murray Morgan Bridge, did you? Did you know about all the
12 work they did? Did you know that for one year, they dumped
13 tons of lead-based paint off that dock, off that bridge into
14 the water? There's video footage of it all over we have
15 hidden. So if you go on YouTube and look it up, it's been
16 erased, so they hide more than just than you think.

17 I love Tacoma. I've been a musician here since
18 1991, and my dad always said, "How far are you willing to go
19 to stand up for what you believe in?" Well, I'm willing to
20 go all the way. So if you want a fight on our hands with
21 it, we got one.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. COLLERAN: I'm Carol Colleran. I was born in
24 Tacoma and graduated from Lincoln High School and the
25 University of Puget Sound.

1 I do love Tacoma. I was -- I so much appreciate
2 all the people who are so eloquent in what they say, and
3 some of the things that I had prepared, well, they already
4 have been covered, so I'm not going to repeat myself, so I'm
5 just going to speak from my personal experience.

6 So my husband died at 57 years of age, and I am
7 sure it was because of chemical pollution of his system that
8 his brain could not handle. When he was 16, he was poisoned
9 by a pesticide when he was working in the wheatfields in
10 eastern Washington and he was -- his brother found him
11 unconscious in a pool of sweat and he was hospitalized.
12 And then later on, as an adult, he went through a year of
13 chemotherapy. And I am just sure and doctors -- other
14 doctors that see brain pollution from pesticides in the
15 migrant workers gave us this clue that it affects our
16 bodies; it affects the brain. And we don't know -- the
17 doctors are very reluctant to come up and say, this is going
18 to do this and this is going to do that, because it does
19 affect each person in a different way. But for my husband,
20 three areas of his brain were disintegrating -- it's not
21 genetic -- and it affected his balance and his blood
22 pressure and the area that is involved with Parkinson's. In
23 the last two years of his life, he was bedridden, and he
24 died of aspiration pneumonia at the age of 57.

25 I'm speaking here today and I'm trying to be active

1 in this No Methanol movement. And one of my daughters is a
2 more sustained activist in trying to have a clean
3 environment. She's an organic farmer and she is doing her
4 part, and we all need to do our part.

5 Thank you.

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes, I won't repeat the same
7 things as everybody else. I agree with all of you, and I
8 really applaud all of you coming tonight. I just think this
9 is fantastic, just fantastic, and I hope -- I'm really sorry
10 there's only two of you from the City here.

11 (Inaudible audience comments.)

12 There's more?

13 (Inaudible audience comments.)

14 Yes, it's pathetic. It's true. Like, where are
15 the commissioners of the Port? Where are they? You know,
16 we haven't heard a word, so there's only you. There's no
17 city council members. I mean, I don't know. We're talking
18 and we care so much about this project and yet we're talking
19 to two people. It's nice, right? I'm talking to all of you
20 because I prefer to talk to you than to talk to two people,
21 really.

22 And so my experience is that I have worked with
23 Chinese companies, Chinese government institutions for 20
24 years. I am not against the Chinese, so it's not xenophobia
25 of any sort, but the Chinese government institutions will

1 sign any contract very easily. But when it doesn't suit
2 them, they break the contract: "Contract? I didn't know
3 you had a contract. Oh?" And then the contract is gone
4 and they don't abide by anything.

5 And here, enough people have talked about that this
6 Northwest Innovation Works is an LLC: No responsibility,
7 basically. LLC: No responsibility.

8 So we have this and we have other Chinese-backed
9 methanol plants in America. So the first one, St. James
10 Parish, Louisiana, when did they break ground? When
11 President Jinping happened to come visit. That's when they
12 broke ground. And there's a report in one of the Louisiana
13 newspapers that suddenly the emissions were lowered.
14 Suddenly those statistics just changed, so now the emissions
15 are lower. Like the way this water usage is getting lower
16 and lower, all mere statistics. So here we are depending on
17 the statistics as actual facts for this environmental study,
18 but these statistics are just manufactured.

19 The Chinese government with their methanol plants,
20 another one in Texas: same problem. You just look at the
21 history of other Chinese methanol plants in the United
22 States. There's a lot of problems.

23 You mentioned the pipeline: Also a lot of problems
24 with those.

25 So why do we have to repeat this? So I say to you,

1 I am completely against this folly of folly.

2 MS. NICHOLS: Hello. My name is Laure Nichols and
3 I live in north Tacoma. I've lived in the city of Tacoma
4 for over 30 years with my family, and we are extremely
5 concerned about the Port of Tacoma's proposal to site a
6 Chinese methanol plant next to a liquified gas plant, a host
7 of other explosive and toxic operations, a detention center,
8 neighborhoods, and key transportation routes throughout our
9 area. I have submitted my written and oral testimony to the
10 City for its SEPA process, but I want to summarize some of
11 my concerns here again.

12 Number 1: This proposed plant estimates that it
13 will use as much precious fresh water as all of Tacoma uses
14 every day. What will the impact of this astounding water
15 use be on the Green River watershed and local aquifers? How
16 will fish and wildlife habitat be protected and preserved?
17 How will future water for citizens be guaranteed and at
18 stable rates?

19 Number 2: The plant will require approximately
20 450 megawatts of electricity daily, enough to power three
21 to four hundred thousand homes. It's unclear how this
22 electricity will be purchased and what impact this will have
23 on future Tacoma rates. How can rate stability for Tacoma
24 be guaranteed?

25 Number 3: Northwest Innovation Works estimates the

1 use of 524 million cubic feet of natural gas to create
2 20,000 metric tons of methanol every day. As we know,
3 methanol is a highly explosive gas even at room temperature,
4 which burns with a clear, invisible flame. In case of an
5 earthquake, lahar, tsunami, or accidental explosion, who
6 will pay for the liability? The proposed plant, as we also
7 know, sits squarely on top of an existing earthquake fault.

8 Given that this will be the largest methanol
9 refinery in the world and one of the first of its type
10 built, what precautions will be taken to avoid an accidental
11 explosion which could produce a blast zone encompassing the
12 Port of Tacoma, the detention center, northeast Tacoma, and
13 parts of downtown Tacoma and Fife?

14 Number 5: What harmful toxins will be in the
15 estimated 1.44 million gallons of superhot wastewater runoff
16 produced daily, and how will this toxic water be cleaned and
17 disposed of before it enters our vulnerable Puget Sound?

18 Number 6: There are many concerns about its highly
19 toxic gas. How will citizens breathing our already
20 compromised air be protected from these toxins, many of
21 which have been shown to be carcinogenic?

22 Number 7: I'd like to request completion of a
23 cumulative impact statement measuring all impacts on the
24 environment and human health through this refinery's
25 complete supply chain.

1 In closing, Tacoma has worked hard to clean up its
2 image. There are huge risks, both environmental and
3 economic, in locating the world's largest methanol refinery
4 in the heart of our city. We ask that the City of Tacoma
5 not jeopardize the short- and long-term health and safety of
6 our citizens and environment by siting this refinery in
7 Tacoma.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. HOLDERMAN: Good evening. My name is Eric
10 Holderman and I'm a resident of Puyallup, I guess a
11 downwinder by tonight's definition. My profession is
12 emergency management, and typically I fight every day with
13 people to stop them from dismissing risks that they live
14 with, so it's interesting to participate in this tonight.

15 I did serve four years as the director of security
16 for the Port of Tacoma.

17 Specifically, I am a strong supporter of
18 maintaining an industrial base called the Tideflats here,
19 from the Foss Waterway over to the Hylebos. We need to
20 preserve that as heavy industrial area. If you look at what
21 is happening in Seattle, has happened to SODO, Georgetown,
22 those areas, that light manufacturing, heavy industrial is
23 being pushed out by urbanization and gentrification.

24 I'm interested in the project because of the jobs
25 it can create and the potential for economic development

1 here in the region. It's a significant opportunity.
2 However, I support a rigorous EIS that's fact-based. I know
3 it's hard to take the emotion out of a lot of what we've
4 heard tonight, but we need a fact-based EIS.

5 I'm particularly concerned, as many have mentioned,
6 about the use of water and power and our ability to sustain
7 that over time due to climate change, population growth, and
8 what have you. That's the way it looks to me specifically
9 today.

10 I'm also concerned about the safety and security of
11 the facility. I feel confident that the environmental
12 issues will be addressed by the Department of Ecology in
13 this state. Nothing's going to be built that is polluting
14 our waters or the air or the land on a routine basis. It
15 will not happen. However, safety and security is another
16 piece. I urge the EIS to coordinate with the Department of
17 Homeland Security. Protective security adviser Dave
18 Holcomb, he does critical infrastructure investigations and
19 would do that free for this type of facility.

20 You know, three years ago, I actually ran for the
21 Port commission and the most common question I got asked is,
22 "What does a Port commissioner do?" And a Port commissioner
23 sets policy and direction for the Port, to include land use.
24 Certainly, that's been heard loud and clear in the last
25 couple hours.

1 Earlier this evening, there was a charge made about
2 corruption for the Port of Tacoma Commission. I adamantly
3 reject that charge. I do not believe it. Having worked
4 there, worked with those individuals, it is untrue.

5 However, there has been a failure in transparency
6 by the Port, because they're not used to being transparent,
7 even though they're a government agency and it's a value
8 they have.

9 The other failure is the lack of citizen interest
10 in the Port. It's been an invisible government here in
11 Pierce County, and I urge you all to become more
12 participatory in the future.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. SCHULTZ: My next ten speakers will be:

15 (Recitation of names.)

16 MS. MALOTT: My name is Melissa Malott, and I am
17 the executive director of Citizens for a Healthy Bay. Thank
18 you so much for taking public comment tonight.

19 I'm just going to jump in right away. We've been
20 reviewing the draft EIS scope and had a couple of thoughts
21 about things that should be added.

22 First, we want to know that NWI states that many of
23 the technologies that they are going to be using are cutting
24 edge. Because new technology can be a double-edged sword of
25 both efficiency and never quite working as planned, the EIS

1 should evaluate the potential shortfalls and reliability of
2 the proposed technologies, the impact of the technology not
3 working, and alternative processes to the technology that
4 NWI may use.

5 Regarding water usage and systems, the significant
6 electricity use of the project is of concern to CHB.
7 Accordingly, the EIS should cover whether the project will
8 negotiate a contract with Tacoma Power for power purchase or
9 use another source such as Bonneville Power Administration
10 and the short-term, mid-term, and long-term impacts of the
11 project's significant electricity use on Tacoma Power's or
12 another power provider's -- if chosen -- power portfolio.

13 Also, please review whether the regional electrical
14 grid has the additional capacity required for this refinery
15 and how regional growth over the next 25 years will impact
16 that capacity.

17 Regarding water and air pollution, the project
18 would produce a variety of air pollutants both through its
19 construction and ongoing operation, many of which would
20 impact water resources. For on-site pollution, the EIS
21 should evaluate the impact of the project's pollutants,
22 including light pollution on terrestrial natural resources
23 and how the project will impact the visual quality of the
24 region, the type and amount of fugitive emissions within the
25 project site and from the pipeline lateral, and how the

1 amount of pollutants released will vary in amount during
2 various stages of construction and operation.

