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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center  
1500 Broadway  
Tacoma, Washington

Thursday January 21, 2016  
5:45 p.m.

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. HUFFMAN: So good evening. We're going to start here.

Thank you for accommodating the early beginning of this process. I know that it was publicized to begin at 6:30, but clearly the room is full and so thank you for allowing us to begin early. The room is booked until 10:30. There's sign-in sheets that will continue to be outside, so we will continue to go through this process.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Will this be recorded for the people who had been planning to be here at 6:30?

MR. HUFFMAN: This is recorded by audio and by a certified court reporter.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Do you have an overflow room?

MR. HUFFMAN: There is an overflow room right over here where there is no video but there's audio.

So my name is Peter Huffman and I'm the director of the City of Tacoma's Planning and Development Services Department. I want to thank all of you for coming out this evening, a dark and rainy evening. Before I turn it over to the staff person that is assigned to this project from my department, Ian Munce, I just want to make a few comments.

I appreciate all of the interest and passion that is going into this process. I do want to reiterate what Ian

1 has said publicly: that the purpose of tonight's meeting is  
2 to get comments from the public on the scoping of an  
3 Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed methanol  
4 plant by Northwest Innovations Works down in the Tideflats,  
5 so tonight's meeting is a scoping public comment meeting.  
6 This is not a decision tonight. This is not about the  
7 actual project other than gaining support or comments from  
8 you on issues that should be studied as part of the EIS.

9 This is one of two meetings. The second meeting  
10 will be held next week -- or next month -- I think it's the  
11 16th of February -- and then the comment period will run  
12 through the 27th.

13 MR. MUNCE: The 17th, but we've been asked to --

14 MR. HUFFMAN: The 17th, but we've been asked to  
15 extend that, so we're considering that based on tonight's  
16 comments.

17 So, again, appreciate the passion. I appreciate  
18 your time this evening taken away from your busy schedules,  
19 your families, cetera.

20 I've been doing land use planning in the City of  
21 Tacoma for over 20 years, so I've had and held many public  
22 meetings on many issues in land use. You'd be surprised how  
23 much interest in land use the citizens of the city of Tacoma  
24 have, and I have been resistful and for on many, many  
25 issues, and one of the things that I pride myself on as

1 being not only a resident of Tacoma but also the planning  
2 director for the City of Tacoma and a planner for the last  
3 20-some years is how civil, how open, how objective, how  
4 respectful the citizens of Tacoma are, and I would expect  
5 nothing less than this evening.

6 This is a process that is going to be going on for  
7 some time. There are, obviously, varying degrees of opinion  
8 about this process, this project, in this room, and one of  
9 the things that, again, I think Tacoma does better than  
10 others cities is Tacoma respects the right for people to  
11 have varying opinions, and so I expect this evening for us  
12 to be respectful. I expect everyone to be open to the  
13 speakers and not necessarily jeer them, praise them, or any  
14 other sort of show of emotion. I think everybody here has  
15 the right to be heard and everybody here has the right to  
16 get their issues on the table so that the City can  
17 incorporate those into the scoping process for the  
18 Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

19 Now, having said that, if an individual does not  
20 yield their time appropriately or does not act in the  
21 fashion that, again, the citizens of Tacoma always do, they  
22 will be asked to yield their time. If there is an ongoing  
23 issue not only this group or individuals and individuals do  
24 not act accordingly to respect the other speakers or other  
25 individuals in this room, they will be asked to leave. If

1 this room itself or this whole process this evening does not  
2 follow the decorum that we all expect of the citizens of  
3 Tacoma as they participate in emotional, passionate,  
4 contentious land-use issues, we'll adjourn the meeting.

5           So I do not want to do any of that. I think it's  
6 important, as the planning director for this city, to have  
7 all voices heard. I think it's important that you all know  
8 that we pride ourselves at the City of Tacoma on fairness  
9 and being objective, and I want just everyone to be assured  
10 that this process is going to be very transparent, that  
11 we're going to follow all state laws; we are going to follow  
12 all of the procedures and processes that we are required to  
13 do during an Environmental Impact Statement.

14           So with that, I'm going to turn it over to Ian  
15 Munce and Ian Munce is going to talk about specifically what  
16 this process is and what it's not and then some particulars  
17 about the project.

18           So thank you again for coming this evening, and we  
19 all look forward to having a very passionate conversation  
20 this evening and continuing that conversation as we move  
21 throughout this process. Thank you.

22           MR. MUNCE: Thank you, Peter, members of the  
23 audience. Again, welcome. My name is Ian Munce. I'm the  
24 project manager for this Environmental Impact Statement, and  
25 I'm going to apologize and read some remarks because I don't

1 want to get them wrong. I can't do as well as Peter  
2 extemporaneously.

3 I'm doing this project under Peter's direction.  
4 After consultation with other City agencies and permit  
5 review agencies, it's going to be Mr. Huffman who will  
6 determine the adequacy of the work that we're here to  
7 discuss tonight, so we're much very in a staff-driven  
8 process. I know people would like this to be other than  
9 that, but we're very much in a staff-driven process.

10 I would like to provide first a little context.  
11 It's really on the sheets I put on your chairs this evening.

12 The Port of Tacoma has leased the property to a  
13 private company, Northwest Innovation Works, and they're  
14 entitled to submit applications. However, before they can  
15 submit applications, the City has a duty to prepare an  
16 Environmental Impact Statement to look at all of the  
17 impacts, both pro and con, of this project. That document  
18 that will take about a year to prepare -- and I'll talk  
19 about that some more -- a year to prepare will then be the  
20 basic document that will be used by all the reviewing  
21 agencies, whether it's the Puget Sound Clear Air Agency or  
22 the fire department or other agencies.

23 So as far as the mechanics this evening, as Peter  
24 said, we do have a court reporter here. Gina is here to do  
25 that. In a week so or we'll have a transcript of this

1 evening's hearing. We'll put that on our website. The  
2 convention center folks will also have an audio tape and  
3 I'll have that on a thumb drive and that will be available.

4           So we're going to open this up really quickly for  
5 three-minute comments. There are lights on the podium.  
6 They will show the three minutes. Please don't do what I'm  
7 doing and talk too fast because court reporters get really  
8 anxious about that -- and I always talk too fast. If you'd  
9 like to spell your name, that would be helpful. We're going  
10 to take people in the order they signed up, alternating  
11 between the lists that we have. We apologize in advance for  
12 mispronunciation of names.

13           At this point I would usually take procedural  
14 questions, but there's just too many people in the room, so  
15 I encourage you to give me a call or send me an e-mail. I  
16 think many of you in the room know I've already responded to  
17 phone calls and e-mails. I will keep doing that as far  
18 as the procedure.

19           So what happens after this evening is, as  
20 Mr. Huffman said, we're going to have another -- we're going  
21 to take all of your comments, the comments we have received  
22 in writing and prepare what's called a Draft Scope of Work.  
23 It's going to be three or four pages long. It's going to  
24 describe all the issues City staff think are important to  
25 put in an environmental document. We're going to put that

1 on our website, e-mail it to our e-mail list February 9th,  
2 come heck or high water, and give you a chance to then  
3 submit written comments on that scope of work; and  
4 hopefully, from my point of view, the discussion at Meeker  
5 Middle School will focus on those specifics: what have we  
6 got right, what have we got wrong, what do we need to add?  
7 So as Mr. Huffman said, it's a very deliberate process that  
8 we're engaged in.

9 So we've got 130 comments, written comments, as of  
10 noon today, and we have comment sheets for those who would  
11 like to submit them this evening, both in the room and in  
12 the foyer.

13 I plan on taking a break at about two hours or so  
14 for ten minutes and then we'll start again, and then we'll  
15 see where we are by 10:30 tonight and we may have to have  
16 some contingency plans if we still have people who want to  
17 talk.

18 So we're here to listen to you, and at this point I  
19 would ask -- you were going to do --

20 MS. SCHULTZ: Do you want to introduce me?

21 MR. MUNCE: Oh, I'm sorry.

22 Shirley Schultz delegates all the difficult tasks  
23 to me and so she's going to do the easier ones.

24 MS. SCHULTZ: Actually, the way it worked out was  
25 Ian said he couldn't read people's handwriting. I can't



1 read Ian's, so I guess it's all fair.

2 Again, thank you for coming tonight. As Ian  
3 mentioned, we're going to go off the lists that we have and  
4 alternate so that both side's points of view are getting  
5 heard. We have neutrals too which I couldn't reach.

6 But out of courtesy and respect, we have Port  
7 Commissioner Connie Bacon here this evening and we have  
8 invited her to start first. And then following Connie, we  
9 will have Ken Campbell and then Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow.

10 So, Connie, if you want to go up and get started,  
11 there's your podium, and Ian's going to try to run the  
12 timer.

13 MS. BACON: Well, good evening, everybody. My name  
14 is Connie Bacon and I am the president of the Port of Tacoma  
15 Commission.

16 Last May, I and the other commissioners approved a  
17 lease agreement for the former Kaiser smelter property with  
18 Northwest Innovation Works so that Northwest Innovation  
19 Works could advance their plans for developing a  
20 manufacturing and export facility converting natural gas and  
21 water to methanol.

22 It is the job of commissioners to respond to  
23 opportunities that are presented to us that have the  
24 perceived potential to have economic benefit, environmental  
25 benefit, and the benefit that will create jobs. We took

1 this action understanding that hundreds of jobs would be  
2 created, that the methanol would be used instead of coal as  
3 a feedstock for manufacturing a wide variety of consumer  
4 goods and that the lease would begin with a feasibility  
5 period. And when we approved this lease, we did so with  
6 tonight's event in mind. This is not the Port's event, nor  
7 a Northwest Innovation Works event. This is largely your  
8 event, facilitated by the City of Tacoma staff, and an  
9 opportunity for you to express your interests and concerns  
10 so that the environmental review process can be accomplished  
11 in an open and transparent fashion.

12 On behalf of the Port Commission, I wish to thank  
13 you for being here and being willing to express your  
14 thoughts and how you feel about the project. I, like you,  
15 will be looking forward to the facts that will be -- that  
16 will determine the outcome of this project. Thank you very  
17 much.

18 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you. My name is Ken Campbell.  
19 We're all here tonight -- as Ian said, thank you for the  
20 opportunity to speak. We're all here tonight to provide  
21 comments that are related to the possible environmental  
22 impacts of putting the country's largest methanol refinery  
23 here in the city of Tacoma.

24 I would like the review that's conducted to  
25 consider the water that we use, the amount of water that

1 will be used, and how that water is going to be accounted  
2 for, especially given the low water levels we've seen  
3 lately.

4 I'd like the report to consider the power that this  
5 plant is going to require and where that power is going to  
6 need to come from and at what cost.

7 I'd like it to consider the effects of an  
8 earthquake, that earthquake we hear about almost every day  
9 in the news now, and there's a fault right underneath this  
10 spot, as I'm sure you know. I would like it to consider  
11 what would happen to this area if that should happen, if we  
12 should happen to get an earthquake.

13 Sea level rise is something that's being planned  
14 for by other ports, by the U.S. Navy. Studies show that  
15 this area where we're going to --

16 Does that mean one minute left? What does this  
17 mean?

18 MR. MUNCE: I forgot to turn the timer on.

19 MR. CAMPBELL: Do I start over?

20 MR. MUNCE: No. You know your time.

21 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay, all right. It just kind of  
22 freaked me out.

23 The sea level rise, I think that that should be  
24 considered -- that's all I'm saying -- that if it's being  
25 considered elsewhere, it should be considered here. There

1 are models that show that this site is in danger given  
2 levels of two, three, four, and more feet.

3 I'd like it to consider -- and I don't know that  
4 this is entirely within the scoping of this report -- but  
5 the natural gas line that hasn't been built yet. That's the  
6 line that's coming from Puyallup to supply this plant --  
7 whether or not this is going to consider that. It does need  
8 to consider the fact of how much natural gas is coming in  
9 and the impact of fracking, which is how natural gas gets  
10 you in the first place. I realize that's not a local  
11 environmental impact, but I don't really know that there's  
12 such a thing as a local environmental impact.

13 More than 12 million tons of plastic is dumped in  
14 the ocean every year. What effect does this plant -- what  
15 part does this plant and plants like it play on that fact?

16 I think most of us remember the explosion at the  
17 Atlas foundry a few years ago, a relatively small explosion  
18 compared to what could happen in a situation like this. I'd  
19 like the report to consider that.

20 And, finally, this methanol is going to be used  
21 eventually to make plastic, and it's not baby formula; it's  
22 not some vitally needed commodity. It's plastic, and we've  
23 got more plastic than we know what to do with already, so I  
24 would like the Environmental Impact Statement to consider  
25 that too.

1 Thank you very much for your time.

2 MS. KURNITZ-THURLOW: Good evening. Lyz Kurnitz-  
3 Thurlow.

4 I am neither for nor opposed to this project at  
5 this point. Mostly I have questions. Correct me if I'm  
6 wrong, but until the SEPA process explores all these issues  
7 and the mitigation, we don't know what the effects will be,  
8 so I can't make a decision and I think that hasty decisions  
9 don't help because then you don't look at everything.

10 Also, this is not a refinery. It is a conversion  
11 plant. We do know that it will use a lot of electricity.  
12 If it does not all come from hydropower and other clean  
13 sources and coal generation is involved, this would not help  
14 the world's problems with greenhouse gases, so we all want  
15 to know about that.

16 Also, would any of the natural gas be fracked --  
17 and I understand that it's always mixed, so some of it is --  
18 because this is causing such huge environmental problems  
19 that are growing that it is a major concern to us all.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you, and I'll be brief. Good  
22 evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

23 For the record, my name is Mark Martinez. I live  
24 in the Stewart Heights neighborhood in the fabulous east  
25 side of Tacoma. I also am proud to represent the 16 craft

1 unions and about 6,000 union members, the building  
2 construction trades here in Pierce County.

3 Like everybody else, we're interested in maintaining  
4 Tacoma's waterways, shorelines, air and water supplies,  
5 making sure that they remain clean and safe. We are equally  
6 concerned about the continued availability of well-paid  
7 blue-collar jobs and adequate funding for our schools,  
8 public services, infrastructure, all of which are supported  
9 by a healthy economy based on a mixture of employment. We  
10 urge the City to develop a scoping environmental review  
11 consistent with the following process:

12 First, the scope of the EIS should be reasonably  
13 limited to the effects of the project in Tacoma/Pierce  
14 County and the surrounding water bodies and air sheds.

15 The Draft EIS should address how construction and  
16 operation of the proposed manufacturing facility will not  
17 adversely affect the ongoing remediation efforts within  
18 Commencement Bay and the Tideflats.