3 Regarding community safety, significant human and
4 community safety concerns are associated with this project.
5 The EIS should adequately address these concerns and provide
6 details on how they would be managed by including in the
7 scope, first, the demographics of the populations working,
8 recreating, and living within vulnerability zones
9 surrounding the facility for both chemicals or pollutants
10 and fire and explosions.

11 In the case of fire, the impact of water sprayed on
12 the fire draining into Commencement Bay and how the refinery
13 will prevent the water that was sprayed onto the plant from
14 fire hoses from entering Commencement Bay.

15 And third, the risks associated with explosions,
16 leaks, or releases from the lateral pipeline for both human
17 and environmental health and safety.

18 Thank you again for your time tonight and for
19 taking public comment on the scoping. Please consider the
20 scope of issues that should be evaluated in the EIS for the
21 proposed methanol plant. Doing so will help us keep the bay
22 healthy for the citizens of Tacoma and our state and to
23 ensure that our community can thrive today and for
24 generations to come.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. BURKE: Good evening. My name is Dean Burke.
2 I am a citizen of Tacoma. I won't repeat everything that's
3 been said tonight. There's been a lot of great comments
4 between this one and the last. I just want to add two
5 points to go directly to the scope for the environmental
6 impact.

7 As this project has been touted against a global
8 aspect, global concern, one of the -- two of the line items:
9 One of them is that this would displace 60 million cars a
10 year, the equivalent emissions. However, to say you're
11 removing something is to actually remove it. This is
12 actually, I've read, going to put up 60 new ships going
13 around the world in a year, so I would like to see what the
14 Environmental Impact Statement says on that emission
15 creation.

16 Second is, again, with the idea of replacing,
17 displacing, or exchanging something is, will a coal-fired
18 facility be decommissioned at the design of a natural gas-
19 fired one?

20 Thank you.

21 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Sherry Anderson.

22 Having reviewed the February 5th DEIS, my comments
23 address just some of the scope of work in that document.

24 I note in paragraph 5 regarding air quality, your
25 current language on page 6 -- look it up -- does not clearly

1 establish the direction of the scope. The final sentence in
2 the top paragraph is confusing, and I quote -- you can read
3 along with me. This is the sentence: "That is because in
4 order to compare this proposal with other alternatives, it
5 is important to acknowledge, not analyze the complete
6 context, rather than plant operation alone in isolation from
7 the inputs and outputs without which the project would not
8 operate."

9 As this is a draft document, I'll await a later
10 revision which clarifies your intention in both this
11 paragraph and the one to follow, correcting the equally
12 indecipherable language.

13 Air quality is a significant concern for an
14 Environmental Impact Statement. I'm disappointed in this
15 draft's dodgy attempt to evade the due diligence residents
16 deserve by deflecting with a statement that, quote, "The
17 analysis will not attempt to capture in detail...but be
18 succinct and straightforward." When it comes to the scoping
19 about air quality, include detail. The stakes are far too
20 high to suffice with, quote, "succinct and straightforward,"
21 end quote. This sounds too much like a half-hearted attempt
22 to appease the requirements of the EIS without actual review
23 of third-party assessment. For potential impacts to air
24 quality, be thorough. We would like to breathe clean air
25 and trust we're not contributing significantly detrimental

1 impacts to others.

2 In Section 14, paragraph one, the scoping is
3 directed to, quote, "...ensure financial security is in
4 place to address such accidents," end quote. Financial
5 security for whom? The Port? The investment company behind
6 the proposal? The City of Tacoma? Residents? Please
7 specify what the restitution process will be to claim such,
8 quote, "financial security," end quote. Is this proposed to
9 be an insurance policy, a fund established in trust? What?
10 This lack of clarity is consistent and disappointing
11 throughout the current draft.

12 Additionally, this current scope does not address
13 concerns regarding conflict of interest of the private
14 portfolios -- BP stock anyone? -- or interests of officials
15 involved in supporting this effort, nor details about the
16 reference to public taxes.

17 The proposal represents a sweet opportunity not for
18 investors only, but for the full support of our community in
19 finding an alternative industry ready to propel us forward
20 in pursuit and aligned with already adopted environmental
21 and societal visions for Tacoma and Pierce County, and I
22 look forward to the EIS's list of alternatives to this
23 proposal.

24 MS. JONES: Hi. I am Glynda Jones. I'm not from
25 Tacoma, as you might can tell by my accent. I'm from Texas,

1 and the part of Texas I'm from is the Texas Gulf Coast and
2 we're riddled with chemical plants, and I bet I'm the only
3 one here that's been actually involved in a chemical plant
4 explosion.

5 I am a nurse from there and a retired first
6 responder. I was involved in the Union Carbide plant
7 explosion down there in '94 when the ethylene oxide tank
8 exploded, and I responded to an organic peroxide fire at the
9 Formosa plant. I can tell every one of you, there's no such
10 thing as a 100 percent safe plant. Every plant that has
11 ever been made has problems, whether it be from human error,
12 design error, electronic failure -- every one of them leaks,
13 has accidents. One of the safest plants down there, the
14 Formosa plastics plant, has people monitoring it for leaks,
15 but they have accidents, explosions, everything. So, no,
16 this thing will not be 100 percent.

17 It depends: How big a chance are you willing to
18 take on a fault zone, in an earthquake zone? Your children
19 already have to rehearse active shooter drills. Now are you
20 ready to take them in their schools and have them drilling?
21 Because in our area, children have to do drills, shelter-in-
22 place drills where they're stuffing rags and towels in the
23 windows and doors of their schools. It's a normal thing we
24 have to live with down there. Are you ready for that?

25 Thank you.

1 MS. PEAPHON: Hi. My name is Valerie Peaphon.
2 P-e-a-p-h-o-n. I live in north Tacoma.
3 I'm an active, dedicated, and proud union member,
4 and I oppose this proposal to build this methanol refinery.
5 My concern isn't that the building trades wouldn't build the
6 structure to code. We all know they could and would. But
7 how does that prevent an accident from occurring inside the
8 refinery? Fires and explosions of this sort are all too
9 common and often deadly. How would that prevent a natural
10 disaster, an earthquake, or a tsunami? How would that
11 prevent the refinery from releasing toxic and hazardous air
12 pollutants? How would it stop the refinery from warming the
13 water in the bay, causing acidification, killing salmon, and
14 other marine life?

15 No. We must move away from fossil fuels like coal
16 and natural gas and toward renewable energy. Why can't we
17 build something that is truly safe and green, something that
18 we can all support? Let's put our energy toward building a
19 factory that manufactures solar panels or wind turbines.
20 Let's put them to work building a glass recycling center.

21 In closing, I must say I see a lot of red in the
22 room tonight. I see it in the bright eyes indicating a fire
23 in the soul. I see it in the fight to save our community,
24 to reclaim control. Red, the color of the faces elected
25 officials hide behind as their plans, now exposed,

1 disintegrate, collapse, unwind. Red, the blood pulsing in
2 our ears as we sit through the deceit and uncover the facts
3 and plan our attacks and counterattacks, as we beat back
4 nightmares premiering toxic smokestacks. Words matter.
5 Natural gas is not green, and methanol isn't a plant.

6 So make no mistake: Red will not fall defeated and
7 weary. Red will overcome with true love for our city.

8 MS. RADFORD: Hello. My name is Sally Radford. I
9 am a citizen of Tacoma. I'm very upset over the proposed
10 construction of the methanol refinery.

11 My mother's family immigrated to Tacoma around 1909
12 and my dad's family immigrated to Seattle around 1880s. I
13 have generations of family members that have lived, worked
14 hard to build and loved these two cities. I refuse to stand
15 by and do nothing to the proposed evil monster that is
16 currently threatening our loved and blessed town.

17 I am a Christian and I believe the teachings in all
18 of the major religious texts across all religions show us
19 that whatever seed that you produce, you shall harvest.
20 Your harvest, blessings or curses, will transcend your
21 future generations. You are in a position to change the
22 course of this City of Destiny. The power is in your hands.
23 You will reap the harvest. We have all seen how one
24 refurbished house can transform a block by setting a new
25 standard, and this phenomenon works vice versa as well.

1 I will refuse to pay power, water, and property
2 taxes to a city that invites this evil monster to move in
3 and settle here, endangering its citizens, children, and
4 wildlife. I will move out of this county as soon as the
5 light turns green on this project.

6 Just as the Man in Black, Johnny Cash, dressed in
7 black to represent all of the people that have been
8 mistreated, I stand here before you dressed in red to
9 represent all of the thousands of people that could not
10 stand here today: our elderly, our sick and disabled, our
11 children, our pets and our wildlife. You may see hundreds
12 here, but we represent the thousands in our beloved area.

13 You are in a critical position that will have
14 wide-range implications that you may not fully or currently
15 understand. It is up to you to do the right thing here for
16 all of us.

17 Thank you for this opportunity to speak, and I
18 sincerely hope that God is on your side, because, as Bob
19 Dylan so eloquently put it, "It may be the devil or it may
20 be the Lord, but you're gonna have to serve somebody."

21 MS. UPDEGRAVE: Good evening, and thank you for
22 hearing my comments, and thank you, everyone, for sharing
23 the comprehensive comments that you had tonight.

24 My name is Cynthia Updegrave. I teach at the
25 University of Washington. I teach restoration ecology,

1 environmental science and environmental history, and my
2 area of interest is the last 20,000 years, and I oppose --
3 I oppose the Tacoma methanol plant.

4 We live and work, by treaty agreements, in the
5 homelands of the Puyallup Tribe. These agreements include
6 salmon and a watershed that supports them. In addition to
7 the other comments registered tonight, I add that the
8 Puyallup watershed begins at the top of a volcano with
9 glaciers 14,441 feet above us less than 50 miles away. It
10 ends in the estuary, now the Port of Tacoma, before it
11 continues on to the Salish Sea. These glaciers are equal to
12 all of the ice contained in all of the volcanos in Cascadia
13 combined. This volcano has erupted ten times in 4,000
14 years, and mud flows have included the largest landslides on
15 earth. All mountains eventually wind up in the sea, and mud
16 flows are also created when glaciers melt.

17 Our climate is warming rapidly and entering the
18 temperature ranges of 10,000 to 6,000 years ago. It was a
19 lot warmer then because our planet faced the sun in the
20 summer, so we had longer droughts and hotter summers, equal
21 to where we're going in the next 50 to 100 years and beyond.
22 This was more of an astronomical occurrence, but now we're
23 in an anthropological occurrence.

24 The unstable outwash floods that can occur as
25 glaciers melt, we've seen them close I-5 and there are more

1 to come. They also send landslides down. This water is
2 thousands of years old. Our watersheds have been buffered
3 over time in the summer drought, the climate of the coastal
4 temperate rainforest by snow melt, and the rainforest
5 itself. It came into existence 6,000 years ago, along with
6 the stabilization of the salmon, and they exist together at
7 this time in a climate that is warming, and for these
8 reasons, I object to using 250 -- or 2,500 gallons of water
9 per minute and evaporating 90 percent of it at a time when
10 we live with so much climate instability.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. WOODWARD: My name is Sara Woodward and I
13 oppose this project. Normally, communities come together
14 after a catastrophe, and we look really good, Tacoma.

15 I moved here for graduate school, with no intent to
16 stay, but this little city stole my heart and my husband and
17 I contribute to this community. And I have twin three-year-
18 olds and a six-year-old at home and I missed bedtime tonight
19 to be here, I missed snuggles to be here, because I'm
20 investing in their future with my words.

21 I'm so betrayed by the people I voted for. Out of
22 the 34 letters that I have sent in the last two weeks, I
23 have heard back from three. Thank you, Councilman Ibsen,
24 Councilman McCarthy, and Councilman Young for at least
25 giving me the time to respond to me. I did invite Governor

1 Inslee tonight, and I got an e-mail from a staffer that he
2 couldn't make it.

3 Without talking more about the water, I want to
4 talk about the fact that we should be spending our energy
5 and resources on water conservation and water storage,
6 technology for fish, farms, and water we're going to need to
7 drink.

8 I want to talk about the water waste and the fact
9 that we're going to be producing 200 gallons of wastewater
10 per minute at such high temperatures that if we put it into
11 our wastewater treatment plant, we will kill the flora that
12 is used to treat our water.

13 I want to talk about the fact that we are feeding
14 into a cycle of plastic production which is destroying our
15 oceans. Oceans contribute 50 percent of the oxygen we
16 breathe. When our oceans die, we will die. We can't do
17 that. It's a moral, ethical, and existential problem.

18 Pierce County has the worst wood smoke particulate
19 matter in the country. I didn't say county. Country. My
20 husband and I served on an air quality board for two years
21 for Pierce County. We heard all the dirty facts.

22 Darn it. Put that down. I'm not done.

23 I can talk about ships: ships to China, ships back
24 from China.

25 I can talk about the significant dangers to human

1 safety that everyone else has talked about. We'll pay the
2 premiums on that because there's no actual true amount that
3 can cover the catastrophe that will happen, so we'll pay for
4 it; FEMA will pay for it.

5 Anyway, thank you for the time. I appreciate you
6 listening -- and we look good, Tacoma.

7 MS. SCHULTZ: Our next ten speakers are:

8 (Recitation of names.)

9 MS. SCHULTZ: I believe we had 130 totally sign up,
10 and this puts us through 70.

11 So is one of you Wade? Go ahead.

12 MR. NEAL: Good evening. My name is Wade Neal.
13 I'm a Tacoma resident and I'm an attorney. I also work for
14 a local nonprofit organization.

15 I commend the planning department in embarking on
16 the difficult task of drafting the EIS.

17 I want to make a little side note: I know that the
18 Port has a legitimate desire to recoup the tens of millions
19 of dollars that have been spent in cleaning up the site that
20 should have been cleaned by Kaiser Aluminum. It should be
21 noted and remembered that that company avoided its
22 responsibilities through bankruptcy production, and it's a
23 shame that Kaiser's failure to be a responsible corporate
24 citizen in the past continues to affect our beautiful city
25 today and will for many decades to come.

1 I'd note also that a few have mentioned the
2 Superfund site. The department and our citizens should be
3 reminded that there is no Superfund. There has never --
4 there has not been a Superfund for over 20 years and that
5 any disaster caused by the methanol plant will rest solely
6 on our shoulders to clean up, should it decide to simply
7 dissolve its corporate form or claim bankruptcy.

8 My questions are focused on Sections 6.2, 7.1, and
9 14 of the scoped EIS. So with respect to the EIS, I
10 respectfully request that the department inquire deeply into
11 the claims of economic benefit to the area, Section 14. I
12 believe that the department should inquire as to what the
13 percentage of jobs created, how many will be staffed by
14 Tacoma/Pierce County citizens, how many will be recruited
15 from out of the state or out of the country, how many H-1B
16 visas are in the line items of the corporation's business
17 plan. Please find out how many of these jobs will be union,
18 how many will be nonunion. Please estimate how much
19 automation in the future might reduce those jobs that will
20 be available.

21 The department should also find out what percentage
22 of the plant will be constructed overseas or out of state.
23 What portion of the estimated \$3.4 billion will be spent in
24 Pierce County or even Washington state? In California, the
25 new Bay Bridge was constructed in China. Will this plant be

1 constructed here or elsewhere? The company has no
2 obligation to build the plant here.

3 The department should also investigate whether the
4 plant would cause other types of businesses not to invest
5 here.

6 The department should also investigate the plant's
7 negative impact on tourism dollars.

8 Please also thoroughly investigate the safety
9 records of key personnel of the three main companies that
10 are involved.

11 The climate matters. Esthetics and reputation
12 matter.

13 Please also investigate the plant's effect on
14 industrial and residential water pressure throughout
15 Tacoma's water system.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MS. REYNOLDS: My name is Shannon Reynolds, council
18 member to the City of Fircrest, delegate to the Pierce
19 County Regional Council, and baccalaureate biologist and
20 economist. However, I'm not here to speak on behalf of any
21 particular organization, and I'll keep my comments brief.

22 I don't want to criticize other elected officials
23 tonight -- I've been in the situation room before, tasked
24 with making immensely difficult decisions -- but rather, I
25 came to speak tonight to ask you to consider the weight of

1 this project and what it would effectively put on our young
2 people to come. This is not new. We as policy-makers have
3 placed the weight of static decisions made at the accounting
4 margin on the shoulders of our young people for time
5 immemorial like the weight of the world on the shoulders of
6 Atlas. It is time that we consider the opportunity costs of
7 our decisions and their future ethical and ecological
8 implications. We can make dynamic decisions that consider
9 the well-being of all the stakeholders in this project which
10 includes every person who lives in our shared community.

11 As earlier commenters asked, where are our elected
12 officials and why don't they care enough to speak up? I do,
13 and my door is always open. As policy-makers, the answers
14 are in front of us if we will only listen to our
15 constituents.

16 I want to go on the record opposing the proposed
17 methanol plant.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. GIBSON: My name is Lena Gibson. I'm a retired
20 teacher and a lifetime member of the National Education
21 Association Union, teachers union, so I support unions and
22 union jobs, but I do not support this proposed methanol
23 refinery.

24 I have lots of questions: What chemical will be
25 present in the air I breathe? What chemicals will be

1 present in the water I drink? How can clean air and clean
2 water be put at risk for money? People in China are wearing
3 gas masks on a daily basis now. Would you want to live like
4 that?

5 How can such an enormous decision be made by a few
6 individuals under hush-hush conditions? Do people realize
7 that there are some things money cannot buy? Besides love,
8 these include health, as well as clean air and water. What
9 possible good would money do if you don't have your health?

10 Why can't Tacoma use its engineering and technical
11 skills to become a leader in cleaning up the oceans and
12 removing the mountains of plastic that already exist, rather
13 than facilitating more plastic production?

14 Isn't it already disconcerting enough to live near
15 a big earthquake fault line without vastly increasing the
16 dangers that would come if one were to occur?

17 Who will inspect and regulate the tanker ships that
18 will be loaded with the methanol? The ships I see in Puget
19 Sound now seem to be on their last legs. They look decrepit
20 and poorly maintained. What would the effect be of just one
21 of these tankers leaking the methanol into Puget Sound?

22 How much will my water bill increase? How many
23 chemicals will be in my drinking water that are not here
24 now?

25 Tacoma is at a crossroads now. It has an

1 opportunity to get away from the old aroma of Tacoma image
2 and instead become a leader in solutions to global warming
3 and pollution. Let's use our talents in a forward-thinking
4 direction. Let's replace plastic altogether with something
5 better for the environment. Let's welcome McMenamins and
6 the tourists it will bring instead of driving new people
7 away. Why can't we have good jobs creating a better future
8 for the planet, not furthering pollution of it? Our elected
9 officials need to represent the wishes of the citizens who
10 elected them.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. CAPES: Hi. My -- can you hear me?

13 My name is Megan Capes, and I am here representing
14 the Tacoma Catholic worker. We are a community that's up
15 the hill on G Street. We've been rooted in downtown Tacoma
16 serving the poor for over 25 years, so we live in and work
17 and are with the folks that are experiencing homelessness,
18 folks coming out of the detention center, as well as folks
19 in the incarceration center and coming out of it.

20 So a lot of people know the workers through Father
21 Bix, who was -- who founded the community, who also was an
22 extreme advocate for justice and peace in our city, so he
23 strongly spoke about also how we are called to care for
24 Mother Earth, and how also with that, alongside, we need to
25 care for the poor.

1 I come today with a little bit of a different stamp
2 that needs to also be added: How much we need to listen, in
3 this process of the EIS, to folks that are going to be most
4 impacted by the negative effects, the poor of our community
5 who are also here, so today I ask the EIS process to examine
6 how this methanol plant will affect the poor of our city.
7 There are a variety of ways this plant can impact all the
8 citizens of Tacoma, but what I fear most is how it could be
9 hardest felt by those on the margins in our community. I
10 want the EIS process to look into how this plant will impact
11 those experiencing poverty, especially around caring for
12 their essential needs: food, water, and shelter. The most
13 important desire is for the EIS -- my desire for the EIS
14 process to incorporate their voices.

15 I would like the EIS process to examine the impacts
16 on our soil across the county. If something did go wrong
17 with the plant, especially looking at the potential burden
18 on small-scale agriculture, as well as subsistence farming,
19 what impact would fall on those people and those farms,
20 those who are relying on the soil to provide their survival
21 and livelihood?

22 I also would like the EIS process to examine the
23 water and the impacts around the whole community. Through
24 our public water system, who is going to foot the bill for
25 the expansion? Tax payers? If so, how could that choice

1 affect those experiencing poverty? What other fund could it
2 go towards?

3 So especially I want to speak to there are many
4 folks who urban camp and urban camp in the Port of Tacoma
5 and the Puyallup River. How will they be impacted? Also, I
6 want the EIS process to listen to them and hear their voices
7 and their feelings on this issue.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BRAATEN: My name is Carole Sue Braaten. I'm
10 from Fife, and I'm asking a number of different things.

11 I happen to know that there is a gap in our
12 environmental law, and it is the fact that the local lead
13 agency has the full jurisdiction and entire jurisdiction
14 over an Environmental Impact Statement. They can even write
15 it as significant or nonsignificant. Therefore, I am
16 asking, by the state law, that the local lead agency return
17 and request that it either be transferred to another
18 department or that you share the responsibility with, like,
19 the Department of Ecology and the Department of Natural
20 Resources and the United States Corps of Engineers and a
21 number of others. I think the responsibility is too vast
22 and too great, and you need to do that in protection of
23 yourself, of the people of the community, and therefore I'm
24 asking it on their behalf, and we have it through our RCWs
25 and our RACs. If you need it, I will give it to you later.