19 The DEIS should identify regulatory requirements  
20 and industry-designed best practices that ensure the  
21 proposed manufacturing facility is engineered, constructed,  
22 and operated to the highest safety standards. We in the  
23 construction industry understand safety very well and work  
24 hard every day to ensure that everybody goes home after  
25 every shift every day.

1           The DEIS should analyze the effects of the proposed  
2 manufacturing facility on the area's infrastructure such as  
3 roads, rail, electrical and water systems and wastewater  
4 treatment.

5           The DEIS should analyze direct and indirect  
6 economic effects of the proposed facility, including jobs  
7 created, taxes paid to support services such as fire, EMS,  
8 police, as well as school districts and other special-  
9 purpose districts.

10           We are also going to ask that the EIS process is  
11 conducted in a timely and fair manner, using analysis based  
12 on facts and science, not distortion and hysteria. The  
13 Building Trades Council strongly supports the construction  
14 and operation of the methanol plant facility in the Port of  
15 Tacoma.

16           Thank you.

17           MS. NEUGEBAUER-REX: Hello. My name is Joanne and  
18 I'll spell the last name: N-e-u-g-e-b-a-u-e-r, hyphen,  
19 R-e-x, and I'm used to it being kind of not pronounced  
20 right. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

21           I live in northeast Tacoma, and I wrote some  
22 questions and I will be submitting them later in my  
23 comments, in extended comments, but I would like to read  
24 them here.

25           The first question I have that will be part of my

1 comments: Has there been an analysis on land values? And  
2 if there has been, for those of us who live in Tacoma, who  
3 paid for it and is it unbiased? I am concerned how this  
4 plant, if it goes forward -- and believe me, I do not want  
5 this plant built and I will explain more on that -- how does  
6 it affect my land value in northeast Tacoma of the home I  
7 love?

8 My second question: What other materials will the  
9 olefins be used for? I saw a display out here and I just  
10 say this in all respect to our commissioner: A perceived  
11 potential benefit doesn't mean it's a safe or a wise one for  
12 us. Where are these products going to end up? In our  
13 oceans again? Can we recycle them? Are they fully  
14 recyclable? Do we need more packaging and waste products  
15 generated that aren't necessary and will be static in our  
16 environment for years?

17 I'm very concerned about our oceans. That was  
18 number 3.

19 Number 4: Why are these plants being built in the  
20 U.S.? Why can't they be built, with all respect to Mr. --  
21 and let me pronounce it -- Mr. Xi, I believe. Why is it not  
22 built in China where the company originates? And I realize  
23 they're an LLC here. Why do you want to build in the middle  
24 of such a populated area and put people's health at risk?

25 Number 5: Why wasn't every single resident in the



1 City of Tacoma sent the SEPA document so they could be  
2 informed? The 2014 census of Tacoma was 205,159. Only  
3 1,300 brochures were mailed out. That is a less than one  
4 percent notification rate. That is unacceptable. Every  
5 citizen in Tacoma should have knowledge of this, and I am  
6 asking that you send the rest of those out, please. It's  
7 your right -- as a public servant, that's what you can do  
8 for us. Please do that.

9 I don't know how much time I have, but I'm going to  
10 keep going.

11 So number 6: If a catastrophic explosion takes  
12 place -- and if any of you haven't Googled "methanol plant  
13 explosion," please do it. It is terrifying. It is a hell  
14 fire plume of fire, and since methanol has such a low flash  
15 point, water even -- I believe it's hard for water to put  
16 this out.

17 (Timer sounds.)

18 Okay, well, I'm done, but -- and the last one,  
19 quickly: I am a cancer survivor. I already had crap put in  
20 my body. I do not want to deal with methanol and the  
21 terrible consequences that it can have for our health, and I  
22 thank you for the time to speak.

23 MS. SCHULTZ: So next we have Eric Garcia, I  
24 believe. Federal Way?

25 (Recitation of names.)

1 MR. GARAY: So my last name is spelled G-a-r-a-y.

2 So mine's pretty objective. I have four main  
3 points that I'm curious about and they should be looked at  
4 in the EIS very closely.

5 The first is the plant is going to consume about  
6 3.8 billion gallons of water. The citizens use about 3.5 --  
7 these are all estimated numbers -- annually. Tacoma has a  
8 max output -- again, another estimated number -- of about  
9 5.8. Between the two, you need 6.3 [sic] billion gallons,  
10 so the water infrastructure is not there. Who's going to  
11 pay for that if such a thing goes through, and how are they  
12 going to -- where is the rest of the water going to come  
13 from? What other cities or areas are we going to be  
14 affecting? That's the bottom line for that.

15 All right, so the other one is the health of the  
16 Puget Sound. Since there's very little research done on how  
17 methanol might impact an environment, even though some can  
18 argue it's safe, some can argue it's not safe, I would like  
19 to see how that's disclosed in the impact statement.

20 Disasters and clean-up: If something, God forbid,  
21 should go wrong, who's paying the bill? What plans will be  
22 in place? Who's going to be responsible for the clean-up?  
23 I mean, that's an enormous amount of planning right there.

24 Then finally, the pollution to the Puget Sound.  
25 That's our backyard.

1           So, basically, I'd like to see all of that fully  
2 disclosed openly, publicly, easily. If it has to be across  
3 four websites -- whatever -- just get the word out so  
4 everybody is well informed.

5           Thank you.

6           MR. NEWGENT: Thank you for taking testimony today.  
7 My name is Lee Newgent. I'm the executive secretary of the  
8 Washington State Building Trades. We represent 70,000 union  
9 construction workers in Washington state. We are working on  
10 a number of energy projects. We're very familiar with the  
11 process.

12           When I come here today, I welcome the idea of the  
13 possibilities of what Tacoma can make out of this project.  
14 It's important to the future of Tacoma that they have  
15 investment in industry. I understand the arguments for and  
16 against, and the building trades, we're not here to argue  
17 with the environmentalists. We consider ourselves  
18 environmentalists as well.

19           We know that we can hold the contractor, we can  
20 hold the company, we can hold their safety standards to a  
21 level that's not seen in the rest of the United States  
22 because of the vision of what we do in Washington state.  
23 It's the manner of how we do everything in Washington state.  
24 We're the leader in Washington state in so many different  
25 construction practices regarding safety. Our nuclear plant

1 standards, our hydroelectric dam standards, all those  
2 standards are the highest in the United States now, so we're  
3 not going to lower our standards to build a project so we  
4 can profit from it. That's not what we believe in. We  
5 believe in investment in community.

6 Our members live here too, the members in our  
7 audience here today. They live in Pierce County for two  
8 reason: First, it's a beautiful place to live. Second,  
9 it's more affordable than some other areas.

10 We went through a major project here years ago with  
11 the Tacoma Narrows project: on the water, all kinds of  
12 environmental concerns. We walked through that, mitigated  
13 the dangers, and had a very successful project. That's what  
14 we're talking about.

15 The bigger issue now facing the Port of Tacoma is  
16 maintaining a working port. The Seattle area, King County,  
17 is losing their working port. They're losing that. A  
18 combined effort with Tacoma and Seattle, we'll be able to  
19 compete on the nation's level for ports and working ports.  
20 We know how important that is.

21 We know that this land is already industrial land.  
22 This is not land that is virgin and untouched. This is land  
23 that was a smelter plant before. This is not a development  
24 of a project. It's a redevelopment of something that is not  
25 having any use right now, so it's an investment for

1 commercial property. It's investment in the local infra-  
2 structure. It's an investment in school money, infra-  
3 structure money, all things that are important to the people  
4 who live here.

5           Again, we can't build this project unless we have  
6 strong environmental oversight -- strong environmental  
7 oversight. The environmental impact needs to take  
8 everything into concern of what is going to happen in Pierce  
9 County and our waterways. We maintain that level.

10           I also want to remind people, my work force, if  
11 there's an accident, they're the people that get killed and  
12 it's important to us that we maintain safety and  
13 environmental standards.

14           Thank you very much for the testimony.

15           MS. WALKER: Good evening. My name is Ingrid  
16 Walker, W-a-l-k-e-r. Thank you for the opportunity to  
17 speak.

18           I am alarmed that the state and city has proceeded  
19 with the methanol plant project largely without public input  
20 up to this point, and I hope that the concern that has now  
21 been generated on all sides of this issue suggests that  
22 potentially we need, after the environmental scope is done,  
23 more public conversation about this plant.

24           My comments are a little broader than the EIS  
25 because this is the first chance I've had to share them.

1 I'm truly saddened that after the clean-up of  
2 Tacoma's environment, our city stewards would even consider  
3 this industry. These plants produce waste that includes  
4 nickel, copper, zinc oxide, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide,  
5 nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds  
6 and particulate matter, all in hundreds of gallons of  
7 wastewater a minute.

8 I was mere miles from the epicenter of the Loma  
9 Prieta earthquake of 1989 that leveled Santa Cruz,  
10 California, and tore apart the San Francisco Bay Bridge 95  
11 miles to the north. It pushed homes off their foundations,  
12 burst gas lines, started fires and destroyed an entire city  
13 in ten seconds, buildings imploding as if by detonation.  
14 What a major earthquake can do is unimaginable. And I want  
15 you to think about what happened to Japan: They thought  
16 they were ready for that earthquake.

17 To even consider putting a methanol pipeline in  
18 this region is irresponsible and potentially deadly.  
19 Methanol is flammable in liquid and gas states and is  
20 considered highly toxic to humans and animals. It's bad  
21 enough that we have freight trains going through Tacoma with  
22 toxic loads. We don't need to invite environmental risks of  
23 this magnitude. It is foolish and dangerous.

24 As an American said in (unclear), I am painfully  
25 aware of the boom-and-bust cycle of American cities like

1 Tacoma. I love this city. I love its blue-collar roots,  
2 and I don't want to see this become a decision between jobs  
3 or the environment. We shouldn't have to make that choice.

4 The U.S. is moving toward clean industry standard.  
5 I hear this is a clean industry. I'm not convinced. Please  
6 don't take us backwards. We just cleaned up our waterways.  
7 Given our history of industrial pollution, Tacoma should be  
8 on the forefront of less-toxic industries. We expect you to  
9 lead us in that direction.

10 Thank you.

11 (Recitation of names.)

12 MS. BECKER: Good evening. My name is Bonnie  
13 Becker, B-e-c-k-e-r. I am on the board of Citizens for a  
14 Healthy Bay. Please note, we have submitted very lengthy  
15 written comments that I'm sure you will be reading.

16 I'd like to thank you for your time and I'd like to  
17 ask a single question that comes from our lengthy list of  
18 questions, and what I would like to -- what I would like to  
19 hear answered through the EIS scoping process is regarding  
20 water use. While I understand that the precise amount of  
21 water needed to run this plant is still uncertain since  
22 we're fairly early in the process, we do know that it will  
23 be significant relative to the existing use of water in  
24 Tacoma.

25 I'm sure many people here will be asking about the

1 human impacts of that water use, but I'm more focused on the  
2 ecological effects of that water use, so I'd like to know  
3 what the effect is of removing this much water from our  
4 rivers in terms of stream flow, in terms of salmon, and I  
5 would specifically like to know how this will be affected by  
6 natural variability, plus the predicted variability due to  
7 climate change. So while there's still quite a bit that's  
8 unknown, I feel like we do have enough of a range to be able  
9 to model out what those effects might look like in terms of  
10 the ecological effects.

11 I'd like to thank you for holding this hearing.  
12 I'd like to thank everybody for coming out tonight and for  
13 considering our comments later. Thank you.

14 MR. McCLAIN: Good evening. Thanks for having us  
15 here. My name is Chris McClain, M-c-C-l-a-i-n.

16 The ironworkers are here today to talk about jobs,  
17 and not just any jobs, but living-wage jobs. Bringing  
18 living-wage jobs to this community was the plan when Tacoma  
19 residents of the -- or leaders of the past decided to build  
20 a port and an industrial complex in the same area. It  
21 wasn't so that we could have large lots of extremely  
22 valuable property sitting vacant. It was so that we can  
23 attract a thriving community to Tacoma, and when we protest  
24 business in an industrial area, we essentially are saying  
25 that we are closed for business, that we don't want a



1 thriving and diversified community.

2           We are in an age of transition, and the American  
3 people are tired of fossil fuel energies and its pollution.  
4 Methanol is a clean-burning energy source, and I know this  
5 to be true because the monster truck show last weekend  
6 inside the Tacoma Dome, filled with people not wearing gas  
7 masks, proves the clean emissions of methanol because that's  
8 how those vehicles are powered. I didn't hear anything  
9 about a catastrophic explosion endangering the entire  
10 audience. I did hear, though, that it was a lot of fun.

11           As Stephen Hawking recently said about our  
12 technological advances, we must recognize the dangers and  
13 control them, so let's help Pierce County residents control  
14 the dangers of pollution by reducing their commutes, by  
15 building a clean-energy plant here in Tacoma.

16           Several months ago, the ironworkers partnered with  
17 Pierce County by offering direct entry into our  
18 apprenticeship program upon completion of a one-month pre-  
19 apprenticeship. We have brought in over 40 Pierce County  
20 residents so far. There is currently a class in training  
21 now and there are more to come. We have negotiated living  
22 wages, retirement and health care benefits for those people,  
23 but right now they aren't working in Tacoma. They're  
24 working in Everett at the Boeing facility; they're working  
25 in Seattle at the Amazon building; they're working in

1 Bellevue at Lincoln Square; they're working out of Bangor  
2 Naval Base in Silverdale helping to ensure our national  
3 safety. We don't create work, but you can. We need you to  
4 help us by creating these jobs for these men and women that  
5 have been training for them. Tacoma has the opportunity to  
6 tell their residents that not only do we want you to live  
7 here, we also want you to be able to work here.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. COBLE: Hi. My name is Ken Coble, C-o-b-l-e.

10 I have nothing new to add. Just add me to the list  
11 of citizens of Tacoma who are opposed to this being built.

12 Thank you.

13 (Recitation of names.)

14 MS. MALOTT: Hi. My name is Melissa Malott and I'm  
15 the executive director of Citizens for a Healthy Bay, an  
16 environmental nonprofit organization that represents and  
17 engages citizens in the clean-up, restoration and protection  
18 of Commencement Bay, its surrounding waters and natural  
19 habitat. Thank you for having us here tonight and for  
20 talking public comments.

21 CHB's comments about the scope of the environmental  
22 review for this plant falls under four categories:  
23 industrial processes, water usage and discharge systems,  
24 water and air pollution, and community safety. I'm going to  
25 speak to the water usage and discharge issues that most

1 directly impact the health of the bay and my written  
2 testimony will cover the other issues.

3 CHB would like to see a broad scope of review  
4 around the plant's potential water use and water discharge  
5 systems. The EIS should evaluate, 1, the specific amount  
6 and quality of water required for each reaction and stage of  
7 the industrial process, the temperature requirements for  
8 this water, and the maximum amount of water required on a  
9 daily basis.