1 I'm asking for that first.

2 I'm asking that we have a more extensive mailing,
3 as the United States Department of Corps of Engineers did
4 for our river decertification for the Puyallup River. They
5 notified everybody on the river levy. Our river levy has
6 been decertified since 2006. It's very important for you to
7 know that that river levy can break at any time. That
8 includes the plant that's down there and other things. It's
9 very important, and that is part -- should be part of your
10 Environmental Impact Statement, because that can impact the
11 wastewater treatment plant and all of the entire area.

12 Under RCW 43.21(c), under RCW 36.70(a), WAC
13 365-190, WAC 365-195, WAC 365-196, under those, you have the
14 best available science and the best available land use man
15 practices. Therefore, I submitted before to you the United
16 States Geological Survey information. They are available
17 here in Pierce County. Their regional office is in Seattle.
18 I am asking that you also use them and all their best
19 available science, that they have hundreds of documents. So
20 does the Department of Natural Resources.

21 I am asking that you supply the maps of every
22 critical area, and that includes the earthquake fault line,
23 tsunami, liquefaction, lahar, flood plain, the water aquifer
24 recharge area, the wetlands, the potential rainforest, the
25 erosion area, and endangered species, which is salmon and

1 the others.

2 I am asking for more information for Fife, Federal
3 Way, and all -- Gig Harbor, Milton, Edgewood, all the
4 surrounding areas. We have over a 10- to 15-mile radius.
5 We all need to be notified. I'm in the lahar area; I'm in
6 the flood plain area. If that plant blows, I need to know
7 how I evacuate, how do we all evacuate, because the
8 pipelines cross.

9 And a number of things: There's a lot of other
10 questions, but thank you for your time.

11 MS. STEELE: Good evening. My name is Karen
12 Steele. I am president and founder of Citizens Saving
13 Normandy Park.

14 I am a community activist, but most important, I'm
15 a mother. We owe our children and our grandchildren, all
16 the generations to come, a huge debt. We should be stewards
17 of this earth and enrich it and not decimate it. We have
18 been dealing with the debacle of Tacoma, the Asarco horror,
19 for the last 30 years, and people today who are buying homes
20 still have to have their soils tested.

21 You mentioned the fact that we had all this
22 enthusiasm. No, we're not enthusiastic. We're furious at
23 the possible ruination of our Northwest due to the pollution
24 that this project would cause. And make no mistake about
25 it: This could travel into international waters.

1 China is not our friend. They strive to poison our
2 children with tainted formula. They poison our kids with
3 lead-based toys. The kids -- they want to kill our dogs and
4 pets with tainted treats, and yet you want to establish a
5 partnership with a country that wants to destroy us. To me,
6 this smacks of corruption and needs to be looked into
7 further.

8 One of the things that has only been mentioned once
9 tonight is the fact that this methanol plant will make us a
10 target for terrorism, and if you're going to put together an
11 EIS report, then you really need to focus on what's the
12 effect of a blast and how many humans it will destroy,
13 should the terrorists succeed. They're coming our way.

14 Americans are very generous. They're the most
15 generous people on the earth, but don't mistake our
16 generosity for weakness. We are focused and we're strong,
17 and from our resolve, we will defeat this dangerous project.
18 You have to understand how bad this looks for the Port of
19 Tacoma and the disastrous results this could lead to our
20 humanity.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you. Hang on a second. I
23 wanted to make sure I didn't skip a page.

24 I'm going to actually read -- since the crowd has
25 thinned out so much, I'm going to read 20 names, putting us

1 71 through 90. But if people could still come forward and
2 wait their turn to speak, that would be great, so we start
3 with:

4 (Recitation of names.)

5 MS. SCHULTZ: So if we can start -- because we've
6 got so many people missing, I would just ask that you would
7 maybe go in the order that you're sitting up here and we'll
8 get through people. And if you name your name, I can mark
9 you off. So I trust you to be cordial with where you are,
10 so go on, ma'am.

11 MS. MANNIE: Good evening. Patricia Mannie.

12 I too celebrate Ash Wednesday and went to church
13 very early this morning because I was raised here in Tacoma
14 and have lived here over 50 years.

15 Many of my relatives worked at Weyerhaeuser, St.
16 Regis, Hygrade, and even Kaiser Aluminum. My grandparents
17 had a restaurant on the Tideflats. In 1932, at the height
18 of the Depression, they had a very successful business as a
19 restaurateur because of all the workers on the Port of
20 Tacoma, and again, this is at the height of the Depression.
21 They worked so hard that they sent my mother to a children's
22 home because they weren't able to take care of her. That's
23 just what they did back then. Whether you think that's
24 right or wrong, that's what they did back then.

25 I'm a proud member -- besides being a business

1 owner here in Pierce County, I'm a proud member of the
2 Chamber of Commerce which has been in existence in Tacoma
3 for over 130 years, and we're always working and discussing
4 how to bring jobs to Tacoma and the right jobs. And the
5 irony here, to me, is, this project needs 18 permits. It's
6 not going to happen tomorrow.

7 And people say they're against coal, yet methanol
8 replaces coal and methanol is in lots of products: clothing
9 that you're wearing right now, plastic glasses, toys, and
10 even pharmaceuticals. And this plant will also bring jobs
11 and tax revenue that we do need in our community. Please
12 don't jump to conclusions.

13 I've spoken with the owners of this plant, and I'm
14 very proud of that. And you know what? I know you won't
15 clap for me, but I would clap for you because we're all
16 about justice in this community. Am I right? But nobody, I
17 bet, will clap for me.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. PAULSEN: Yes, hi. Thank you. My name is Lou
20 Paulsen. Very much appreciate the opportunity to provide
21 comments in this evening's event. I live roughly six miles
22 from the proposed site on the northeast side of the
23 Tideflats.

24 Our community has spent more than several hundred
25 thousand dollars in cleaning up the historic contamination

1 that has polluted the Tideflats and Commencement Bay.
2 Asarco has been named in particular this evening. We're not
3 done. Although many of the sites are remediated, they are
4 now being developed as brown fields.

5 It's important now that we act prudently to protect
6 our investments in our environment, and it was with this
7 perspective that I, along with many other members of the
8 Port of Tacoma -- and I'm the Director of Strategic
9 Operations Projects -- negotiated a lease with Northwest
10 Innovation Works, and we brought this before our commission
11 for review and consideration, as was reported in the Tacoma
12 News Tribune in April of 2014.

13 Some of the attractions to this transaction involve
14 the fact that methanol -- wood alcohol -- is water soluble,
15 biodegradable, not classified as an explosive, combined with
16 the fact that there are several other environmental and
17 economic benefits and the fact that the production will not
18 rely upon our road and rail system which is largely devoted
19 to other uses.

20 When the lease was approved in May of 2014, it was
21 with the full knowledge that we would be here through this
22 process. It began with a feasibility period, which includes
23 this very rigorous environmental review. I trust this
24 process. I encourage the city planning department to
25 continue to closely adhere to the Washington Administrative

1 Code and the associated SEPA regulations. I want to
2 encourage that the scope of this rigorous process focus on
3 the impacts where they will most greatly impact the people
4 here, right here in the local community.

5 I trust that this environmental review will answer
6 the question of how large an area will be affected if
7 there's a major event, an incident on the plant, and what
8 will happen in the event of a major earthquake.

9 I want to encourage the City to develop a scope
10 that will preserve the vibrant aspect of this community and
11 not create an adverse precedent that would risk future
12 responsible economic development actions upon which we all
13 rely.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MR. WEBB: Good evening. My name is Mike Webb,
16 W-e-b-b.

17 I testified once before and I actually see evidence
18 in your draft here that you took account of my concern with
19 the cumulative toxic effect of methanol. I have several
20 other comments to add right now very quickly.

21 One, I'm also concerned about carcinogenic effects
22 of compounds that would be in the air and water runoff of
23 this plant, and I see no evidence -- people don't use
24 "cancer" freely in these documents. I think it gets hidden.
25 It's a very serious concern.

1 I have one in specific and that is that the
2 dramatic water use for a plant like this is going to drive
3 the use of the Nalley Valley wells and that is mentioned as
4 part of the south Tacoma aquifer. Somebody had commented on
5 that before. It's in here, but they didn't mention that
6 that is a trichloroethylene-contaminated well. There is a
7 finite cancer risk when using that well. It may be an
8 acceptable cancer risk, but it is a finite cancer risk based
9 on statistical values, and people with compromised immune
10 systems may have effects. Even statistically, I would not
11 want to be that one out of a million person that's allowable
12 and permitted for safe drinking water with trichloro-
13 ethylene, so please take account of the serious carcinogenic
14 effects of these types of facilities.

15 I did not see in here a comment related to
16 environmental justice and I'm very serious about that. I
17 mean, there are -- the people have mentioned numerous times
18 the detention center. Those people are trapped, and
19 anything we do needs to consider them; and certainly plenty
20 of people who are downwinders showed up tonight and they
21 need to be considered.

22 The final concern I have is with the zinc catalyst
23 that would be -- it's inevitable. It's in the process, and
24 they're going to be handling high concentrations of zinc in
25 this facility. What's the mitigation for that? Zinc causes

1 salmon to become disoriented. It's a well-known problem and
2 that needs to be addressed in the Environmental Impact
3 Statement.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. HUNICH: Hi. My name is Joe Hunich and I am a
6 Tacoma resident, and tonight I'm a very proud Tacoma
7 resident with everybody showing up and speaking out.

8 A couple of things: I definitely echo all the
9 sentiments that people have expressed so far about the
10 concerns with transparency of our local government and the
11 concerns of the major environmental issues and the impacts
12 on water. I wanted to speak specifically to a few things
13 that I read in the draft document and just maybe ask some
14 further questions about that.

15 First off, with Northwest Pipeline GP being the
16 ones that are doing this added pipeline, like an
17 investigation maybe into who they are, what's their track
18 record. I think from some articles recently, that not great
19 might be part of what would describe their track record.

20 Also, with that, with the natural gas pipeline that
21 will be added and connected to the existing one, in the
22 draft it says it will run through unincorporated Pierce
23 County, Sumner, Puyallup, Fife, and also the Puyallup
24 Reservation, and so have -- you know, with the lack of
25 transparency here, have those people been informed about the

1 pipeline running through that area?

2 Especially, I work with Native communities and
3 knowing that the Puyallup Reservation has sovereignty on
4 that land, I really question how we can even put a pipeline
5 in there without their permission, but I think that there
6 should be some question as to are they okay with that.

7 And then also in the study, what are the effects
8 of, like, possible leaks and stuff like that on the soils in
9 those areas where it will be running?

10 Another thing is that it mentioned a pipeline that
11 will run across the Port property to transfer the methanol
12 from the plant, like to the shipping or storage containers,
13 so just maybe some more look at what is that running
14 underneath and what are the potential dangers of a flammable
15 thing like methanol running through those pipelines to those
16 areas?

17 There is also talk about four to seven ships per
18 month coming in and possible dredging and stuff being
19 necessary, so maybe further examination into what effects
20 that kind of impact might have in the bay and in that area.

21 Also, alternative uses for the site. I think it
22 would be really cool if there was some kind of public thing
23 like this where citizens could come together and brainstorm
24 some of the alternative things that we could do.

25 And there's also -- some people have expressed

1 concerns about the risk of terrorism, and there's actually
2 Department of Homeland Security has chemical facility
3 anti-terrorism standards that are designed to regulate the
4 risk of chemical facilities like this to make sure that
5 measures are in place, so I think we should -- I didn't
6 notice anything about that in there, so maybe we should make
7 sure to include that and make sure that this is meeting up
8 to those standards.

9 As well as with the air quality, it talks about
10 effects on increased shipping and ground transport, but
11 maybe not from the, like, cooling towers and stuff like
12 that, so make sure we specify that.

13 And then lastly, I have a quote. My eight-year-old
14 son, his name is Aiden, and he asked me a question when we
15 were talking about this. He said, "Dad, why is money so
16 addicting? It's like it hypnotizes you." And I'd just ask
17 that, you know, let's not be hypnotized by what potential
18 financial benefit this might bring, but let's look at the
19 larger impacts and (unclear).

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is Suzanne
21 Williams. I've lived in this area for over 20 years.

22 I can say I oppose this on every conceivable level.
23 I have listened tonight, and I cannot find one redeeming
24 shred of value. When I hear things like jobs, the same
25 resounding truth: that more will leave than will come. I

1 hear opportunity; I hear that there's opportunity. Yet I
2 see more opportunity leaving than I see coming. We often
3 are taught to weigh the pros and the cons, and I find it
4 flabbergasting that we're sitting here even having these
5 conversations, and I can only hope that logic will prevail,
6 that the voice of reason will be heard.

7 I've heard, "Let's take the emotion out of it," and
8 I'm sure that's meant for some of us moms up here. But I'll
9 tell you, I work. I'm a working mom, but I'm first a mom,
10 and you tell me to take the emotion out of it, you
11 businessmen, and there's no way to do that. The emotions
12 matter because people's lives are at stake. Emotions
13 matter. This has to be more than a business transaction.
14 There has to be lives considered.

15 I live just over a mile from this site. I just
16 built the home that we have been scraping for. We broke
17 ground and we just moved in in December. My plans are to
18 stay here for 25 more years. I've got three children. I've
19 got Loren, I've got Kevin, and I've got Bryson. My husband
20 lives with Lyme disease, with a supercompromised immune
21 system, my daughter with a mild traumatic brain injury and a
22 supercompromised immune system and allergies. I know what
23 it's like to live every day caring for them, and I can tell
24 you, the effects of what comes out of this plant will impact
25 their health dramatically. I know I speak as one person on

1 this, but I know there are so many that have the same story.

2 My deepest concern is that the environmental --
3 this study includes the long-term implications. I don't
4 want to hear about that it's okay; we've seen no effects in
5 a year. I want to know the five-year, the ten-year, the
6 20-year health impact on our families. It matters.

7 I ask you, have you no conscience to move forward
8 with this after you've looked into the eyes of all of us? I
9 hope you do.

10 MR. KING: Hi. My name is Rick King. I have been
11 a homeowner at 1544 South Fawcett in downtown Tacoma since
12 1984. My business has been on St. Helens for 25 years. I'm
13 here with my neighbors Mark and Amy, my friends Elise, Bill,
14 Rick, Jim, and Ben, and we're all here to voice our concern
15 because this just doesn't seem like a very good idea.

16 I grew up in Browns Point. I spent the '60s and
17 '70s there. I remember the effects of Hooker Chemical, Dow
18 Chemical polluting Tacoma into one of the most toxicly
19 polluted bays in the nation. It's the deepest water port on
20 the West Coast, so it doesn't flush itself like other bays
21 do and all those toxic wastes and chemicals sit at the
22 bottom there. When I was young, trying to walk to Meeker
23 Junior High School, I had problems because of the sulfur
24 dioxins in the air and the chlorine affected my asthma as a
25 small child.

1 So I've been proud of Tacoma for cleaning up its
2 mess and not hearing that joke about kissing your mate in a
3 smelly place: Tacoma. I believe that we've turned the city
4 around, and now with the effects of this methanol plant, I
5 can't see anything positive with this. Just it frightens
6 the hell out of me, and I just hope that this doesn't go
7 forward. I vastly oppose this plant and I fear for Tacoma's
8 life.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. BOOKER: I'm Jay Booker. I am a 20-year
11 resident of northeast Tacoma. I'm the father of three
12 beautiful children who attend northeast Tacoma Elementary,
13 Meeker, and SAMI.

14 I've been researching these refineries and ones
15 that are similar to the ones that are proposed by the brand
16 new NWIW and specifically the plants that are connected with
17 Chinese Academy of Science.

18 In Section 6.2, the draft states it will evaluate
19 the safety record of NWIW and its associates, and I am
20 gravely concerned by what I have seen happen in and around
21 refineries in Texas, Florida, and Louisiana. It is
22 disturbing to hear that St. James Parish in Louisiana, home
23 of a methanol refinery, has earned the nickname Cancer
24 Alley. In Section 6.2, it must be revised to address
25 specifically the records of all companies associated with

1 the Chinese Academy of Science.

2 Please consider exploring as part of the
3 Environmental Impact Statement, in Section 7.2, how millions
4 of gallons of water will be used and what exactly will
5 happen to that wastewater that's pumped back into the Puget
6 Sound, and I ask for a comprehensive water study not just of
7 Commencement Bay and the south Puget Sound, but a fully
8 combined and detailed study of the water impacts surrounding
9 all three proposed plants encompassing Columbia River, its
10 tributaries, the Pacific coasts of Oregon and Washington.

11 As mentioned earlier, pollution does not respect
12 borders, so please ensure the EIS in Section 5 specifically
13 addresses the impact of benzene, naphthalene, formaldehyde,
14 which are all known air pollutants related to the methanol
15 production which will blow into Federal Way, Des Moines,
16 Kent, Auburn, Vashon Island, and the entire region. This
17 study needs to have a comprehensive impact statement, a
18 study that encompasses all of western Washington, Oregon,
19 and the coast. Section 5 of this draft is not deep enough
20 in scope and must be expanded to address the combined impact
21 of all three plants from Oregon to Canada, from the Olympics
22 to the Cascades.

23 Am I yellow? Almost. There it goes.

24 In addition, I request Section 5 of the EIS explore
25 the environmental damage done by the methane pipelines

1 required to produce methanol and how prone they are to
2 leaking and the health impacts of a methane exposure.

3 Section 14, this is a tough one for me. Section 14
4 of the draft addresses the socio-economic impacts of this
5 refinery, but there are costs that are not addressed. If
6 this is built, my family and I will be forced to move away
7 from the fall-out zone. I will be brought to tears not just
8 for the loss of a home that I love, the neighbors I adore,
9 and the school friends that my children will lose, but the
10 most bitter and angry tears that will fall will be for those
11 people who cannot move away from the City of Destiny.

12 For the health of my children and the lives that we
13 have built in this community of Tacoma, I urge you -- no, I
14 beg you, from the very depths of my soul, do not allow any
15 further permits.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SHERMAN-PETERSON: Hi. My name is Deejah
18 Sherman-Peterson. I'm speaking today as an emotional mother
19 and grandmother and a member of the Unitarian faith
20 community.

21 One of our principles is respect for the inter-
22 dependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We
23 believe that we humans have a special duty to the rest of
24 Earth's species because we possess intelligence and power.
25 If we humans continue to extract fossil fuels and build new

1 fossil fuel infrastructure to export, refine, transport and
2 use those fuels, we will cause radical damage to Earth's
3 global ecosystems, leaving our descendants a world
4 fundamentally different from the one in which we evolved and
5 developed agriculture and civilization. They will inhabit a
6 world bereft of much of the planet's diversity of life.
7 About 10 percent species extinction is expected per one
8 degree Celsius of warming.

9 This refinery will require a new ten-mile under-
10 ground pipeline to bring in enough natural gas to create
11 20,000 metric tons of methanol per day. The use of natural
12 gas means more fracking will take place, a process that uses
13 fresh water and creates chemical-laden wastewater. Clean
14 water is a gift which we must conserve. It will be in short
15 supply as climate change becomes worse. Only last year we
16 were experiencing drought conditions with the possibility of
17 rationing. Only last year did our beautiful state endure
18 the worst forest fires we've ever seen, with the resultant
19 deaths of three young men and countless deaths of other
20 living creatures.

21 Methanol is flammable in both liquid and gas
22 states, and it's considered highly toxic to humans and other
23 animals. This methanol refinery site, which will be close
24 to homes, will be the source of carbon and other chemicals,
25 including heavy metal, volatile organic compounds, and

1 various air pollutants.

2 Then the methanol must be transported to China,
3 requiring more fossil fuel, four to seven ships each month,
4 causing more pollution of the Salish Sea and the Pacific
5 Ocean, harming more life from the smallest but necessary
6 microbes to the largest mammals still existing on our
7 beautiful earth.

8 An estimated 260 permanent jobs are forecast to be
9 created. Were that number ten times as many, I would still
10 oppose this refinery.

11 My faith also teaches the inherent worth and
12 dignity of every person, as well as justice, equity and
13 compassion in human relations. We must invest now in
14 transitioning to renewable, sustainable energy that delivers
15 both family-supporting jobs and healthy environments for all
16 communities.

17 It is imperative that we who live in the West Coast
18 port communities hold the fragile thin green line so that
19 fossil fuels remain in the ground and our beautiful planet
20 continues to support the myriad life forms with which we
21 have been blessed.

22 MR. ALLEN: My name's Ethan Allen. Thank you for
23 hearing my comments.

24 I'm a professional mariner and I am a small
25 business employee here in Tacoma, running a local tour boat.

1 My job security is based on customer views and public
2 perception of the health of the Puget Sound. I grew up in
3 the shadow of Asarco, and as a boater, I see the continuing
4 effect of that catastrophe first-hand on a daily basis. Now
5 tell me how this methanol facility will be any different
6 than Asarco, Hooker Chemical, RCI Chemical, Kaiser Aluminum,
7 or any of the other companies that have been spewing
8 carcinogens and noxious fumes into our air for the past 100
9 years.

10 Now, as I understand it, this refinery will produce
11 highly toxic methanol, better known as wood alcohol, from
12 highly explosive natural gas. If there was a spill or
13 explosion or other accident at the refinery, it would kill
14 the plankton, herring, salmon, harbor seals, whales, ospreys
15 and bald eagles whose populations are still recovering from
16 a hundred years of industrial abuse and provide the main
17 reason tourists want to go out on my boat in the first
18 place.

19 This company, we have been told, is owned by the
20 Chinese government and backed by British Petroleum. One has
21 to look no further than the Gulf of Mexico to understand
22 BP's track record of environmental protection. And saying
23 the Chinese government cares about our local ecology is like
24 saying I removed one end of a circle. It doesn't really
25 mean anything. This company -- excuse me.

1 Do we really want the Chinese government ruining
2 our land, sea, and air the way they have ruined their own?
3 And do we want BP to destroy our beautiful Puget Sound the
4 way they have ruined the Gulf?