10 2: The project's water sources, impacts on ground  
11 water supplies, streams and rivers, the ecological impacts  
12 of such water use on the aquatic and terrestrial life near  
13 those water sources and how these impacts may affect other  
14 water customers, wildlife, and minimum in-stream flows in  
15 different seasons and during periods of drought.

16 3: The demonstrated technology for effectively  
17 recycling cooling water at this facility, the environmental  
18 implications of recycling cooling water in this way,  
19 alternatives that require less water usage and the  
20 environmental impacts of those alternatives.

21 4: The project's ability to scale back water use  
22 during drought periods, processes at the facility that can  
23 be curtailed under defined drought conditions, Northwest  
24 Innovation's plans or processes for water conservation  
25 during drought and the means that the City has to enforce

1 this.

2 5: Whether the project can effectively use water  
3 sourced from wastewater treatment plants for some or all  
4 stages of the industrial process.

5 6: The amount of water discharged via the city  
6 sewer and wastewater treatment facilities, any direct  
7 discharge to waterways, and any stormwater discharge from  
8 the site.

9 Finally, how the plant will manage wastewater and  
10 the cost to treat, given different treatment alternatives,  
11 including any costs that may be borne by the public.

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

19 MR. DeMULLING: Yeah, thank you. Dear committee  
20 members, my name is Don DeMulling. My family, including my  
21 wife, three adult sons, their wives and my two grandsons  
22 live in the Puyallup Valley not far from the Port of Tacoma.  
23 I'm also a member of Ironworkers Local 86 which has 2,500  
24 members, 175 of which live in the vicinity of the Port. We  
25 all support building this methanol plant and encourage the

1 community to move forward.

2 I know methanol is much more environmentally  
3 friendly than other energy sources that would be used  
4 elsewhere in the world. Who else would you trust to make  
5 sure that the best practices are here when building and  
6 maintaining an environmentally safe plant?

7 By moving forward, we create 260 permanent jobs and  
8 a thousand construction jobs, with an economic multiplier  
9 greater than three for the community. These will be jobs  
10 with dignity, which means being able to contribute to the  
11 community instead of taking resources away from the  
12 community. It means being able to take my family out to  
13 dinner at a restaurant, not standing in line at a food bank.  
14 It means having medical insurance benefits, not my  
15 neighbor's taxes or insurance surcharges paying my medical  
16 bills. It means when I'm too old to work and ready to  
17 retire, my community isn't paying for that either. Having a  
18 job with dignity also means I'm able to contribute to my  
19 community.

20 Please don't let us lose this opportunity. It  
21 makes good financial sense to generate money for local  
22 businesses and create a long-stemmed tax revenue for our  
23 area. Please approve this project.

24 Thank you for your time. That's Don DeMulling,  
25 D-e-M-u-l-l-i-n-g.

1 MS. MOORE: I am Ellen Moore, citizen of Tacoma and  
2 member of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission. My comments  
3 tonight are both specific and broad. I could list any  
4 number of serious environmental concerns and I do so for the  
5 record.

6 1: The plant would guzzle more than half of  
7 Tacoma's clean water supply a day as we head into years of  
8 expected drought and we're asked to conserve water.

9 2: Heavy metals and chemicals like nickel carbonyl  
10 will be used to refine the fracked gas into methanol, and  
11 I'd like to know how these hazardous chemicals and materials  
12 will be stored once spent.

13 3: The plant will allow China to make more cheap  
14 plastics to send back into our oceans and waterways, choking  
15 and killing our marine life even more, and China is the  
16 number one contributor to plastic in our waterways -- number  
17 one. We'd be enabling China to pollute our oceans even more  
18 than it already does with cheap methanol-produced plastics.

19 4: There's significant risks of methane leaks,  
20 and I do know the difference between methane and methanol.  
21 Methanol is the highly flammable, volatile, toxic material  
22 we might be making here; and natural gas, used to make  
23 methanol, consists primarily of methane, the most potent  
24 greenhouse gas. Methane and methanol are directly linked,  
25 and currently LA is dealing with a methane leak of

1 catastrophic proportions from its natural gas facility.

2 So concerned citizens will make their voices known  
3 tonight. My unique contribution comes from my perspective  
4 as commissioner of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission.

5 Tonight I speak only from my personal perspective and I do  
6 not represent the commission.

7 STC's role is extremely limited. While it should  
8 act as a watch dog for sustainability matters, it has little  
9 power and the City rarely, if ever, seeks us out to advise  
10 it on environmental matters. Instead, environmental  
11 oversight is placed under the Planning and Development  
12 Commission, a severe conflict of interest.

13 In fact, the City never brought methanol to STC's  
14 attention. As a commissioner, I and others found out about  
15 the plant on Facebook, which is troubling, given that we  
16 were created by the City to advise it on sustainability  
17 issues.

18 Because I consider a polluting petrochemical plant  
19 in the heart of our beautiful city one of our biggest  
20 environmental concerns to date, and because I feel as though  
21 I can do nothing as a commissioner, I am resigning from STC.

22 Mr. Huffman and Mr. Munce, you made the unusual  
23 decision tonight to change public comment protocol by  
24 forcing us to sign up as for or against the plant and then  
25 calling on each side equally, and I'd like to know how many

1 Tacomans are actually against methanol.

2           You also framed this debate by having Connie Bacon  
3 lead our discussion. This appears to reveal that despite  
4 your assurance, that the City does consider this a done  
5 deal. Please convince us otherwise.

6           MS. GOGINS: Thank you for taking public comment  
7 tonight. My name is Karen Gogins, G-o-g-i-n-s, and I am  
8 commenting on behalf of Citizens for a Healthy Bay to cover  
9 the scope of the water and air pollution issues CHB would  
10 like to see in the Environmental Impact Statement. I will  
11 speak to the scoping issues related to the pollution and  
12 community health issues that most directly impact the health  
13 of the bay and our community.

14           The proposed methanol plant project would produce  
15 a variety of air and water pollutants, both through  
16 construction and ongoing operation, many of which would  
17 impact air and water quality. The EIS should include a  
18 comprehensive list of these pollutants, as well as predicted  
19 amounts of each.

20           For on-site pollution, the scope of the EIS should  
21 include, number 1, the pollutants that would be in the  
22 wastewater of this plant, including thermal pollution, the  
23 ecological impacts of those pollutants, the project's  
24 potential impact on aquatic resources, and how the plant  
25 would meet water quality criteria.



1           Number 2: How the project's pollutants, including  
2 methanol, natural gas, and other byproducts, would affect  
3 the marine environment and aquatic and terrestrial natural  
4 resources.

5           Number 3: The types, range, and average quantities  
6 of air pollutants, including greenhouse gases and fugitive  
7 emissions from the project site and pipeline lateral during  
8 construction and operation and the project's impacts on air  
9 quality in Tacoma and nearby areas.

10           The types of storage tanks, including safety  
11 features that would be used in the project, and the  
12 potential risks related to methanol -- the methanol storage  
13 strategy and the measures to be used that would prevent and  
14 respond to derailments, spills, and other unexpected sources  
15 of pollution.

16           Number 5: The emergency spill protocol, both  
17 terrestrial and aquatic, and the clean-up plans for the  
18 accidental discharge of methanol, natural gas, and other  
19 byproducts.

20           For off-site pollution, the EIS should evaluate the  
21 frequency and mode by which the project's shipments would be  
22 transported, the impact of this increased shipping for both  
23 the marine environment and air quality, emissions from  
24 marine vessels when engaged in active loading and unloading.

25           And lastly, the impact of the projected population

1 growth over the 25-year lease period for the project.

2 Thank you again for your time tonight and for  
3 taking public comment on the scoping. Please consider the  
4 scope of these issues that should be evaluated in the EIS.  
5 Doing so will help keep the bay healthy for the citizens of  
6 Tacoma and our state and to ensure that our community can  
7 thrive today and for generations to come. Thank you.

8 MS. SCHULTZ: Willie Stewart? He'll be here in a  
9 second. He's in the other room. Well, we can come back to  
10 Willie if he shows up from the other room.

11 Marcy Rodenborn.

12 MS. RODENBORN: Thank you for taking public  
13 comment. I don't have very well-prepared statements, but I  
14 have an impact assessment I would really want the commission  
15 to do. I only found out about the plant from my wonderful  
16 neighbor Ellen Moore. I didn't hear about it.

17 I am the mother of an 11-year-old. I gave birth to  
18 my child in this city. I defend this city to all my hipster  
19 friends in Seattle who put it down all the time, and I want  
20 to keep it this beautiful, growing, diverse community that  
21 it is.

22 What I specifically want the impact assessment to  
23 look at is the effects on children. There are thousands of  
24 children. Thousands of children in schools, in daycares and  
25 preschools that play outside all the time in the area, so

1 what's the effect of the air on them?

2           What's the effect on all the toxins going into the  
3 water, any kind of storage, all of it? The pipeline running  
4 underneath, if that leaks -- not even if it leaks, but the  
5 everyday operations of the plant.

6           So many of my daughters' friends come over. They  
7 have asthma inhalers; they're sick; they're not well. I'm  
8 so tired of watching blue-collar communities be forced to  
9 deal with adverse environmental impacts of industrial life  
10 and I just think it's not fair.

11           I am also really disappointed by the lack of  
12 transparency. I know that's not part of this. I encourage  
13 everyone to look at their ballots and vote. We have a  
14 recall process. We should use it.

15           MR. STEWART: Good evening. My name is Willie  
16 Stewart and I'm a retired Tacoma public school educator and  
17 veteran who served in the Army, stationed at Fort Lewis, and  
18 although I'm a great Texan, I've been in this state since  
19 1958.

20           As an educator, the success of our young people has  
21 always been important to me. I serve on a number of boards  
22 in our community that support our youth and help them  
23 overcome the many challenges they face, to provide them with  
24 the necessary tools and skills to graduate from high school  
25 and have a plan for their future. In fact, an alternative

1 school was just named in my honor and they had a graduation  
2 tonight and that's why I'm a few minutes late.

3 I'm interested in this project because I feel it  
4 has an opportunity to present help to our young people and  
5 lift them out of poverty and the challenges they face today.  
6 We have lost a large number of companies in Tacoma over the  
7 last ten years that have chosen to relocate their  
8 headquarters. This means that there's less money coming  
9 into those organizations that provide school services to  
10 help our young people -- the social services.

11 I believe this EIS process will lead to the right  
12 decision as far as the safety and environmental concerns,  
13 which are very important and I do agree that they need to be  
14 thoroughly investigated and mitigated if this project goes  
15 forward. I would like to make sure, though, that the EIS  
16 includes the information about how the company will invest  
17 in our community, specifically in ways that help nonprofit  
18 organizations and the youth they serve build a brighter  
19 future here in Tacoma.

20 Thank you.

21 (Recitation of names.)

22 MR. BURNS: Hi. My name is Kit Burns -- that's  
23 B-u-r-n-s -- citizen of Tacoma. I am an architect and I'd  
24 like to speak a little bit just about your scoping statement  
25 and what I'd ask you to look at specifically.

1 I'm not familiar with methanol plants, but in a  
2 letter that I'm going to submit, I'm asking you to go  
3 through the United States and do an assessment of methanol  
4 plants throughout the United States. I would like to know  
5 specifically what plants have been built since 1960, what  
6 plants are still in operation, what's the condition and how  
7 they're operating, what's their employment.

8 I'd like to know also what's their input in terms  
9 of electricity, their outflow in terms of wastewater, their  
10 outflow in terms of chemicals, what's the temperature of the  
11 water -- many of the things that the Citizens for a Healthy  
12 Bay have asked for.

13 So as an architect, I used to come across confusing  
14 issues, and the best way I found to understand an issue is  
15 to do a comparison, just in a broad scope.

16 I'd also ask, too, that you specifically go and do  
17 an analysis of the water, question the temperature, question  
18 the chemicals, and that a plant such as this should be able  
19 to reuse this water. To put the volume of water into the  
20 bay would certainly be harmful.

21 In my letter, I also include a number of documents  
22 from the Tacoma Public water. I've got them listed  
23 specifically. It lists their goals for environmental input,  
24 their 2006 water conservation plan, their annual reports  
25 since 1997, and their TPU 2012 strategic plan. Also,

1 recently, they just signed an agreement, because they were  
2 short on water, with Lake Haven Water District, and so you  
3 want to look at that as well.

4           Finally, I made a couple suggestion on books to  
5 read, because I think it's important to be informed. One  
6 is called Merchants of Doubt. Another one is called Living  
7 Downstream. Another one that is excellent by a professor  
8 from the University of Washington is called King of Fish:  
9 The Thousand-Year Run of Salmon. He also wrote a book --  
10 David Montgomery wrote a book called Dirt: The Erosion of  
11 Civilizations, and all these, I think, will help make an  
12 informed review of this process.

13           So I appreciate the opportunity to speak today.  
14 Thank you.

15           MR. ANTHONY: Thank you very much. My name's  
16 Michael Anthony. I'm a boilermaker from Local 502, and I  
17 rise in support of the project today.

18           I think it's very important these days that we take  
19 the environment into account and I'm by no means putting  
20 jobs ahead of the environment, but I think we can have both.  
21 I sincerely believe that we've got the best-trained work  
22 force in our union craftsmen in this country that will be  
23 found anywhere in the world. I'd much rather we did this  
24 ourselves safely and cleanly than to outsource it and have a  
25 similar thing done in China where they are far less

1 concerned with the environment, and I'll leave it at that.

2 I just think we can have both.

3 MR. CRESO: My name is Charles Creso. I live in  
4 northeast Tacoma, downwind from the plant, and like so many  
5 people in this room, I only found out about this plant in  
6 the last few weeks. The Port Commission has been an  
7 absolute failure at letting people know this was coming up.  
8 I'm asking for a moratorium to delay this plant, to gather  
9 more public input -- and we need a bigger venue too. You've  
10 got too many people outside.

11 This has the potential for disastrous widespread  
12 impact. It demands probing questions on behalf of Tacoma's  
13 citizens and safety. This could be a mistake that will  
14 haunt Tacoma for years to come. Let's look at key issues.