5 I will not raise my children in the shadow of
6 Tacoma's great folly and neither should anyone else. The
7 fact that anyone is even considering letting this monstrous
8 facility be built leaves me feeling disgusted and knowing
9 that I will not be voting for anyone that approves of this
10 death factory ever again, considering that all our city
11 government seems to care about is their own job security and
12 spending taxpayer money to have a road paved for a Chinese
13 dictator.

14 George Francis Train named this the City of Destiny
15 over a hundred years ago. I think if he could see it today,
16 he'd be just as disgusted as I am with our city officials.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. MARTIN: Hi. My name is Adam Martin. I run an
19 organization called Artists for Life in the Sound, and we
20 introduce people to life and culture in Tacoma and the south
21 Puget Sound.

22 I'd like to speak to the likelihood, the
23 inevitability of this type of construction in our city as it
24 relates to the livability, the quality of life, and the
25 reputation of our city in the eyes of cities surrounding us

1 and those visitors coming to our city and our region. It's
2 not very hard, in the shadow of Seattle and other
3 municipalities around, to speak a poor word of Tacoma that
4 diverts traffic from our businesses to theirs -- I'm going
5 to let that one go for a minute; that needs to be
6 addressed -- the economic impact on the various industries
7 already existing in our city, from hospitality to tourism,
8 including the museums, the enrollments in our universities,
9 and our private schools, including Seabury, et cetera.

10 But, really, I want to talk tonight about something
11 I haven't heard enough about, and that's our regional
12 security. Literally right now, at the highest levels of
13 world government, we have our greatest world powers
14 maneuvering on account of instability in regions critical to
15 the security of our nation, and we are a militarized city
16 and region, with the Air Force and an Army base a stone's
17 throw away from us.

18 Bix, Father Bichsel, who has already been brought
19 up tonight, demonstrated the insecurity -- or the lack of
20 security on even nuclear submarines. By taking a pair of
21 wire clippers, with a few elderly nuns, walking across the
22 naval yard, he put his hand on it.

23 We don't know what is going to happen on the world
24 scale, and we are proposing to provide a foreign power with
25 allies to itself, of interests hostile and contrary to our

1 own, and we are looking to provide them with the method and
2 means of raw power and raw energy for whatever their ends
3 and means may be behind their own shadows of their
4 governments. It will affect our region. It will affect our
5 people. It will make us a target, and we need to have that
6 addressed in the scope of this project in the frame of
7 national security, regional security, and our local
8 security.

9 That's all I'll say tonight.

10 MS. SCHULTZ: So I'll read the next couple of
11 sheets and we'll see if people -- and then we'll just have
12 anybody who wishes to speak finish up for the evening.

13 (Recitation of names.)

14 MS. CARSON: I think the question I ask is, who
15 benefits? Who benefits from having this -- okay, let it be,
16 please.

17 Okay, the question I have is, who benefits? Who
18 benefits from this being built here? One of the choices
19 that should be looked at is there should have been the
20 economic benefits. I think it comes up with the idea that
21 we're going to have 260 jobs supposedly filled all by people
22 from the Tacoma area. Assuming that -- and that is the only
23 benefit that I can see, other than tax revenues that we'll
24 probably give away in some kind of tax break -- the rentals
25 that are being -- from leasing the land, but yet we're going

1 to have to pay for the dredging of the port, the extending
2 of the gas pipeline. We're going to have pay for the
3 security on the port to make sure that we don't have a
4 terrorist attack. We're going to have to add the extra fire
5 departments and emergency responses so that if we do have a
6 spill or other problems, we'll have to pay for that.

7 This doesn't even take into account, even slightly,
8 the possibility -- those are the expenses without a major
9 toxic disaster. If we have an explosion, there is
10 absolutely no possible way that China will step up and pay
11 for this. It's not like we're going to hold their thumbs to
12 the fire. We'll kowtow to whatever they have to say and
13 give up. They'll just walk away from it.

14 We cannot include our own security in this, so what
15 happens? What happens to the costs? I thought about, well,
16 what happens if we just decide to take 260 people randomly
17 in our society and decided that we will pay them a living
18 wage of \$50,000 a year. If we divide that up amongst every
19 resident of Tacoma, that would come out to \$43. I am more
20 than willing to pay \$43 to be able to not have this plant
21 built. I see it as our electricity bills, our water bills
22 are all going to go up by more than that. It's going to
23 cost us our possible health, our lives, and our entire
24 lifestyle.

25 I am not against the port changing. I'd love to

1 see the port bring in something that will bring real jobs.
2 Even if we bring in super container ships and we have to
3 figure out a better way to get cargo around, at least we'd
4 get thousands of jobs. We'd get something out of it and our
5 city wouldn't be waiting to blow up and die, and I would
6 prefer not to have that happen to us.

7 And I think that those environmental -- those
8 economic concerns, who benefits here? How does it end up
9 with us getting one cent of benefit as residents of Tacoma,
10 or even the City of Tacoma, for how much it's going to cost
11 us to clean up this mess and how much it's going to cost us
12 in all the damages that we will receive from just having the
13 benefit of a foreign country come here and profit?

14 Thank you.

15 MS. SCHULTZ: Can I remind, since I've kind of got
16 people going out of order, can you make sure to state your
17 name before you start speaking? Thank you.

18 (Inaudible audience comment.)

19 MS. SCHULTZ: Thanks, Sue. Go ahead.

20 MS. REEHILL: Thank you, Shirley, thank you, Ian,
21 for being here. This is way outside your office hours, I'm
22 aware, so thank you for letting me speak as part of this
23 environmental scoping process.

24 My name is Susan Reehill. I live on the south end
25 of Tacoma, District 5.

1 At this point I do not want the methanol plant to
2 be built in Tacoma. I have concerns for our environment and
3 the health of our citizens, myself included. However, I
4 understand Just Say No and a rah-rah statement cannot unsign
5 the 30-year lease signed by the Port of Tacoma. My intent
6 is to voice my opposition to this plant and to go on record
7 as asking the City of Tacoma to carefully study the impact
8 of building this plant.

9 I would like to see the EIS, the Environmental
10 Impact Statement, continued. It's a good draft. It's a
11 good start. My hope is that the permits will get rejected
12 and not issued for this plant.

13 So, however, as long as the City of Tacoma is
14 considering the methanol plant, please carefully study the
15 impacts. Some of my concerns are, consider the effects of
16 the plant's heavy water and power consumption. Where will
17 this water and electricity come from? What effect will this
18 consumption have not only on the environment but on us, the
19 citizens, the rate payers? What effects will the emissions
20 have on our air quality?

21 So as a runner and cyclist here in the Pacific
22 Northwest, I was lucky enough to be part of a group that
23 went to go run the walls of China. There was 20 of us that
24 got together and we went to run the walls of China this
25 summer. It was an amazing experience that I will never

1 forget. I also will not forget ordering the gas masks --
2 not gas masks, but they're filters; they're air filters that
3 were highly recommended for visiting China. Also, another
4 trick that we used in China was just putting your scarf
5 across your face, and it was necessary. The air quality is
6 really bad in parts of China -- not everywhere in China, but
7 in parts of China, the air quality is very bad, very poor,
8 so I am concerned that our air quality will suffer if we go
9 forward with this plant.

10 I am concerned for the safety of our Puget Sound,
11 our salmon, our sea life, our beaches.

12 I'm concerned about not only piping in flammable
13 natural gas but storing the finished product, several
14 hundred thousand metric tons of flammable liquid,
15 specifically methanol.

16 Consider the safety of our first responders, our
17 firefighters, our police. How do we protect them if and
18 when a storage tank explodes?

19 How safe is the process of transferring the
20 methanol from the tanks to the freighters, and what
21 happens -- what's the result if one of the freighters leaks
22 or sinks?

23 So since my trip to China, as I bike or run in
24 Tacoma, I truly appreciate our clean air, our clean water,
25 and our beautiful shoreline.

1 Thank you again for your time.

2 MS. BROWN: Okay, my name is Kristina Brown and I
3 live in northeast Tacoma, and I have come before you because
4 I want to bring to your attention a study that has just been
5 published February 2, 2016, in the journal Peer, P-e-e-r, J,
6 and it addresses ship noise extends to frequencies used for
7 echolocation by endangered killer whales. I am just going
8 to read you little excerpts from the study. I think it's
9 very important because what we found -- what they have found
10 is that the commercial ships, which includes cargo ships,
11 tankers, the big ships that carry cars, trucks, this kind of
12 thing -- and they studied it from the Port of Tacoma,
13 Seattle, Vancouver, BC. They used the Haro Strait as their
14 marker, and they found that higher frequencies which are
15 produced by these commercial ships interfere with the
16 capacity for the killer whales to echolocate, so they can't
17 communicate with each other, so they can't mate; they can't
18 be defensive. It interferes with their, you know, grouping.
19 They also have -- it interferes with the echolocation of
20 their food. The Chinook salmon emits a clicking sound and
21 this is what the killer whale detects in order for it to
22 feed and hunt. I think -- I recommend that you look at this
23 report.

24 I want to give you some of the sources of the
25 grants. It's a 35-page study that has just been completed.

1 I also recommend that you contact NOAA on this, the Western
2 Region NOAA. They are one of the grant-makers on this
3 and -- sorry -- I just want to find that for you.

4 Anyway, I'll just give you the report, but please
5 check that out, because I think that with more traffic
6 through this port back and forth through the strait, we're
7 going to -- we only have 84 killer whales. Now we know that
8 this impacts their life, so this, I feel, needs to be
9 addressed, because we are threatening -- we have the
10 potential to threaten an endangered species and I don't
11 think that's acceptable. There are, of course, work-arounds
12 that they would have to look at doing if that's the case, so
13 that's one thing.

14 Okay, and the second thing is, what comes back in
15 the tankers from China after the methanol is emptied? If it
16 is bringing in -- if they're using Asian seawater for
17 ballast, that needs to be looked at so you do not bring in
18 invasive species into our Sound or anything else that will
19 interfere with the life and the life cycle of our sea
20 creatures.

21 This is back to the study. The grants came from
22 the Northwest Fishery Science Center, NOAA's Western
23 Regional Center, Washington State Parks, Chuck Greene of
24 Cornell University, and the authors had no competing
25 interests. Very important.

1 One other thing -- oh, no time. Sorry. That's it.

2 MR. ZAWACKI: I'm Joseph Zawacki, native of Tacoma
3 born and raised.

4 I'm speaking on the EIS. I think Sections 13, 14,
5 15 are the crux of finding reasons to not permit this
6 further and what I'm hoping the City will do based on the
7 socio-economic impacts of the marine and aquatic life
8 upstream at the headlands of the Green River flowing down to
9 the Puget Sound and how it will impact commercial fisheries
10 in the Puget Sound, as well as the coastal waters, needs to
11 be looked at.

12 I think the water displacement of the increased
13 large ships coming into the bay and how that's going to
14 erode and affect the shoreline should be weighed and looked
15 at.

16 And, finally, I think since we're talking about
17 building the world's largest refinery, we need to probably
18 weight the worst-case scenarios heavy on this, and we need
19 to look at what the economic impact would be if we have the
20 second -- you know, you can argue with Spokane -- maybe
21 third-largest city in the state with a refinery two miles
22 from its core, approximately, as the crow flies, what the
23 impact would be if that is shut down and what the impact
24 would be to the Port itself in terms of moving containerized
25 cargo, which is the meat and potatoes of the Port.

1 Now, speaking as an importer who has operated in
2 the Port of Tacoma for the past 14 years, it was mentioned
3 that it's an economic necessity and heavy industry is needed
4 for that area. I disagree. That area was remediated by the
5 Port, in partnerships with the federal government and the
6 City of Tacoma on the outer shorelines, and there has been a
7 significant federal, local and state investment in that that
8 needs to be looked at how that could be impacted against.

9 That's the end of my comments. I would say,
10 though, to the first comment you had tonight, the first
11 commenter mentioned that there was no better site, and doing
12 business and living in Japan as well as China, they did say
13 that at Fukushima Nuclear Plant as well.

14 MR. THOMSEN: My name is David Thomsen and I've
15 lived here since '81.

16 I've been involved in donations from a gold mine
17 fund from my mother's gold mine for many years, and I kind
18 of like built the Port of Tacoma. \$340 million to build the
19 first cement docks to start containerized shipping. And I
20 dredged the water, what's now the Blair Waterway up to the
21 11th Street Bridge, which is gone now. Then I built the
22 rest of the Blair Waterway later. Had a dredge built out of
23 an ore ship from the Great Lakes and put dredge pumps in it,
24 which they just scrapped on me at the scrap yard a year --
25 two years ago, I guess, along with a couple of Liberty ships

1 that I had here that were stored at barge storage. We also
2 dredged all the other waterways with it, the Hylebos and the
3 Sitcom and city waterway, too, and it was full of sewage
4 from the sewage being dumped at the head of the waterway for
5 70 or 80 years.

6 I'd like to get a little technical here now. We
7 need some information on your odor that you're talking about
8 that's added to the gas. The Federal Pipeline Safety Board
9 has a mandate, a law, that egg, rotten egg odor -- or rotten
10 eggs, period, have to be added to the gas right at the
11 wellhead, and I'd like to -- or we all need to know how much
12 it is per cubic yard of gas at 600 PSI, because that's the
13 pressure that it runs at through the pipelines, and also,
14 what's the distance between the safety valves that shut off
15 if there's a rupture and how much gas at atmospheric
16 pressure can escape between the safety valves? That's the
17 kind of things that we need to find out about.

18 I funded the building of the Olympic pipeline. I
19 know a little bit about this stuff.

20 I also built a pipeline from the Canadian gas
21 lines -- or gas fields all the way to San Francisco and
22 Sacramento.

23 I'm from Humboldt Bay in northern California, is
24 where I lived up until I came up here, and the gas wells
25 that they -- the gas wells on the table bluff south of

1 Humboldt Bay produce a horrendous amount of gas. PG&E is
2 lying about it. They say they're exporting gas in there. I
3 put a little branch line over the main line clear over in
4 the valley by Redding to take gas over there and they're
5 charging people for bringing gas into Humboldt County.

6 I've had a lot of -- a lot to do with this stuff,
7 if you want to talk to me a little about it.

8 MS. OSBORN: My name is Deborah Osborn. I wanted
9 to focus on a couple of areas that I found rather
10 disturbing: your Item 11, "Earth, Geology, and Soils," and
11 my other concern is 14, which is your "Socio-Economic
12 Impacts."

13 First I want to say that the majority of our
14 resources are at risk here. Our beautiful waterways, these
15 are Native American and tribal lands that we're discussing,
16 and I don't feel that we have a right to put those lands at
17 risk any more than my own land.

18 Realistically, this is an LLC, a limited liability
19 corporation. They're going to do whatever harm they do and
20 they're going to walk away with a cash purse and we are
21 going to have the deficit of the disaster. I think that a
22 lot needs to be looked at.

23 China is a Communist country. They're not
24 interested in our benefit. That's something we all need to
25 be aware of. They're not coming here to help Tacoma. They

1 couldn't give a rat's hat about us. We are only an
2 opportunity for them to rake in money, money on plastics,
3 which, by the way, we're trying to ban, so I don't
4 understand how we could support a plastics industry.

5 I also want you to know that my family, we garden
6 for our own fruits and vegetables, and the toxicology that's
7 associated with a methanol refinery will damage the air, the
8 soil, and the water. You will make void the land that I
9 grow my food on, and I will make void the mortgage I pay. I
10 will take my money and my family and we will leave this town
11 as in the exodus that is also going to go in our wake.

12 I am a mother and a grandmother, and I'm going to
13 say it because no one else has said it and it needs to be
14 said: No means no.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. MAY: My name is Gyda May. I have a doctorate
17 in chemistry and a master's in environmental chemistry. I
18 live in the North End of Tacoma, very close to the edge of
19 the radius, which I'm not even really sure is the real
20 radius because we haven't been given that information with
21 clarity. I live in the -- right in that area there, and I
22 had some information that I found out that I want to share.

23 This is a federal issue in federal waters, since
24 the port sits in the water, not actually on real land. They
25 filled the mouth of the Puyallup River and its delta to

1 create the port. Water flows out under the land all the
2 time. There is no control method to stop that. The river
3 runs above and below the ground.

4 Only federal agencies can issue the permits since
5 the odds are overwhelming that the wastewater will end up in
6 the bay. That would be NOAA, National Marine Fisheries, the
7 USACE, and the U.S. Coast Guard. They administer the Rivers
8 & Harbors Act. All ocean waters, even those at the port,
9 are subject solely to federal marine laws.

10 The Endangered Species Act fully protects both
11 salmon and orcas, and without any of the players revealing
12 what will be in that wastewater, they cannot get permits
13 from anyone else but the federal agencies.

14 The City is not authorized to issue permits for
15 this action, neither is the country -- I'm sorry -- the
16 county or even the state. All they're allowed to do is
17 uphold U.S. codes, not to dismiss them or change them.

18 So my questions are, how are the wastewater
19 treatment plants in Tacoma going to handle all that volume
20 on top of all the city's use and that potentially toxic
21 water that will come to them every day of the year? And,
22 what will be in the wastewater from this plant, what
23 chemicals? What will the biology of the water be after this
24 use? It could likely suffocate everything in the bay and
25 the inlet.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. OSBORN: Hello. My name is Robert Osborn. I
3 live in Hilltop. Thanks for those of you still here, and
4 thank you for everybody that spoke before me.

5 I am a master gardener here in Tacoma. I have one
6 of the 75 community gardens in my front yard which we put in
7 last spring to help people in our general neighborhood be
8 able to grow fresh fruit and vegetables that they might not
9 be able to normally.

10 One of my concerns is that the place where we get
11 the TAGRO from -- TAGRO -- is not located too far from where
12 the methanol plant will be. What's that crap going to be
13 worth, is what I really want to know, I mean, just to be
14 asking literally. I mean, it's -- I won't want to -- I
15 don't know anybody who will want to eat anything out of that
16 stuff after it's been contaminated after either that damn
17 thing blows or it just spews chemicals and toxins all over
18 the area. I mean, it's just, I think, a question that ought
19 to be answered.

20 You know, you can't try to be a sustainable green
21 city and also sell whatever resources you have to the
22 highest bidder. It just doesn't work that way. You either
23 have to be one or the other.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. SCHULTZ: I have a page and a half of names

1 left, and I'm going to read some and let the people who
2 signed up to speak have a chance to speak first, and then we
3 will see if there's anyone remaining who still wishes to
4 speak.

5 (Recitation of names.)

6 MS. SCHULTZ: Please state your name when you speak
7 so that I can check you off. Thank you.

8 MS. DARNEILLE: Hi. I'm Jeannie Darneille, state
9 senator from the gritty city of Tacoma.

10 I have all my notes on my computer and we'll see
11 if it still has any batteries, but I've talked before about
12 some of my feelings associated with this and would like to
13 talk today about some of the issues that I think ought to be
14 covered -- some of them mentioned.

15 The EIS should forecast the potential growth of
16 population in the Tacoma water district over the time of the
17 potential life of this plant and determine what the needs
18 for normal water service will be for those additional
19 caseloads of people living in the water catchment area
20 compared to those needs of the methanol plant.

21 Secondly, the EIS should examine historical
22 information about droughts in the Tacoma watershed and
23 provide a forecast of future droughts affecting the water
24 supply in the Tacoma watershed during the next 30 years.
25 How is the water usage by the methanol plant going to affect

1 residential use of Tacoma water, recreational use of Tacoma
2 water, other industrial uses of Tacoma water, and the
3 population of salmon that come in these waters to spawn?

4 The EIS should examine the history of formal
5 communications, letters, materials and presentations between
6 NWIW and the Port of Tacoma staff and commissioners during
7 the time since authorization of the lease on May 1, 2014, to
8 the present day with regards to educating other affected
9 communities. These communities should include the
10 legislative delegation from Pierce County and the elected
11 officials of the City of Tacoma, the City of Fife, a city
12 with 5,000 residents and 50,000 workers; Pierce County, the
13 City of University Place, the City of Fircrest, and all
14 other municipalities that are within the Tacoma watershed,
15 also the City of Federal Way and the Puyallup Tribe. Please
16 provide documentation that these legislative bodies, city
17 councils, city managers, or the general population of any of
18 these entities were briefed, educated, signed agreements
19 supporting the project or any other evidence that these
20 elected officials in the communities where they are involved
21 and were involved in any way and providing feedback on the
22 imposition of this new industry.

23 The EIS should provide documentation regarding the
24 capacity of Tacoma Water to provide sufficient water to the
25 population of existing residential and industrial users. At

1 what point would the self-sufficiency of Tacoma water be
2 exhausted?

3 The EIS should examine -- oh, I should cut to the
4 chase here.

5 It was mentioned about what's coming in on the
6 ballast in ships coming empty from China. Will the water be
7 dumped in Commencement Bay? What's in it? Invasive species
8 or plants or worms or snails? What will be the cost?

9 I'd also like to know an assessment of the
10 businesses within a three-mile radius of the site, the types
11 of jobs, the salaries of jobs, and the number of jobs held
12 by people living within a ten-mile radius.

13 Thank you. I have much more to say. I'll come
14 next time.

15 MR. PORTER: My name is Louis Porter, and I thank
16 you for the opportunity of sharing some of my sentiments
17 concerning the building of this wonderful plant. Eh, boy.

18 I've been praying for the words. I haven't
19 prepared a speech of sorts, but I've just been praying for
20 words to share with you today to express my displeasure, my
21 dissatisfaction, and my awe in a decision to build such a
22 dangerous facility in my fair town Tacoma. Tacoma is
23 called, affectionately, T Town. It's the top town in and of
24 the land, and we've been through some dramatic experiences
25 for the years that I've been here and, I'm quite sure, well

1 before I got here. The town itself is in a renaissance
2 state of rebirth. It is in a process of rebirth and
3 reestablishing itself as a top town outside of the shadow of
4 Seattle and there's been some fantastic growth that's taken
5 place.