15 Jetliners filled with highly volatile jet fuel  
16 slammed into the Twin Towers in York and we all witnessed it  
17 over and over again on the news. Now imagine a fully fueled  
18 jetliner slamming into the largest methanol gas facility in  
19 the world between downtown Tacoma and northeast Tacoma: a  
20 concussion blast heard up to 20 miles away, Commencement Bay  
21 filling with toxic, life-threatening smoke. If there's a  
22 temperature inversion when it occurs, dangerous gases could  
23 be trapped for days or weeks. If there's fog when it  
24 happens, corrosive toxic mists could settle on homes, cars,  
25 and be unavoidably taken in through the lungs. Remember the

1 survivors in New York: life-long health problems and death  
2 from toxic fumes. We might as well paint a big red target  
3 on the heart of Tacoma. New Orleans is still suffering from  
4 their disaster years later. Imagine plastic resins spilling  
5 from a ruptured ship Exxon Valdez style. That took years to  
6 clean up. As we speak, there's a gas disaster unfolding in  
7 the Los Angeles area, people forced from their homes not for  
8 a week but for months on end. And we all remember the  
9 Bellingham natural gas disaster. These disasters are the  
10 norm, not the exception.

11 Scientists remind us we are overdue for a magnitude  
12 9 mega-earthquake. They are certain that it will happen  
13 here again. No structure in the continental United States  
14 has been proven to be able to withstand such a high-  
15 magnitude earthquake in an actual event of that size.

16 Imagine roads buckled, fire engines unable to  
17 respond to multiple ruptured tanks or pipelines, ships in  
18 the process of being loaded with methanol or plastic resins  
19 slamming into docks and fires erupting, bridges down.  
20 People injured, everyone needing help. We've seen it in  
21 San Francisco with much smaller earthquakes.

22 Imagine that scenario unfolding in Tacoma and all  
23 the while the South Sound filling up with smoke, the  
24 evacuations local government would have to undertake, the  
25 adverse economic and health impacts. This has greater



1 potential for spewing hazardous toxins into the air than the  
2 garbage incineration plant that was opposed several years  
3 back.

4 And, lastly, this plant will drive up your water,  
5 your wastewater processing, and your electrical rates. The  
6 demand is far too high. They're going to have to go out  
7 into the market. It's going to drive everybody's rates up  
8 in this room.

9 MR. NORDSTROM: My name is Eric Nordstrom, spelled  
10 like the store. I'm the vice president of Boilermakers  
11 Local 502.

12 I think we should keep industry here in the United  
13 States where it can be regulated. I'm a big fan of ecology  
14 and I think that that's the way to do it: Regulate it here,  
15 rather than in China where things are less strict.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SCHULTZ: Ken Gibson.

18 MR. GIBSON: Good evening, and thank you folks for  
19 holding this hearing tonight.

20 First off, I just want to express a little bit of  
21 concern with the size of this meeting. The next meeting  
22 scheduled for February 17th in northeast Tacoma is largely  
23 inaccessible by public transit and it's not a large  
24 location.

25 Again, my name is Ken Gibson. I'm a citizen of

1 Tacoma. I've lived here for the last 16 years. My family  
2 has deep roots in Tacoma and Pierce County going back to  
3 1886, so we love this community a lot.

4 Jobs are key for Tacoma and Pierce County, but not  
5 this way. I have some concerns. They really fall into  
6 three major areas.

7 First of all, the water: How will water use be  
8 prioritized, how will it be treated, and what will be  
9 allowed into Commencement Bay that we've spent a lot of time  
10 trying to figure out to how to clean up?

11 Electricity: Where will it come from? Is it clean  
12 electricity? This is one of the arguments here, is that  
13 what we're trying to do is to offset something in China by  
14 doing something over here, but I'm not convinced that we  
15 will make it any cleaner by doing it here.

16 Safety is my biggest issue that I would like to  
17 have information about through the EIS process. How will  
18 the toxicity be mitigated in all of its forms? What will  
19 the disaster plan be? Who will pay the costs? Who will be  
20 leading it?

21 One of the things that I'm intimately familiar with  
22 is that there are some real difficulties between  
23 communication in Pierce County emergency management and the  
24 City of Tacoma, and I'm not convinced that when it's in the  
25 City of Tacoma, that there's a good plan at this point.

1           Finally, please forgive my skepticism, but we can't  
2 clean up Hanford after 70 years. How will this be  
3 different?

4           MR. DEXTER: Hi. Can you hear me? My name is  
5 Warren Dexter. I'm from the Portland area and I just heard  
6 about this. I'm from the flex fuel part of the equation,  
7 and I recognize that the methanol world is changing very  
8 fast and I wanted to add some facts.

9           In 2003, China produced roughly 6 million metric  
10 tons of methanol. In 2015, they produced nearly 50 million  
11 metric tons, so you can see there's a big growth in methanol  
12 and that's happened all around the world.

13           The other situation that's going on here is that  
14 we're watching the construction not just of this plant, but  
15 of three plants in our region, additional plants in the  
16 South that are part of the bay down there -- in the Gulf,  
17 rather, and it's very smart; it's very smart. Methanol is a  
18 very simple alcohol. It is made from wood. If we took all  
19 the wood in the trees and ground it up and brewed it like  
20 beer, we'd have methanol. But it's much cheaper to make it  
21 from natural gas, and the availability of natural gas  
22 through fracking has really brought about a changed scene in  
23 the world of methanol production. It's made the cost of  
24 methanol today be roughly 90 cents a gallon, even against  
25 the lowest prices of unleaded gas today being offered at a

1 dollar a gallon in the same very rough market.

2 Methanol is much cleaner burning, and I would urge  
3 everybody who's watching this process to also view a movie  
4 called "Pump," P-u-m-p, on Netflix. You'll hear just a  
5 little bit about what I'm talking about.

6 I don't believe these products will be used for  
7 olefins. I believe that the real goal of this is an energy  
8 product, as you've heard it talked about a lot. It's a  
9 very, very efficient energy resource. The simplicity of  
10 making it here is to take formed natural gas and join it  
11 with steam, which does not have to come from potable water,  
12 and they will prove that it can come from water from the  
13 river or the bay or different places here and they'll find  
14 great ways to show you how this is a very smart plant to be  
15 built and they will be part of the process of many plants  
16 that will be built.

17 Here's my problem --

18 MALE SPEAKER: Are they building them in Portland?

19 MR. DEXTER: They're building three right around --  
20 two of them are in the Portland area.

21 And believe me, here's my problem and it's a big  
22 problem: These are very important strategic resources. We  
23 are experiencing a windfall. We've seen the energy markets  
24 come to us in many ways that are very important and we're  
25 about to capitalize on it. The people that build pipelines

1 can build good pipelines. They won't leak. If they do  
2 leak, they'll know how they leak. This is a modern age, and  
3 modern construction is capable of helping us to reap this  
4 windfall and use it, and my big problem is that this -- over  
5 \$6 billion a year worth of methanol, which is my calculation  
6 which will come out of this plant -- \$6 billion worth of  
7 methanol a year makes a \$3 billion plant build very  
8 inexpensive and I'd like to look at that from the standpoint  
9 that this is a very inexpensive place for methanol to be  
10 built and this is why the Chinese are interested in coming  
11 here. They are very smart to do so.

12           What I would urge -- I know there's a lot of  
13 objection; I understand -- but I would urge that you  
14 consider the strategic importance of these resources: our  
15 cheap electricity, our cheap availability of water, and our  
16 cheap access to methanol -- or to methane gas and to  
17 understand this is larger than just a single issue. They  
18 hope to divide you into two camps and then will prove that  
19 the plant is clean.

20           MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you. Let's try to keep loud,  
21 critical remarks to a minimum, please.

22           MR. POGUE: Hello, everyone. My name is Lester  
23 Pogue, Jr., spelled P-o-g-u-e. I'm a citizen of Tacoma and  
24 a member of the Black Collective.

25           We have concerns about the environmental impact of

1 this proposed plant and they're being covered very well and  
2 there is truly a valid concern about the negative  
3 environmental effects the production of methanol will  
4 create. That being said, if this proposed plant is  
5 constructed after a vote by the citizenry of Tacoma and the  
6 EIS statement is presented, keep in mind that the investors  
7 can make changes and approve the plant's construction  
8 regardless of what the EIS statement finds.

9           With the revenue created by the proposed  
10 construction of this facility, what programs or entities  
11 will be enhanced by the financial gains created by the  
12 construction of this plant? With all this talk about job  
13 creation, will there be an effort to bring more diversity to  
14 the building and running of this plant? Each one of us can  
15 drive around the Northwest and see the lack of diversity on  
16 job sites such as this. I'm a general contractor and a  
17 former carpenter's union member and I find it very difficult  
18 to see this job staffed with people who look like myself,  
19 so I have a lot of concerns about this and I hope that your  
20 economic impact statement includes this as well.

21           Thank you for the opportunity.

22           (Recitation of names.)

23           MR. HOEFT: So I'm Bruce Hoeft, and first of all,  
24 thank you very much for your patience, Mr. Munce,  
25 Ms. Schultz. I appreciate it.

1 I have the good fortune of living in Tacoma. I'm a  
2 retired public high school teacher, science teacher, and in  
3 addition to the Sumner School District where I worked, I  
4 have worked for the Mayo Clinic, for the World Health  
5 Organization, and the U.S. Forest Service. I believe in the  
6 value of what science can tell us about the world and I  
7 welcome a thorough scoping review of the impacts of the  
8 proposed methanol plant.

9 Yes, we need jobs, but we need ones that will not  
10 threaten the health of the people who have those jobs and  
11 the people who live nearby. Trust me: My father-in-law, he  
12 worked in the Tideflat shipyards in the '40s and '50s. It  
13 was a job he needed to provide for his family, but he paid  
14 the price. He worked in a cloud of asbestos and cleaning  
15 chemicals which impacted his health. He died of cancer, and  
16 in the last couple of years of his life, he was in pain all  
17 the time. He lived on North 46th and Ferdinand in the  
18 shadow of the Asarco stack. The smelter also provided jobs,  
19 but it poisoned the land and the water.

20 My wife grew up thinking that the stack a quarter  
21 mile away, with its constant stream of toxic smoke, was  
22 where clouds were made. She and her brother played in the  
23 dirt where lead and arsenic laced the soil. Neither one of  
24 them can smell anything.

25 There's a health price to be paid for those jobs

1 and a fiscal price too. While over a hundred million  
2 dollars has been spent cleaning up Asarco's mess, pregnant  
3 women in Ruston are still advised by the state to wear  
4 respirators when gardening.

5 Two months ago a front page News Tribune headline  
6 read, "Three decades after the Asarco smelter shut down, its  
7 toxic legacy surprises Tacoma newcomers." The poisons are  
8 still in the soil and we are cleaning up and it still  
9 impacts the property values and the likelihood of people  
10 investing in our community.

11 On the Tideflats, the Port of Tacoma has spent many  
12 tens of millions of dollars cleaning up the Kaiser smelter  
13 site where the methanol refinery would be located. This is  
14 real money, part of the price we pay for polluting  
15 industries and the jobs they may bring. We need 21st  
16 Century job opportunities for Tacoma, ones that don't  
17 threaten the health of the workers and residents and don't  
18 depress the land values in the heart of our city.

19 Please conduct as thorough and comprehensive an  
20 impact as you possibly can. We need it. Thank you very  
21 much.

22 (Recitation of names.)

23 MS. SCHULTZ: Jori is running this way. I see her  
24 coming.

25 MS. ADKINS: Okay, I'm going to talk a little bit



1 about something a little different. There's been great  
2 things said about the environment and things like that  
3 against the plant. This is about the south downtown, the  
4 Puget Sound Regional Council, and plans and compatibility of  
5 those plans with this project.

6 The PSRC, which is the Puget Sound Regional  
7 Council, their vision for 2040 says focus growth within  
8 already urbanized areas, encourage use of urban land by  
9 maximizing development potential such as advancing  
10 development that achieves zone density.

11 The comprehensive plan for the City, it states that  
12 concentrating growth within mixed-use centers, especially  
13 those which strengthen the existing development pattern,  
14 protect single-family neighborhoods and environments and  
15 create attractive urban living and working environments  
16 which encourage walking, bicycling, and use of public  
17 transit, minimum densities ranging from 50 to 80 units per  
18 acre. I'm talking about the downtown Dome District, Brewery  
19 District, and the area of the downtown that is looking right  
20 out at this area where the plant is going to be.

21 The Dome District, which is where I live, is poised  
22 to be one of the densest districts close in to downtown as  
23 the transit-oriented district of the downtown and region,  
24 which we have all the transit there.

25 The Brewery District envisions rehab of historic

1 properties and businesses and developments, including  
2 significant new residential housing that supports and  
3 compliments UWT. UWT's vision shows expansion as a four-  
4 year university with 12,000 to 15,000 full-time equivalent  
5 students.

6 Can we say that this type of industry furthers  
7 these plans? Is this development compatible with the plans  
8 of these neighborhoods and entities? We are not NIMBYs.  
9 This is in our front yard.

10 Tacoma, whether it is the residential neighborhood  
11 of the northeast or the downtown as the densest part of the  
12 city, all look out at what could be perceived as a potential  
13 doom. How does this affect our property values? How does  
14 it encourage developers to come here to build the housing we  
15 have planned and advocated so hard for? This impacts our  
16 health, economy, economics, esthetics, and our values of a  
17 green, walkable city to live in. How can this ever be  
18 mitigated? This plant should not be built in such an urban  
19 area.

20 I also want to say that methane is not methanol.

21 MS. SCHULTZ: Okay, so it is just now about 7:00,  
22 which means we have been over an hour and 15 minutes and I  
23 think probably people would appreciate a short break, so  
24 we're going to take a ten-minute break.

25 We still have sign-up sheets out front. We are

1 willing to have other people sign up. We're still running  
2 the lists. We have several sheets left to go, and we're  
3 going to work with the people who may have missed hearing  
4 their names called out in the lobby, so we'll see you at ten  
5 after. Thank you.

6 (A short recess was taken.)

7 MS. SCHULTZ: Can I have everybody take your seats,  
8 please? Can everybody take your seats, please? And for the  
9 people in the hallway, there's a couple of things that came  
10 up. I know there's some people in the hallway who aren't  
11 necessarily being heard, so I have a delightful colleague  
12 who's going to shout names out there, so hopefully we can  
13 address that issue.

14 The other concern that's come up is the size of the  
15 venue and the opportunity for the people to speak. We are  
16 going to try to look at some additional meetings and  
17 additional venues in case we don't get through the -- if we  
18 don't get through the 160 people we still have left to go,  
19 and I do appreciate everyone being cooperative and timely.

20 I also took another couple of suggestions, which is  
21 I'm going to name five names at once, so test your memories,  
22 and I'm also going to say where we are on the list so that  
23 if you happen to remember where you are, you can say, oh,  
24 I'm another 15 people down the line.

25 Also, I want to remind people that if people have

1 to bail out at some point, all the most recent updated  
2 information -- and I've asked Ian to do this, so you're hear  
3 it again -- will be on the City website. So when we do find  
4 other meeting spaces, when we set other meetings, when we  
5 publish the comments, when we let you know that the audio  
6 recording is available, that will be on our website. I  
7 would hope that other folks would link to it. If you can't  
8 find it, you can always contact Ian. My contact information  
9 is also on the website. We will help you however we can to  
10 find the information that you need, but we'll do the meeting  
11 announcements and keep those things up to date.

12 So with those little tidbits out of the way, I had  
13 William Kupinse.

14 MR. KUPINSE: Hi. My name is Bill Kupinse. I'm an  
15 educator and a parent and I've lived in Tacoma for 13 years.

16 Chernobyl Nuclear Power plant, Three Mile Island  
17 Nuclear Reactor Number 2, Fukushima Nuclear Power plant, the  
18 Deepwater Horizon oil rig, the RMS Titanic: What do all of  
19 these engineering disasters have in common? When each of  
20 these projects were built, they were described as state of  
21 the art. So when I read the lease agreement that the Port  
22 of Tacoma signed with Northwest Innovation Works and I read  
23 that site safety will be provided through redundant state-  
24 of-the-art systems, I am not convinced. All refineries tell  
25 you they're state of the art, and I'm sure that at the time

1 they're built they are. Still, every year the National  
2 Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration responds to more than a  
3 hundred toxic spills in U.S. waters. So even with a  
4 state-of-the-art refinery, I worry about carcinogens like  
5 benzene, formaldehyde, and sulfur dioxide released into the  
6 air.

7 I worry about the fact that seismologists report  
8 that the Pacific Northwest is overdue for an earthquake of  
9 8.0 or greater on the Richter Scale. That's one big enough  
10 to form a tsunami, and the refinery would be built right on  
11 the Tideflats.

12 Even if I weren't concerned about these safety  
13 issues, I would oppose the construction of the refinery for  
14 some basic reasons. One: Diverting a huge portion of our  
15 city's fresh water supply at a time of increased concern  
16 about water shortages. I just got something in the mail  
17 from our local utility thanking us for cutting back on  
18 usage. Now the refinery planners say they may use gray  
19 water. Unless we've got an enforceable commitment in  
20 writing, I don't believe it.

21 Number 2: The negative impact on the local  
22 economy. If the refinery is built, it will signal that  
23 Tacoma is once again a dumping ground for dangerous and  
24 dirty industries, and a ton of employers that represent our  
25 future -- high technology, green energy, health care -- will

1 look elsewhere.

2           Then finally, number 3, environmental racism and  
3 classism: One of the things I teach in my environmental  
4 literature class is the long history of environmental racism  
5 and classism in the U.S. Aside from a smattering of upscale  
6 homes around Browns Point, the overall demographic patterns  
7 within the area concerned around the refinery suggest that  
8 the Northwest Innovation Works proposal will repeat this  
9 history.

10           The Puyallup Indian reservation is alarmingly close  
11 to the site.

12           The other place in the U.S. that the Chinese  
13 government is siting a methanol refinery is St. James  
14 Parrish, Louisiana, part of an area known as Cancer Alley.  
15 Don't let the refinery proponents sell off our fresh water.  
16 Don't let them kill our growing economy. Don't let them  
17 sell out the health of our community. Don't let them turn  
18 Tacoma into the Cancer Alley of the Northwest. This project  
19 is wrong for Tacoma.

20           Thank you.

21           (Recitation of names.)

22           MR. BUCK: Hello all. My name is Peter Buck,  
23 B-u-c-k, and I'm not what you would say a very good speaker,  
24 but what I would like to say is, yes, this will provide  
25 many, many construction jobs during the construction of the

1 project, and when the project is done, yes, those  
2 construction jobs will move on to other locations, but it  
3 will also provide many jobs for local citizens. It will  
4 provide jobs on what we know as a working port, the Tacoma  
5 Port.

6 I don't know how many of you know it or know what  
7 sort of industry is on the Port. Do you know that there's  
8 oil refineries down there? Oh, my gosh, they're going to  
9 explode. They haven't. They don't. They're maintained.  
10 They're old, but they're maintained and they're improved.  
11 We have a paper industry. We have a wood industry. We have  
12 shipping. We have -- there's a water treatment plant for  
13 the City of Tacoma on this port. Do you know -- yeah --

14 MR. MUNCE: Just talk to me.

15 MR. BUCK: So, yeah, a wastewater treatment plant.  
16 Yes, it's a wastewater treatment plant.

17 So, people, think about what we have. We have a  
18 working port. If we let that go away, what does Tacoma have  
19 for industry? We have coffee shops and restaurants. We  
20 have a few industries for high tech. But other than that,  
21 it's small industry. Tacoma is a working town. It is a  
22 blue-collar town, and there are hundreds, there are  
23 thousands of blue-collar workers here who love it and love  
24 it that way.

25 We aren't Fresno. We aren't Louisiana. We aren't

1 Cancer Alley. We do things better up here. It will be a  
2 cleaner industry than they have down there. Theirs is  
3 not -- the industry for the methanol made down there is not  
4 through electricity. They use fossil fuels to create the  
5 energy to make the methanol. This is an industry which  
6 Tacoma can have, should have, and when it is here, it will  
7 be done properly and safely.

8 Also, if you guys -- if everyone in this room is so  
9 afraid of the methanol plant, of plastics, I ask you all,  
10 place all your plastics up here in front of the podium.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. MIKELADZE: My name is Tatyana. I don't do  
13 well in the public forum speaking, but I felt it important  
14 to come here and express my opinion.

15 First of all, I would like to say that Washington  
16 state has a \$600 billion IT industry, and all we could come  
17 up with is building a toxic plant that is going to create  
18 200 jobs?

19 Second, I started to research the investing  
20 investors that are behind this project. One company, the  
21 board of directors are formed by members of the Chinese  
22 Communist party. They are backed by Chinese government.  
23 Another investing party, Double Green Bridge, was formed a  
24 year ago, so I don't even know who they are, and I think  
25 it's the responsibility of parties involved to at least have



1 a committee on foreign investment, to do an investigation of  
2 those investors. We know there were several companies back  
3 in China that were not allowed to invest in the United  
4 States, so this is a big company that should be  
5 investigated.

6 Numerous studies have been done and there's one by  
7 Berkeley University. There are other studies. There is a  
8 loss of value in real estate up to 11 percent after plants  
9 of such magnitude open, so how are you going to mitigate?  
10 That is a big question. I don't want my house value to be  
11 lost.

12 I also have a question about the EPA Superfund that  
13 was used to clean the Port of Tacoma. Are there any  
14 limitations of building such a plant again on the site?

15 Those are questions that I have. I did have a lot  
16 of questions. I'm going to mail my comments. Yes, thank  
17 you.

18 MR. CARLTON: My name is John Carlton and I'm a  
19 Tacoma resident.

20 First, the refinery would be a huge guzzler of our  
21 most valuable natural resource: fresh water. Over ten  
22 million gallons per day, every day of the year, primarily  
23 from the Green River on a 30-year lease. Note during the  
24 summer months, that is roughly a quarter of the Green  
25 River's capacity. The potential negative economics to the

1 river's ecosystem are obvious. This is home for Steelhead,  
2 Chinook, Coho, and other salmon, some of which are federally  
3 endangered species.

4 Also, this amount of water is roughly what the  
5 whole population of Tacoma already uses. We just went  
6 through the worst drought in history. Residents were asked  
7 by the City to conserve water. Global warming indicates our  
8 fresh water will become even more scarce and valuable in the  
9 future and now we will be selling it off in enormous  
10 quantities to a foreign country to make plastic?

11 Power: This refinery will use enough electricity  
12 to power over 320,000 households, increasing the cost for  
13 the residents of Tacoma and force our providers to look for  
14 more sources.

15 Danger: This behemoth refinery will process and  
16 store huge amounts of highly flammable methanol and be a  
17 mile away from the already approved Puget Sound Energy's  
18 liquified natural gas storage facility, and with over 80,000  
19 barrels of crude oil already passing by daily on rail, what  
20 we are creating on the Hylebos wetland is a fossil fuel time  
21 bomb in the shadow of the most assured -- almost assured  
22 eventual earthquake.

23 The few supporters -- the supporters of this  
24 project tout it as being a green energy alternative, but how  
25 is using natural gas, a fossil fuel plundered via hydraulic

1 fracking and then piped thousands of miles to Tacoma,  
2 assuredly leaking methane along the way, where it will then  
3 be refined via huge amounts of electricity and water, then  
4 shipped overseas to be used to manufacture plastic, which  
5 will then be shipped back to the States to be sold so  
6 cheaply it will be given away and tossed in the streets --  
7 how is this a green alternative?

8 Yes, China needs to stop using coal for their  
9 health and ours, but this refinery of fossil fuels to make  
10 plastic is not green. Ask the Sierra Club; ask the Audubon;  
11 ask the EPA. Plastic is killing our oceans. The only green  
12 aspect of this proposal are the faces of presidents printed  
13 on paper for the profits of relatively few at the cost of  
14 everyone else.

15 Pollution: Over a million gallons of chemical  
16 wastewater per day will be generated by this facility, with  
17 metals like zinc sulfide, copper, and nickel which will be  
18 piped to the City's wastewater plant for processing, while  
19 formaldehyde, methane, and benzene will be released into our  
20 air. Is this not obviously a detriment to our region?

21 And finally, legacy: What will happen to the  
22 property value of our local residents?

23 Thank you.

24 (Recitation of names.)

25 MR. CALLIES: My name is Dennis Callies. That's

1 C-a-l-l-i-e-s.

2 I stand here to support the methanol plant, the  
3 proposed methanol plant. I represent -- I'm the business  
4 manager for the IBEW. That's the International Brotherhood  
5 of Electrical Workers in the City of Tacoma. I represent  
6 1,300 -- approximately 1,300 members and their families.

7 We just went through some of the worst economic  
8 times of our life. We've got the best construction workers,  
9 the best electricians, the best steel workers, the best  
10 tradespeople in this room. We are not going to stand by and  
11 watch something built unsafe.

12 We are not opposed to the scoping of this  
13 environmental study. We want to know the effects on our  
14 community. I live in this community. I have a family in  
15 this community, and I will not support something that does  
16 not -- or does not make me feel it's going to produce a safe  
17 industry or plant for my family. I want my members to go  
18 home every night safer than they went to work.

19 I say that we build this thing here in the United  
20 States where you have the best oversight that can be had.  
21 Don't build it in China. Let's do build it here where we  
22 can take care of it and watch what happens.

23 And I'm also about jobs. This thing is -- this is  
24 about building and producing good, living-wage jobs. It's  
25 about -- I heard it earlier spoke about what it will do for

1 the community. It should put apprenticeships -- apprentices  
2 to work, people that we take out of our schools. Not  
3 everybody can go to college. These are people that can  
4 learn a trade; they can learn a craft that can support them  
5 for the rest of their life. They don't have to move  
6 someplace to get a job. I want to have industry here, and I  
7 don't want to be a bedroom community for Seattle. I don't  
8 want the jobs in this town, my town, to be nothing but --  
9 and there's nothing wrong with somebody that serves coffee  
10 or serves in a restaurant or something -- but you need  
11 people to be able to go buy the coffee. You need to have  
12 people who can afford to go to the dinners. You need to  
13 have people that can go to the doctors and build the  
14 hospitals and all of those things.

15           If we don't have industry here, you're going to  
16 lose these craftsmen; you're going to lose these people.  
17 They're going to have to move someplace else, and then who  
18 is going support this town? Who's going to let it grow?  
19 Who's going to pay the money to build the art museum? Who's  
20 going to build -- who's going to pay for the arts that we  
21 want? I want this city to be nation -- world-wide known for  
22 being a place to come and visit, something that stands out,  
23 but I've also got to be able to afford to live here, and  
24 this plant will produce jobs, produce living-wage jobs.

25           Thank you.

1 (Recitation of names.)

2 MS. PEAPHON: Hi. My name is Valerie Peaphon,  
3 P-e-a-p-h-o-n.

4 I'm here tonight because my future and my family's  
5 future depends on it. I live in north Tacoma and I have  
6 grave concerns regarding the mega gas and methanol refinery  
7 proposed for the Tideflats.

8 Though I find the idea of local jobs compelling, I  
9 ultimately fear the long-term damage and suffering this  
10 refinery could have on Tacoma's residents. I know the  
11 primary purpose of this meeting is to hear environmental  
12 concerns, but we must also realize those environmental  
13 concerns can lead to negative economic impacts for this  
14 city. Chemical refineries are volatile and dangerous. A  
15 leak, spill, fire, or explosion could have devastating  
16 effects on our community. Refineries are known to release  
17 toxins and cause pollution. How would this refinery affect  
18 Tacoma's air and water quality?

19 Tacoma has seen significant clean-up and  
20 revitalization efforts in the past two decades that truly  
21 breathed new life into the city. In fact, Tacoma was  
22 recently touted as one of the top 12 up-and-coming cities in  
23 the U.S., but will it remain an inviting and desirable city  
24 if it returns to its polluted past? Or, more likely, will  
25 creating a petrochemical corridor in Tacoma lead to an

1 exodus of the creative and academic classes? Will they all  
2 (unclear) elsewhere? Will home values plummet?

3 China's use of coal is bad, absolutely, but is the  
4 proposed use of fracked gas better? No. We need to fight  
5 to keep fossil fuels in the ground, not pipe them down from  
6 Canada to convert them to methanol here in Tacoma, to then  
7 ship to China to make cheap plastic. It is imperative that  
8 we all are well-versed in the social, environmental, and  
9 health impacts of the petrochemical industry.

10 I personally do not support the building of a  
11 methanol plant in Tacoma. Temporary jobs and tax revenues  
12 must come second to the health, safety, and security of  
13 Tacoma's residents.

14 (Recitation of names.)

15 MR. TIEGER: Good evening. My name is Joe Tieger,  
16 T-i-e-g-e-r. I'm a Tacoma resident, and first I'd like to  
17 express my sympathy for the staff. I've spent more than a  
18 few hours on that side of the table in the course of a  
19 40-year environmental career, the last 20 of which was spent  
20 with the enforcement arm of the Environmental Protection  
21 Agency in Washington, D.C. Coincidentally, one of my  
22 projects was enforcement against Asarco and Grupa Mexico.

23 Somehow or other, I ended up moving to Tacoma. I  
24 ended up moving to Tacoma because in Zillow, the real estate  
25 page gave the North End of Tacoma a high walkability score

1 and I was tired of driving long distances.

2 I am vastly overeducated. I have two degrees in  
3 biology, one in public administration, and a law degree, and  
4 I have become an expert in a lot of arcane little bits of  
5 trivia, including the financial assurance provisions of a  
6 couple of federal statutes, so let me explain this to you.