6 As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a long-time
7 promoter, ex-professional fighter, and having done so many
8 things in life, I find myself engaged in a great war. This
9 is almost like this great civil war of times gone by, for
10 the people to come together and oppose a monstrosity that's
11 in the process of even being remotely considered. For this
12 project to have achieved the status of being the largest
13 plant in the world means a whole lot.

14 We're engaged in a presidential year of election,
15 and I think it would be a great consideration for the
16 potential candidates to be invited and air their views and
17 opinions.

18 You are what you eat -- and I'm going to make this
19 quick -- you are what you eat. Of all things for us to now
20 be ingesting, outside of all the deadly toxins that we're
21 already eating from the foods that's been tainted, to now
22 the air that we will continue to breathe, this is one that
23 we can seriously do without, and I think there needs to be a
24 whole lot more consideration that will ultimately lead to a
25 no for its production.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WONG: Good evening. My name is Art Wong, and
3 I'm president of the Tacoma Audubon Society. I also served
4 for many years as a state representative in the 27th
5 District in the Legislature, and so one of the things that I
6 remember shortly after I was elected for the first time was
7 the establishment of the Superfund sites in Tacoma. That
8 was more than 30 years ago, and it's stunning to me that we
9 have not learned from the past, but we -- or that we are
10 considering repeating it. The problem still exists that we
11 had a plant, the Kaiser Aluminum plant, and now we're still
12 looking for places and ways in which we can use that land,
13 but let's not repeat the same thing over again.

14 I acknowledge, in fairness, that this is not a
15 surprise. This has been publicized over the last year --
16 maybe not enough. Some of the opposition was slow to
17 develop. But once it became clear how much water is being
18 consumed here, whether it's ten million or whether it's
19 seven million gallons, we need to consider -- the EIS needs
20 to consider what happens in a time of shortage when we have
21 that much water -- what happens with climate change and the
22 possibilities of future impacts there? The wastewater
23 impact and the energy consumption are also obvious targets,
24 but we need to look at also where the wastewater plant --
25 our primary wastewater plant is located pretty close to the

1 site of this plant.

2 We need to look at the land where the site will be,
3 the site where this would occur, the plant would occur.
4 After all, as it has been mentioned, the Port is based on
5 fill and that's subject to liquefaction. We live in a
6 seismic zone. We need to consider we're downstream from
7 Mount Rainier.

8 We need to look also at the land where the natural
9 gas comes from, the sources of natural gas. The draft talks
10 about not being at the outer -- dealing with the outer edges
11 of causation, but I think that's an important factor to
12 consider.

13 I am not too thrilled with all the China bashing
14 that I sometimes hear as part of this. I think there are
15 lots of reason to be concerned about this without China
16 bashing.

17 Above all, we need to look at the long-term export
18 of natural resources, whether it is oil trains, coal trains,
19 liquid natural gas, or methanol. We need to look at the
20 cumulative impact of it.

21 Tacoma Audubon Society, one of our priorities is
22 climate change. Please, in the EIS, the process needs -- we
23 support a process that is rigorous, that is based on science
24 and that takes all appropriate factors into consideration,
25 both local and global.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. SCHULTZ: So at this point, I believe you're
3 the last person we had who signed up to speak, so I'm going
4 to say that anybody else who wishes to speak just kind of
5 come stand near the podium and be sure to state your name
6 and I'll write it down and we'll go a little bit longer and
7 let people wrap this up.

8 So, Ms. Bradley, go ahead.

9 MS. BRADLEY: My name is Jennifer Bradley and I
10 thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

11 I think one of the first things we need to do is
12 remember Tibet, because they did not stand up to fight
13 against the Chinese coming in and taking over their land and
14 their country and their state and their people and their
15 lives.

16 The other thing that I'd like to bring up is you
17 cannot serve God and money, so you either like one and love
18 the one and hate the other, or you like the other and hate
19 the one. So what's happening here in our world is that we
20 are actually having a test to see who you're going to
21 worship, because it boils down to worship. The same word
22 goes for worship or work.

23 So we know that in our state we have a real problem
24 with the mob, and the mob's all gotten out of jail and what
25 we have going on right now is word on the street is that our

1 Pierce County mob owes the Chinese mob a lot of money. And
2 what's happening is what people don't understand is word has
3 it on the street that all of the illegal aliens are coming
4 in actually on these container ships, in the containers.
5 And the word has it on the street is that the tribal lands
6 and the tribe is all involved in it because of Frederickson
7 and because of the land that's down by the port.

8 I know when I was young, I wanted to be a mobster's
9 wife, so I was madly in love with a guy named Cory that was
10 a mobster's son, and his dad was the vice president of U.S.
11 Oil, and so my life has been very affected by negative
12 things.

13 We've raised salmon for the state of Washington, my
14 family has, since 1970, '72. We give 30,000 to 100,000
15 salmon a year, but we've had those salmon stopped by another
16 company and a lot of those eggs sold to China, and we've
17 been having to deal with it for a really long time.

18 So what I ask and propose is that those people who
19 do not want to live in Tacoma anymore be able to get part of
20 the money of the urban development block grant and be
21 transferred up into the mountains so that we can plant
22 plants and start working to make our state a better state
23 and working toward actually doing something that's good for
24 our city and for our children and for everybody.

25 So I put in to the City of Tacoma and to the board,

1 because right now, right now the City of Tacoma has nothing
2 to do with what's going on. They have put it all off onto
3 the board of the Port, so the Port is the only people that
4 make decisions on this, not our City Council, not our mayor,
5 nothing. Two City Council meetings ago, they already showed
6 us that the board of the Port have all rights to everything
7 that's made, all the decisions that are made.

8 And the medical marijuana is out there too, so now
9 all the weed that's being growed in our state, that's been
10 done for us.

11 And Mary is the sun-clothed woman. She's the woman
12 plant, the sister clone, the virgin that doesn't get the
13 guy. She's clothed in sun day and night. She has the moon
14 under her feet. She doesn't see the night. She is the --

15 MR. MUNCE: Thanks, ma'am. Ma'am, thank you.

16 MS. BRADLEY: Okay. Well, we don't thank you,
17 because you're ruining our state and our lives.

18 MR. MUNCE: Thank you for your comments.

19 MS. BRADLEY: And the Bible says that the people in
20 the end that fight the beast wear red.

21 MR. MUNCE: Just for the long -- for the long
22 patient folks, thank you very much.

23 I'd just like to summarize a little comment about
24 what happens next. We're going to take the comments from
25 this evening, write them up. We're going to expand on the

1 report you've seen before. We're going to take the comments
2 in the scope of work, probably post those again in about ten
3 days, so you'll still have time to review the next drafts,
4 and so our concluding cut-off is March 4th.

5 Sir, did you --

6 MR. VIGUERIE: They said there would be open mic.

7 MR. MUNCE: Yeah. I didn't realize you were ready.
8 Sorry. Go ahead.

9 MR. VIGUERIE: Okay, I do want to thank everybody
10 for having this opportunity to vent a little bit, and I do
11 think that this is not going to happen in Tacoma. I think
12 it's going to be a dead duck.

13 My name's Larry Viguerie. V as in Victor,
14 i-g-u-e-r-i-e.

15 And, yeah, I don't think it's going to happen. I
16 believe our elected officials were blinded by the sparkle of
17 the money that could come in to fix the roads and for the
18 arts and for the library and for the homeless, but I don't
19 think they're looking at the big picture.

20 And, obviously, we don't want it in our backyard,
21 but listen to the few: We don't want it in anybody's
22 backyard. I think we've got to be proactive that this does
23 not go anywhere on the West Coast or anywhere in the United
24 States and we've just got to stand our ground a little bit,
25 because I am one of the believers in global warming. I

1 believe it's happening. I'm not alone with this. I think
2 we're a majority now. And the disbelievers that think it's
3 not, well, what if it's not man-made global warming, but
4 what's there to lose? If we don't use up all our natural
5 resources today like some people want to use them, they'll
6 be here in a hundred years for our grandkids and
7 great-grandkids, you know, after this. We can't just get
8 rid of all the natural resources as fast as we can.

9 Thank you for letting me speak.

10 MS. SCHULTZ: Okay, last call. Anyone else?

11 MR. BROOKE: I was actually signed up.

12 MS. SCHULTZ: Oh. You were? We had people that
13 left. Are you ready to speak, sir? Okay, I'm just trying
14 to get track of who's still wanting to speak.

15 You, you. Anyone else? Can you show me hands just
16 so we have an idea?

17 Okay, so you, sir, and you, ma'am, and that's it.
18 Okay.

19 MR. BROOKE: Hi. My name is Phillip Brooke, and I
20 live on my farm in the Waller Road area of mid-county.

21 I echo many of the concerns expressed around
22 resource depletion, pollution, and community safety, but
23 tonight I'd like to build on the comments of a well-spoken
24 individual from the January scoping meeting named Joe
25 Tieger.

1 Joe spoke eloquently about taxpayer liability for
2 third-party damage under the Superfund law. I've been a
3 corporate risk manager, for most of my career, for a large
4 local employer. The applicant is required to carry -- I
5 come as an individual tonight, though -- is required to
6 carry very nominal insurance limits in comparison to the
7 risks they hope to import into Tacoma.

8 So I've read the agreement. Buried within their
9 30-year ground lease, there's a very broad and very clear
10 waiver of liability for all acts of God. Now, act of God is
11 both a legal and an insurance term. Let me explain how
12 provisions like this function in the commercial insurance
13 world when something goes wrong. Until insurance companies
14 find a way to sue God, an act of God is defined as any event
15 where a human is not considered directly at fault.

16 So let's imagine we have a minor to severe
17 rainstorm, windstorm, lightning streak, cold snap, heat
18 wave, falling tree, flood, snowstorm, earthquake, lahar, or
19 tsunami. These perils, which is another insurance term, are
20 all considered acts of God. An incident ensues at the
21 plant, the methanol plant, as a result of an act of God,
22 causing a release of a hazardous substance and minor to
23 severe to unthinkable damage to the radius. Similar to the
24 Superfund law, in a scenario like this, the applicant has
25 no responsibility for the resulting damage regardless of

1 whether they maintained safe operations or protected their
2 operations from foreseeable weather events or natural
3 disasters.

4 Some insurance policies cover acts of God; some
5 don't. But in this case, it really doesn't matter since the
6 Port of Tacoma signed a 30-year ground lease with the
7 applicant, holding them harmless for damages associated with
8 a number of very common scenarios. Put another way, a
9 critical incentive to maintain safe operations has been
10 undermined and rendered largely useless.

11 So getting back to the EIS, it should include study
12 of perverse incentives like this existing within the written
13 agreements, the law, the applicant's corporate structure,
14 and the insufficiency of fines and penalties to address
15 less-than-safe operations.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. McCARTY: First, I really want to thank both of
18 you two because you've been grace under a lot of fire
19 tonight, so thank you very much.

20 I just wanted to say a quote by Wendell Berry:
21 "There are no unsacred places, only sacred places and
22 desecrated places," and I don't want my Tacoma to be
23 desecrated any more than it is, so thanks very much.

24 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

25 (The EIS Public Scoping Meeting adjourned.)