7 The company that's proposing this project is an  
8 LLC. To translate that, that is a limited liability  
9 corporation. It really doesn't matter that its origins are  
10 Chinese, that it's in China. What you need to know is that  
11 the people who put the money into the project own stock in  
12 the project. They do not own the facility and they do not  
13 own the land, because the Port owns the land. Now, that's  
14 very important, because under the Superfund Law, the  
15 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and  
16 Liability Act and the Oil Pollution Act, the owners of a  
17 facility include the land owners.

18 How does this matter? Well, this is what I've seen  
19 numerous times, particularly over the last 15 years:  
20 Companies own stock in what used to be subsidiaries. Under  
21 the law, owning stock in a company does not convey liability  
22 from the stock-owned company -- in this case, Northwest  
23 Innovation -- to their parent corporation. So if there is a  
24 significant release requiring a costly response, these  
25 companies maintain only sufficient funds to operate. All



1 the rest of their income goes to their parents as dividends  
2 from the stock.

3           So what if we have a catastrophe? And I've been  
4 involved in a few catastrophes in one way or another. One  
5 of my other activities was a Coast Guard reserve officer.  
6 So let's assume worst case -- and by the way, scenarios for  
7 EISs are supposed to consider worst case. So you have a  
8 very large spill of methanol. It is truly a nasty stuff.  
9 You can't breathe it; you can't touch it; you can't drink  
10 it. It is bad for you -- along with other hazardous  
11 substances. The company will not have the assets to address  
12 it. The company will go to bankruptcy court. Environmental  
13 claims are unsecured. Therefore, they won't pay. You the  
14 taxpayer, the Port as the owner of the property, will be the  
15 sole remaining potentially responsible party. You will pay  
16 for clean-up.

17           MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you. So before I move on, I am  
18 going to go back and call some names in case we missed  
19 people in the hallways, so hang on one second.

20           (Recitation of names.)

21           MS. WIEGMAN: I'm here to speak for the seven  
22 generations ahead of us and I would like you to think about  
23 that impact. I think that the way that our society has gone  
24 has gone on far too long and it's a time for a whole  
25 paradigm shift, so this continual debate of whether we're

1 going to build a plant here or build it somewhere else is  
2 ridiculous. We have gone on with this plastic in the ocean,  
3 pollutions in the air, in our bodies, for far too long.  
4 It's time to shift, and we can do it, you know. When are we  
5 going to address that in our I -- EIS or whatever the hell  
6 it's called? When are we going to address that, that it's  
7 just time to figure out a different way. These temporary  
8 jobs is all it is, just temporary jobs. But our lives and  
9 our future lives and the future lives of our children, we  
10 have to figure out a different way to do things. It's not  
11 this way.

12           And I do work down on the Tideflats and I know the  
13 history of that Tideflats, and those Tideflats, you know,  
14 before any of this industry, there's a different right that  
15 exists down there and that is the land of plenty. This used  
16 to be a place where people had wars on food, how much food  
17 they could give to somebody. That's where we need to go.  
18 We need to shift our thinking on this.

19           I work in those Tideflats and there's no way out;  
20 there's no way out. It's bottlenecked already and it's a  
21 disaster already. I don't want another bigger disaster put  
22 on top of it.

23           And, of course, everything I just said before, our  
24 whole way we're going is a disaster in our society, and our  
25 society is crashing anyway and so is our environment, so now

1 is the time. Why can't we be the innovators of a new  
2 paradigm, a new way to go? Okay, we're great. Tacoma's  
3 awesome. Let's take -- let's be the innovators of a new way  
4 to go.

5 And I know it's plastic on my button, but it says,  
6 "No methanol refinery," you know, but we've got to figure it  
7 out and get away from it.

8 MR. WARFIELD: Good evening. I'm Tony Warfield.  
9 I'm a senior manager of the Port of Tacoma's environmental  
10 program, at 1 Sitcum Plaza, 98421.

11 The Port of Tacoma has spent the last 30 years  
12 cleaning up fallow, contaminated properties and putting them  
13 back into industrial uses, thus providing both significant  
14 environmental improvements and local family-wage jobs.

15 The Port purchased the abandoned former Kaiser  
16 aluminum smelter site with the express intent to carefully  
17 dismantle the highly contaminated smelter, clean up the  
18 underlying property, and put the site back into productive  
19 use. It has taken ten years and nearly \$33 million to bring  
20 the Port's vision to fruition.

21 Further, the Port has invested roughly \$50 million  
22 in the East Blair One Wharf which is part of the proposed  
23 project area. This project brings the two investments  
24 together in an area already zoned for heavy industry and  
25 establish the plants with high electrical and water needs.

1           The Port is a strong supporter of the project and  
2 of the City's SEPA process. The Port believes that an  
3 appropriately scoped EIS that is thoughtfully prepared,  
4 clearly written, and technically accurate will assuage many  
5 of the concerns raised about the project to date and  
6 identify appropriate mitigation measures to deal with any  
7 significant impacts remaining from the project.

8           The Port believes the EIS scope should be limited  
9 to those impacts that occur within Pierce County, as has  
10 been the City's precedent in other reviews. However, should  
11 the City choose to consider other impacts upstream from  
12 Pierce County, then it must address the project's product  
13 and its significant environmental benefits in Asia and North  
14 America, including the positive impact of displacing coal as  
15 an industrial feedstock.

16           Further, while the 260 direct high-wage jobs and  
17 1,000 union construction jobs associated with the project  
18 have been publicly discussed, it is important for the City  
19 to model the total employment effect, including indirect and  
20 induced jobs. That will provide a total employment picture.

21           Another critical component of this analysis will be  
22 the impact of the project on city, school district, and  
23 state tax revenues. Those must be clearly identified within  
24 the EIS.

25           If you have any questions regarding the Port's

1 comments, please contact me and I'd be happy to go over  
2 them. Thank you.

3 (Recitation of names.)

4 MS. KAREN CROSS: Thank you. My name is Karen  
5 Cross. I represent no organizations here.

6 I'm a mother. I'm a grandmother. I've called this  
7 beautiful area my home my entire life. I live here, I work  
8 here, I vote here, and I am not for this project.

9 I've got four words that everyone in this room has  
10 heard and not enjoyed: the aroma of Tacoma. Okay? Our  
11 leaders have done the hard work of moving us out of the EPA  
12 Superfund era, out of the environmental dark ages. Okay?  
13 This is not the vision I want our city to have.

14 This is the City of Destiny, not the city of  
15 disaster. Tsunami, earthquakes, and volcanos are real in  
16 this area and they're going to have a huge impact on this  
17 proposed action.

18 I am pro-employment. I'm a union worker in public  
19 transportation and I support jobs. I do not support  
20 toxifying our land. If we have no clean water to drink, if  
21 we have no air that we can breathe, what are a few dollars  
22 and 200 jobs to anyone?

23 There are billions of dollars right now being  
24 pumped into the area along the Tideflats. Point Ruston is  
25 trying to encourage people that have money to want to live

1 here. They don't want to look at that. They don't want to  
2 breathe that. They don't want to drink that.

3 In comparison to all of the 200 jobs that are going  
4 to be available to work at this point, what about all of the  
5 displaced workers in the marina area that are going to be  
6 put out?

7 Now, thank you, and I acquiesce to my beautiful  
8 daughter.

9 MS. GRACE CROSS: So hi. I'm Grace, and most of my  
10 points have already been said, but I think they're important  
11 enough to say twice.

12 So, basically, this methanol plant is going to take  
13 in at least 2,500 gallons of water per minute and use up 90  
14 percent of that and so it's either going to go into vapor or  
15 it's just going to get used up, and we're already basically  
16 in a drought and they're telling us to cut back our water,  
17 so this is pretty ridiculous.

18 And then also, methanol is very toxic and highly  
19 flammable. It's also not common in the environment and so  
20 at high levels, it's not healthy.

21 And then also, the way that we're going to get it  
22 to the methanol plant is through pipelines, and a lot of  
23 people are saying that, oh, methanol is great and everything  
24 because it doesn't emit as much pollution as coal, but it  
25 still emits some and most of the pollution is from pipeline

1 bursts, so these will go straight into the dirt and the  
2 soil, which will go into the water and the rivers, which  
3 will kill all of the animals and salmon and everything that  
4 everybody here likes to fish for and eat.

5 And then also, they say that they have a cover to  
6 stop the air pollution, the NIW, but it's never been used on  
7 a plant this size, so they don't know if it will actually  
8 work.

9 And also, people are saying that we'll increase the  
10 jobs and bring people to the city, but if it explodes  
11 because it's so flammable or it gets shut down due to we  
12 find out in the long run that it does pollute a lot and it  
13 gets shut down, unemployment rates will skyrocket and  
14 everybody will be on the streets with no jobs.

15 So those are my points.

16 MR. OSBORNE: Hello. My name is Jimmy Osborne.  
17 Thank you for taking public comment tonight, and I  
18 appreciate the turnout of everybody here. It's really  
19 impressive.

20 I live in Tacoma. I'm a U.S. Army veteran. I'm  
21 not overly educated, but I have boxed in Tacoma boxing  
22 tournaments. I'm here with daughter tonight because this is  
23 an important issue to me.

24 We have abundant resources. Our resources can have  
25 a positive impact on climate change. I believe the EIS

1 should include information about the impact of methanol  
2 versus coal for fuel in China. I think that this plant will  
3 be built state of the art. It will be built using the best  
4 building practices. Every one of us should be willing to  
5 help reduce carbon emissions.

6 We all choose what we want to perceive and believe.  
7 Anything that challenges what we believe can make us feel  
8 unsafe. We can't let fear dictate what we do. Let's  
9 proceed with a comprehensive EIS that addresses climate  
10 change. Let's proceed with a spirit of cooperation that  
11 benefits us all.

12 I work as a negotiator. When I sit down at the  
13 negotiating table, my job is the best interests of everybody  
14 who's concerned. My job is not to be decisive. My job is  
15 not to fear monger. My job is to look at what I already  
16 said: the best interests of everyone concerned. I would  
17 hope that the EIS would include the best interests of  
18 everyone concerned.

19 And, geez, you guys: We live right next to a big  
20 old mountain over there. It's kind of scary.

21 (Recitation of names.)

22 MR. MOORE: Yes, my name is Bliss Moore, B-l-i-s-s.  
23 The last name Moore, M-o-o-r-e. I'm a long-term resident  
24 of -- a long-time resident of Tacoma, actually for some 28  
25 years now, and I live just about a half mile away from the



1 former Asarco smelter site. I arrived just two years after  
2 they shut down the smelter and I worked with the EPA and  
3 others on the plant to clean it up, and here we are 30 years  
4 later after the shutdown and it finally is -- redevelopment  
5 is happening, clean-up and redevelopment. It's taken a long  
6 time.

7           Anyway, I'm also an environmental activist, very  
8 active with the Sierra Club and I'm the vice chair of the  
9 Pierce County group this year of the Sierra Club, and I can  
10 announce tonight that the Sierra Club has formally come out  
11 opposed to this methanol plant.

12           Most of my comments have been well-spoken to this  
13 evening and I'm really amazed by some of the comments  
14 tonight. They're very, very pertinent. The water issue.  
15 Power usage: Right now, TP, Tacoma Power, could not provide  
16 that power, but they will buy it on the spot market at a  
17 high price, and, yes, we will pay for it in the long run.

18           I'm concerned -- I didn't want to go specifically  
19 into all the environmental chemical pollutants in detail and  
20 the anticipated levels in the effluence and emissions, but I  
21 think that's critically important.

22           The big one that's been spoken to tonight that's  
23 the scariest one, I think, is public health and safety  
24 impacts. Really, this business about hazards, environmental  
25 hazards from explosions, toxic spills from either accidents,

1 natural disasters, or terrorist activities, now with the  
2 approval of the liquified natural gas facility right very  
3 near where the methanol plant would be, it's a very scary  
4 proposition. If that was to go or a blast would happen,  
5 there would be an evacuation area of a two- to three-mile  
6 radius and it would be just disastrous for northeast Tacoma,  
7 for central Tacoma, and downtown Tacoma, so I just wanted to  
8 say that.

9 I guess I don't have any more time left. Okay,  
10 thank you.

11 MR. EDALGO: I'm James Edalgo. I'm nobody, but I  
12 have a bunch of questions here.

13 Dredging the waterway and drilling in the Tideflats  
14 will cause Asarco and other toxic waste to be exposed. You  
15 know, they stay buried, but it's a deep-water port. As far  
16 as I know, it hasn't been dredged yet. It's a deep-water  
17 port for super tankers.

18 Okay, the other thing: The process will require,  
19 during catalytic conversion, 7,200 gallons of fresh water a  
20 minute, with 22,000 capacity per day. Where will that fresh  
21 water come from? Everybody's saying different things, and  
22 the question is, do citizens have the priority over the  
23 corporation for that water? Will the officials on both  
24 sides sign statements saying that it's Tacoma first and then  
25 Tacoma will not have the water rights to sell. It's one

1 thing to promise it. It's another one to put your signature  
2 on it so you can get caught with fraud and go to jail, so  
3 I'm interested in how that pans out.

4           So the power consumed by this plant is supposed to  
5 be close to 360,000 homes per day for usage. How will that  
6 affect Tacoma Power plant? Prices? How will it affect  
7 priority during peak usage? Are we going to get brown-outs  
8 while they just keep on plugging away. And the same thing:  
9 Will officials sign a statement saying that it's Tacoma  
10 first and our prices will not get doubled and will they also  
11 sign?

12           Why is Puget Power coming into our town, Tacoma,  
13 when Tacoma Power has previous license to operate in Tacoma?  
14 Why are city jobs being, you know, farmed out to someone  
15 else?

16           And the other part of that too -- well, I'm going  
17 to go short. I had something here, but talking about these  
18 evaporation towers, all right? They're going to put out the  
19 same amount as it would be power for 360,000 homes -- and  
20 water too. Why not have steam-powered turbine generators  
21 instead, several of them running continuously to create  
22 power? Turn around, selling that power to other communities  
23 and make money, instead of having these towers that do  
24 nothing but suck our economy (unclear) through atmospheric  
25 water? If you turn it back once -- like a steam engine,

1 once you have the chemical and you turn it into electrical  
2 energy -- or I'm sorry -- vapor energy to make electrical,  
3 it turns back into water, so you're reusing the same water  
4 you had in the first place. You don't need 7,200 gallons of  
5 water. It makes power and all our power bills will go down.  
6 I don't understand why you need the cooling towers and mess  
7 everything up. I just had to ask that.

8           Okay, so the other one is -- the other thing is if  
9 the City always wants to make power in Tacoma and make  
10 money, you know, we have a geographic anomaly called The  
11 Narrows. We have two bridges. We could put electrical  
12 generators on those and it works 24/7. It doesn't matter if  
13 there's a drought. It doesn't matter if there's rain or  
14 shine or snow. The top can even freeze and it will still go  
15 through to the bottom. We can make electrical generation  
16 there.

17           We can turn around and turn the Tideflats that was  
18 going to be used for methanol, we could use that to make a  
19 hydrogen plant, which is clean power. There's no carbon  
20 imprint because it doesn't use carbon. It uses hydrogen.  
21 It turns to water. So, I'm sorry. I guess my time is up,  
22 but my point is, it's a renewable source that our own Port  
23 could use too.

24           (Recitation of names.)

25           MR. HAHN: Are you looking for Andrew Hahn?

1 MS. SCHULTZ: Yes. Did I go over it real fast?

2 Come on up. Are you Andrew?

3 MR. HAHN: Yes.

4 MS. SCHULTZ: Great.

5 MR. HAHN: I have only a short statement to make.

6 Many of my (unclear) statements have been echoed tonight.

7 I think the importance of our water conservation is  
8 very clear, with the ongoing tragedy of Flint, Michigan.  
9 If you want to know what a water shortage would look like or  
10 a poisoning of our waters would look like and (unclear), we  
11 need to look no further than that.

12 I also want to address some of the members in this  
13 room tonight. I find it interesting that certain members  
14 tonight are talking about the need to create American jobs,  
15 when the construction of this refinery only creates 260  
16 long-term jobs at the behest of a Chinese company. If we  
17 want -- and I'm not really sure what the shirts say; I think  
18 to stand strong for all American jobs -- then perhaps we  
19 should deplore trading the long-term health of our community  
20 for a brief pay-off from the new Chinese employers.

21 As it has been stated, water is an increasingly  
22 sparse resource. Southern California will be dry in ten  
23 years and I think we will all see the effects of that. I  
24 actually don't want to see a Southern California (unclear).  
25 But water will become one of our most valuable economic

1 resources in that sparsity, and to trade for some short-term  
2 methanol economic gain I think would be incredibly unwise in  
3 this new world.

4           And for -- sorry -- I'll finish with this: And for  
5 everyone else in this room, I would not place too much  
6 weight on these proceedings. While we may be stating our  
7 complaints and, like, our problems to this board, the  
8 reality is that we will have to organize ourselves in our  
9 community. (Inaudible) information. That will be our job  
10 until they prove otherwise; and unless we have collective  
11 bargaining power, I do not believe that we will have the  
12 power to stop the construction of this plant.

13           Thank you.

14           (Recitation of names.)

15           MR. TABARIS: Hello. My name is Jake Tabaris,  
16 T-a-b-a-r-i-s. I am a first-year electrical apprentice with  
17 IBEW 76.

18           First of all, I'm not here to argue any scientific  
19 facts whatsoever. I'm a craftsman. That's my trade. I'm  
20 for Tacoma. All of us are here for Tacoma, and I'm here to  
21 hold the corporations and its affiliates accountable to the  
22 highest safety standards in the nation. I'm also here to  
23 ensure that the materials that are installed are installed  
24 by the best-trained work forces in the country, let alone  
25 the world.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. PANTOJA: Good evening. My name is Wendy  
3 Pantoja. I work in the health issues. I'm a part of the  
4 (unclear) center.

5 THE REPORTER: I can't understand you. I'm sorry.

6 MS. SCHULTZ: Slow down a little bit and maybe get  
7 a little closer to the mic.

8 THE REPORTER: And spell your name, your last name.

9 MS. PANTOJA: My name is Wendy Pantoja. I'm a part  
10 of the residential center assistance and I work in health  
11 issues. I would like -- my name is spelled P-a-n-t-o-j-a.  
12 Pantoja.

13 I would like to say this information is for the  
14 workers who are here. That's why I'm here too.

15 Methanol is dangerous (unclear), especially for the  
16 effects of its degradation in the human body. That is  
17 called forming acids. A portion of the methanol in the body  
18 is (unclear) lungs and kidneys, but the rest, if this is  
19 spread in all the body, are focused in water (unclear), for  
20 example, like the eyes, which specifically works and attacks  
21 optic nerves.

22 Methanol poison is a poison which is very toxic to  
23 the central nerves. (Unclear) methanol poison (unclear)  
24 some people would be dizziness, headaches, vision  
25 distortion, delirium, and confusion. There is no specific

1 treatment and no antidote. That is really important and  
2 (unclear), because they need to take care of your health and  
3 the health of the workers and the health of the citizens of  
4 Tacoma and the residents of Tacoma. (Unclear) in pregnant  
5 woman cause abortions.

6 Tacoma is known for many issues and pollution and  
7 people say Tacoma aroma. Tacoma is (unclear).

8 I would like to submit some questions.

9 I would like to know, who will respond in any  
10 emergency? Tacoma is a seismic area and I would like to  
11 know if the Tacoma city have an emergency plan in any case.

12 Puget Sound is a salmon area. It's a waterway for  
13 the (unclear).

14 And over everything, I would like to say, we need  
15 water for people. That is a human right. All the citizens  
16 need to be sure Tacoma will have water priority. That is  
17 really important. First is the people and this is a human  
18 right and we (unclear).

19 (Recitation of names.)

20 MS. NICHOLS: Hello. My name is Laurie Nichols,  
21 N-i-c-h-o-l-s.

22 I've lived in the City of Tacoma for over 30 years  
23 with my family. I'd like the following questions addressed  
24 in the SEPA process underway at present and in the  
25 Environmental Impact Statement document to be completed over



1 the next many months.

2           Number 1: This proposed plant estimates that it  
3 will use as much fresh water as all of Tacoma uses each day.  
4 What will the impact of this astounding water use be on the  
5 Green River watershed and local aquifers? How will future  
6 water for citizens be guaranteed at stable rates? How will  
7 fish and wildlife habitat be protected and preserved?

8           Number 2: The plant will require approximately  
9 450 megawatts of electricity daily, enough to power three to  
10 four hundred thousand homes. It's unclear how this  
11 electricity will be purchased and what impact this will have  
12 on future Tacoma rates. How can rate stability for Tacoma  
13 residents be guaranteed?

14           Number 3: Northwest Innovation Works estimates the  
15 use of 524 million cubic feet of natural gas to create  
16 20,000 metric tons of methanol each day. Methanol, as we  
17 know, is a highly explosive gas even at room temperature  
18 which burns with a clear invisible flame. In case of  
19 earthquake, lahar, tsunami, or accidental explosion, who  
20 will pay for the liability beyond the \$50 million general  
21 liability insurance held by the Chinese? The proposed plant  
22 sits squarely on top of an existing earthquake fault and  
23 we're overdue for a massive quake.

24           Number 4: Given that this will be the largest  
25 methanol refinery in the world and one of the first of its

1 type ever built, what precautions will be taken to avoid an  
2 accidental explosion which could produce a blast zone  
3 encompassing the Port of Tacoma, northeast Tacoma, and parts  
4 of downtown Tacoma and Fife?

5           Number 5: Given the highly explosive nature of  
6 this methanol gas, along with the liquified natural gas  
7 piped into this refinery, what precautions will be taken to  
8 protect residents, developments, first responders, and the  
9 heavily trafficked transportation routes near this site?

10           Number 6: What harmful toxins will be in the  
11 estimated 1.44 million gallons of super hot wastewater  
12 runoff produced daily and how will this extremely toxic  
13 water be cleaned and disposed of before it enters our  
14 vulnerable Puget Sound?

15           Number 7: There are many concerns about its highly  
16 toxic gases. How will citizens breathing our already  
17 compromised air be protected from these toxins, many of  
18 which have been shown to be carcinogenic?

19           Number 8: I'd like to request the completion of a  
20 cumulative impact statement measuring all impacts on the  
21 environment and human health for this refinery's complete  
22 supply chain.

23           In closing, Tacoma has worked hard to clean up its  
24 image and its environment from the days of Asarco and a  
25 Superfund site. I think there are huge economic and

1 environmental risks in locating the world's largest methanol  
2 refinery within the heart of our city. Don't jeopardize the  
3 short- and long-term health and safety of our citizens and  
4 our environment by siting this refinery in Tacoma.

5 Thank you.

6 (Recitation of names.)

7 MS. LICEAGA: My name is Deanna Liceaga. It's  
8 L-i-c-e-a-g-a. I'm a Tacoma resident, and I'm opposed to  
9 this proposed methanol plant.

10 I understand the need to protect and grow our port  
11 and add jobs, but the plant is simply shortsighted in a time  
12 when foresight and environmental consideration is essential.  
13 As it stands, Tacoma is currently poised to become a  
14 visionary city, avoiding the mistakes and pitfalls of the  
15 past, and it's become a leader for a sustainable Northwest.  
16 This plant, quite simply, does not belong in this century.  
17 When the water runs low -- and we know from last summer that  
18 it will -- it's not going to be the plant that makes  
19 sacrifices. It's going to be the citizens of Tacoma.

20 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

21 MR. SPAUR: I'm Mark Spaur. My last name is  
22 spelled S-p-a-u-r.

23 Okay, I am a resident. I'm also a registered  
24 professional engineer and a chemical engineer. I have  
25 done -- I've studied the process flow sheets and the

1 proposed process for the methanol conversion. I find that  
2 this can be done in a very safe manner. It can be done with  
3 environmental responsibility.

4 I believe it's a good use of a brownfield site. In  
5 this Environmental Impact Statement, I would like to be  
6 addressed the use of the brownfield site and how many  
7 different industrial processes we've lost since 1980 that  
8 were in the Tideflats. Not only are we missing an aluminum  
9 smelter, but we had chlorine and caustic production at a  
10 time. We had some other very clean manufacturing uses that  
11 are no longer there. I support the redevelopment of this  
12 site for a very clean, very productive production of  
13 methanol.

14 Thank you.

15 (Recitation of names.)

16 MR. MOYER: Thank you. My name is Bill Moyer. I  
17 lead an organization called the Backbone Campaign. We are  
18 based on Vashon Island.

19 We've been engaged in environmental justice fights  
20 throughout this area and around the country. I haven't ever  
21 seen a proposal that so triggered so many people to say no  
22 so quickly as this proposal. I think it's foolish and folly  
23 for Tacoma and elected officials of any sort to think that  
24 they're going to get away with moving this forward.

25 I think the scope of this, it's offensive to me

1 that as a resident of an island that was highly impacted,  
2 and our health and our soil and our water impacted by an  
3 experiment in the past -- the folly of Tacoma industrialists  
4 in the past -- it is now potentially going to become a  
5 victim of a future project, and I think that this -- you  
6 risk being sued by not just King County and our community  
7 and the Backbone Campaign and the rest of it, but all of the  
8 Salish Sea for not including us in the shipment of this  
9 methanol.

10 Rue the day, and what I can tell you is that you  
11 should pack up and go home now.

12 MR. HAUN: Thank you very much. My name is Jimmy  
13 Haun, and I'm here representing the Northwest Carpenters  
14 Union.

15 Before I start out, a gentleman got up and claimed  
16 he was formerly from the carpenters union and claimed that  
17 our job sites aren't very diverse. Well, I'd personally  
18 take him on a tour of any of our job sites, come to union  
19 meetings. We're very, very diverse and we care about  
20 diversity so much. We believe in equal pay for equal work.  
21 Men and women get the same wages. We're big on that.

22 Thank you very much for hosting this important  
23 meeting where citizens can express their opinions regarding  
24 the proposed Tacoma manufacturing marine export facility.  
25 I have full confidence the professionals at Northwest

1 Innovation Works will provide all the required documents and  
2 paperwork to the various local, state, and federal agencies  
3 so the experts may do their due diligence to ensure the  
4 land, water, and air is protected during the construction  
5 and operation of this facility.

6 You know, most everyone in this room tonight is  
7 probably wearing some piece of clothing that was  
8 manufactured in China, but I'll venture to guess that the  
9 men and women of the union construction workers here are  
10 probably wearing a lot of clothing made in the U.S.A.

11 You know, we know the coal power -- excuse me?

12 MS. SCHULTZ: Please keep your comments --

13 MR. MOYER: You know, everybody has a right here.  
14 Thank you.

15 Part of our bylaws say that we will buy U.S.A.-  
16 made clothing, so, look, you know, Chinese clothing is made  
17 with coal. We need to get rid of that. We've got to find a  
18 way. This plant will help change that.

19 You know, everyone cares about the environment.  
20 The professional construction workers here tonight will be  
21 respectful of our natural resources if we construct this  
22 facility. This beautiful convention center was built by  
23 union men and women, and there were environmental impacts.  
24 We build wind farms. You know, it takes four years to get a  
25 permit for a wind farm in Montana. I've been to those

1 hearings. Wind farms have environmental impacts too. We  
2 know this. We care.

3 The thing about this is, all of us in this room,  
4 we care about the exact same thing. We all care about our  
5 future. We must stop outsourcing jobs and bring family-wage  
6 jobs back to Tacoma.

7 The millennials are now the largest generation,  
8 recently surpassing the baby boomers. Where are all those  
9 millennials going to go to work? You know, there's an  
10 apprentice over here. He gets up at 4 a.m. every day. He's  
11 a millennial. You know what? We'll take those millennials.  
12 We'll put them to work. They'll become apprentices.  
13 They'll work shoulder to shoulder with us on these projects.

14 Tacoma has a golden opportunity to create careers  
15 for the next generation. Once you have done your job, we  
16 can't wait to do ours. Thank you.

17 (Recitation of names.)

18 MS. NEAL: Thank you. My name is Kathlyn Neal,  
19 N-e-a-l, and I've already electronically submitted a  
20 detailed list of questions for review.

21 I'm a medical social worker, union member and  
22 supporter. I am opposed to the construction of the methanol  
23 plant. The last thing in the world we need is more  
24 fracking, pollution, and plastics.

25 Like other Tacoma residents, I'm concerned about

1 the health and environmental impacts of the methanol plant.  
2 Tacoma has a long history of cleaning up after bad decisions  
3 are made. We've been coping with the toxic effects of  
4 arsenic and other poisonous heavy metals due to the Asarco  
5 plant for many, many years. I hope we've learned from our  
6 past and are not doomed to repeat it.

7 Tacoma is a hard-working, modern, art filled, music  
8 filled, academically focused, sophisticated rising star of a  
9 city that will hopefully continue to attract businesses that  
10 exemplify our values. We need to think hard and ask tough  
11 questions when it comes to protecting our city and its  
12 residents' safety as well as remaining attractive to future  
13 business.

14 What are the impacts of the methanol plant on the  
15 air we breathe, the water we drink, our Puget Sound  
16 wildlife, not to mention the impact of possible drought on  
17 the salmon runs and federally endangered species? What are  
18 the effects on our beloved Puget Sound?

19 Tacoma residents were just asked last summer to  
20 limit their water usage by 10 percent due to a water  
21 shortage. Will we be asked to limit our usage before the  
22 methanol plant is asked to limit their usage? Will we see  
23 our utility bills increase?

24 What are the risks associated with a possible  
25 earthquake, spill, or uncontrolled fire should an accident



1 occur, especially since the methanol plant is built directly  
2 over a fault line? It is imperative that the City of Tacoma  
3 take public safety seriously and be transparent about the  
4 risks to its citizens and environment. Let us learn from  
5 our past mistakes, because our great city deserves better.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. SCHULTZ: So we'll reconvene at 8:30. That's  
8 approximately eight minutes from now, by my clock.

9 (A short recess was taken.)

10 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you, everyone, for your  
11 patience. It is really appreciated and I do appreciate  
12 everyone's cooperation and I apologize for getting lost on  
13 the list. As I had stated before we went on break, I'm  
14 going to run through the names of people who may not have  
15 heard them, just in case.

16 (Recitation of names.)

17 MR. WASSILIE: Good evening. What I wanted to do  
18 is introduce myself. My name is Carl Wassilie. My  
19 ancestral name is Anlutak. I'm from Alaska from the Yupik  
20 Nation.

21 I'm the president of the Center for Water Advocacy.  
22 We've done contract work with the Alaska Inter-Tribal  
23 Council with 229 tribes. The Center For Water Advocacy is  
24 formerly known as the Center For Tribal Water Advocacy.

25 I'm sure folks are familiar with the Boldt Decision

1 here in the state of Washington, and so, you know, by  
2 allowing this plant, we could see a precedent set for an  
3 international crime zone right here, so, you know, you're  
4 looking to be in violation of treaty rights, and so I warn  
5 this body to be really conscious of the water-use issue --  
6 and that's not just for drinking water, but it's also for  
7 future generations and for the animals that provide for the  
8 people of this region.

9           And, you know, when we're looking at economic  
10 impacts, you know, I completely agree with the movement to  
11 create jobs for industry as far as it's a just, renewable  
12 energy transition that provides for local communities. And  
13 so this one, this one has got a really heavy footprint and  
14 we feel it in Alaska. We have villages that are actually  
15 sinking into the ocean. The amount of energy that's  
16 being -- it's not just the production, but the amount of  
17 energy in the entire footprint of the planet to -- from the  
18 building as well as the entire life of the product and  
19 shipping the product and then the production of the product  
20 from cradle to grave. We have lots of plastics in our  
21 bodies -- in Alaska, the animals are filled with plastics as  
22 well -- so these types of projects are just not consistent  
23 with the -- with this century.

24           I completely agree that Tacoma has an opportunity  
25 to become a leader in a transition to a renewable energy

1 economy and to restore -- continue to restore and defend the  
2 waters that are so vital and that provide for the local  
3 economics.

4 MS. SCHULTZ: I'm going to read through a few more  
5 skipped names and just see if anybody has come back into the  
6 room.

7 (Recitation of names.)

8 FEMALE SPEAKER: Well, I'm not actually Melinda  
9 Raybein. She's gorgeous, but I traded spots with her  
10 because I left Seattle at 4:00 this afternoon, got into a  
11 fender-bender in Federal Way, and I'm still here because  
12 this is an important issue.

13 I wanted to first say what Melinda wanted to say.  
14 She wants to know that in looking at the EIS, that you guys  
15 will look at the methanol plants that already exist, what  
16 the cancer and those kind of diseases were, at what rate  
17 were they prior to the plant and after the plant, that those  
18 are an important issue to look at.

19 She also wanted to know what kind of discounts are  
20 you giving this company to build this here or to run it.

21 For me, I wanted to say I totally support my  
22 brothers who are union members about their abilities to  
23 build, their abilities as workers. I think that they're  
24 magnificent and they're fantastic. However, this job has  
25 already been outsourced. It was outsourced from China to

1 the United States. Welcome to being a Third World nation,  
2 U.S.A. This is not where we need to be.

3 Tacoma is getting on its feet. It's a wonderful  
4 town. It's becoming an art place. It's cleaning up. This  
5 isn't how we do it.

6 We've already talked about the water. We've talked  
7 about the electricity. We've talked about the air quality.  
8 This impacts on the entire Puget Sound and Washington state  
9 and our whole country. When people tell you that they can  
10 stop these leaks, ask them -- you know, in the pipelines --  
11 ask North Dakota about that and their rivers that were  
12 polluted. Ask Montana and their rivers that were polluted.  
13 Look around and see what's already happened in our country  
14 and how we're tearing our own nation apart.

15 We have this beautiful, beautiful planet that we've  
16 been given, and the Northwest is this incredible place. We  
17 cannot allow this to continue unto the 7th generation. It's  
18 like super important for us to do, and Tacoma has this  
19 opportunity to be an incredible leader. I beg of you to  
20 look at all the environmental impacts of this, everything  
21 from the water, to the air, to the earth, and the clean-up  
22 that you've already done and decide that there are so many  
23 other ways to create jobs in Tacoma that we don't sell our  
24 souls for a few years of work.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. SCHULTZ: So I'm going to go ahead and read  
2 names. I'm going to ask people to line up if they're here.  
3 When I see a few people, I'll stop and we'll let the next  
4 person speak.

5 (Recitation of names.)

6 MS. KYER: All right, thank you very much for this  
7 opportunity to comment. My name is Krystal Kyer. I am the  
8 executive director at Tacoma Audubon Society, the Pierce  
9 County Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving  
10 Pierce County, and we will be preparing formal written  
11 comments before the deadline and submitting those, but I  
12 wanted to touch base on a couple things here tonight.

13 A lot of the issues have already been covered,  
14 including issues around the water usage and discharge and  
15 the water coming out of the streams and the ecology, so I  
16 won't go into that.

17 I also want to talk about the issues around the  
18 emissions from the proposed plant and the air pollutants  
19 that would be emitted, both greenhouse gas emissions and  
20 toxins. I would like to know what the impacts would be both  
21 locally and at the state level to increase of -- increasing  
22 the greenhouse gas emissions and how that fits in with  
23 (unclear) or carbon issues or whatever comes out this  
24 summer; and the toxins, especially the known carcinogens and  
25 what those are, the amount of them and the effect on our air

1 quality.

2 I live in the Eastside neighborhood of Tacoma. It  
3 was a non-attainment area by the EPA just a few years ago,  
4 which means that air quality was so poor, it was being  
5 regulated and lots of things needed to be done to improve  
6 that. What impact will this new proposal have on the air  
7 quality in this area in terms of public health?

8 The other point I want to make is questions I have  
9 about what are the cumulative impacts of this project, both  
10 the cumulative impacts of the plant itself, construction and  
11 operation? Also, to do a life-cycle analysis of the entire  
12 proposal, so if this was built, where is the energy coming  
13 from, all the way back to the fracked natural gas and the  
14 effects on the environment there, to the end product  
15 production, to the shipping overseas, to the plastics that  
16 are made and then put into the environment and where those  
17 end up: an entire life-cycle analysis of this project.

18 Thank you very much.

19 (Recitation of names.)

20 MR. WEBB: Mike Webb, W-e-b-b, and thank you for  
21 taking our testimony here.

22 I've lived in Tacoma 20 years. I'm a retired  
23 environmental chemist, and my most important thing to me is  
24 the human health impacts and I would like to make sure that  
25 particularly the air emissions get considered to the full

1 extent of knowing if, say, methanol is one of the possible  
2 toxicants that would be released, the full knowledge of that  
3 toxicity, what that effect would be on the environment, of  
4 people who live around the area. I mean, there's a long  
5 legacy of this kind of environmental justice problem where,  
6 you know, it's the low, the working-class communities around  
7 these facilities that take the worst impact.

8 Methanol: I just did a quick look at the safety  
9 data sheet on it. It's classified as a cumulative toxin,  
10 which means it does -- the human body does not excrete it as  
11 quickly as some other toxins, so with repeated, even small  
12 doses, it can accumulate to toxic levels; and, you know,  
13 people have spoken to the nerve damage that is recognized at  
14 higher concentrations, so what happens to people who are  
15 exposed to low concentrations? I would like that addressed  
16 in the Environmental Impact Statement. It's very important  
17 to me that these lower levels get addressed.

18 Thank you.

19 (Recitation of names.)

20 MS. BRAATEN: Thank you for the opportunity. My  
21 name is Carol Sue Braaten. I live in Fife.

22 I'm very concerned. I majored in agricultural  
23 science. I took (unclear). I'm also certified critical and  
24 sensitive area trained.

25 We have three major fault lines that lie in the

1 Puget Sound area that run -- two that run along from Point  
2 Defiance and go -- one goes toward the Puyallup; one goes  
3 toward the Foss Waterway. We have a third that runs  
4 directly underneath where the plant -- or by the plant.  
5 I'm concerned. I want to know what will the impact be with  
6 a 6.8, a 7.2, an 8 and a 9. That is my first question.

7 We also have a history, a long history, of tsunamis  
8 in the area. The largest one known that we had that was  
9 recent was January 26, 1700, and then we also had the couple  
10 that were during the 1940s that they had, and they figure  
11 about every 300 and some years and they say we're overdue.  
12 This is the emergency management. I want to know how the  
13 plant will sustain a tsunami, since I also have requests of  
14 public information and I have for the Fife area on a number  
15 of buildings and none of them can sustain a tsunami. And in  
16 fact, because of the liquefaction area, none of them can  
17 sustain a tsunami, a liquefaction, or a lahar, so it's very  
18 important that this plant be able to sustain all of those.  
19 Liquefaction means that the area turns to liquid during a  
20 severe shaking incident. It liquified in the 1940s when my  
21 grandfather was down on the waterfront working as a  
22 longshoreman, so it's very important -- and a number of  
23 people were living down in that area. This is severe. It  
24 could take out the whole plant. The Port would explode. It  
25 could actually set off part of the fault line. I'm very



1 concerned about that.

2           So this would also create -- an explosion could  
3 also create something else that's called in the oceanic  
4 world a seige -- s-e-i-g-e -- and that's because of the fact  
5 that the explosion could cause a landslide fault area along  
6 our areas in the Port and that would have incoming water  
7 coming in acting like a tsunami.

8           I am very concerned with all of these.

9           We also have the major flood area. The whole  
10 entire river levy has been decertified since about 2006.  
11 I want to know how that flood area will affect the area.

12           I want to know about the water intake, and we also  
13 are tidal affected twice a day by the tides: the chemicals  
14 that can go in and out of the area, the air, and how it will  
15 be affected.

16           There are a number of other critical areas. We're  
17 looking at a -- we have a high water table. It's a water  
18 aquifer recharge area. The chemicals in that water acquifur  
19 recharge area can contaminate wells and that.

20           They are proposing -- (timer sounds). I was going  
21 to say, they're proposing to also take the pipeline through  
22 Fife and they are going to condemn people's properties. I  
23 want to know the impact it's going to have on the people  
24 that they're condemning their properties.

25           Thank you.

1           And I'd also like to add two geological survey  
2 things. There's hundreds, hundreds of papers from them and  
3 they have hundreds of documents, and so that's the Emergency  
4 Management and I have their telephone number.

5           (Recitation of names.)

6           MS. SCHULTZ: Matt Estrada?

7           MR. ESTRADA: Hello. Thanks for all your patience.  
8 I apologize for comment redundancy.

9           Also, many people have left, but I used to be a  
10 poll worker, and if half of the people who showed up for  
11 this thing voted for all our little tiny school bond  
12 elections, think about it.

13           Anyway, I'll try and go through this really quickly  
14 here.

15           Oh, also, it's a mistake to believe that those  
16 opposed to this project are against union members or jobs.  
17 All right? We have no doubt that -- nobody doubts their  
18 competency or the standards here in the States.

19           So I have been a citizen of Tacoma since 1993, the  
20 year the smelter came down. My wife has been in Tacoma  
21 since she was five, and my two youngest children were born  
22 here.

23           My fellow citizens of Tacoma and I have all watched  
24 the City and the Port reckon with the immense environmental  
25 impacts of over a century of industrial use in and around

1 Commencement Bay and all over Pierce County. Multiple  
2 Superfund sites have cost taxpayers money as well as  
3 endangered our health. After so much effort to clean up the  
4 bay and the surrounding environment, it seems a ridiculous  
5 notion to entertain building the proposed methanol plant.

6 We're concerned about inevitable leakage from the  
7 gas pipelines supplying the plant.

8 We're concerned about the many dangerous air  
9 pollutants discharged by the plant.

10 We're concerned about the potential devastation,  
11 however slight or mitigated by safety features, caused by  
12 industrial accident or natural disaster.

13 We're concerned about the million-plus gallons of  
14 wastewater that the City of Tacoma will be responsible for  
15 processing daily. Additionally, we are concerned about the  
16 immense amount of water used to produce methanol in a region  
17 that relies heavily on hydroelectric power. We recently  
18 went through a difficult drought.

19 We're concerned about the environmental burden of  
20 the immense power usage incurred by plant operation.

21 Surely the proposed plant will raise Tacoma's  
22 profile with manufacturing interests and increase the Port  
23 of Tacoma's profile to the world. However, the monetary and  
24 environmental costs of building and operating the plant far  
25 outweigh the temporary benefit of the construction jobs and

1 the longer benefit of plant staff jobs.

2 This plant is only good for corporate interests,  
3 but the plant is bad for the citizens of Tacoma. We  
4 respectfully ask you listen not to the money interests of  
5 those intent on selling our health and environment out for  
6 their profit, but to the citizens who rely on you to be  
7 responsive to our concerns.

8 Thank you for your time and your patience.

9 MR. KIRK: My name is Jordan Kirk.

10 So the first thing is, Tacoma has been a hub and is  
11 becoming more so a hub for art and community, more than it  
12 has ever been.

13 This paper plant that we have, you know, it's going  
14 away. Why fill it again with more pollution? We know  
15 there's going to be some -- some. Why risk that for, you  
16 know, 260 families? And I understand -- I'm not against  
17 jobs. I'm not against any of that. My dad is a foreman for  
18 a labor union. I am a labor man myself, but 260 families  
19 are not worth the lives of over 200,000 citizens in this  
20 city alone, period.

21 To add, I am part of the millennials. We don't  
22 need these jobs that are going to cause harm to our society.  
23 We need other jobs. Right now, if you go look on Schuster  
24 slope, there is a -- there are two crews of millennials  
25 right now that are doing -- they are doing restoration work

1 on that slope, dealing with the arsenic and the lead in the  
2 soil. They are out there every day. Rain, sunshine, snow,  
3 it does not matter. They are out there. We do not need  
4 these jobs that are going to be ruining our health and our  
5 families', when we could have more and better. We can have  
6 all these. We can have 260 jobs or more by cleaning up the  
7 pollution. How about that? Or something else. We don't  
8 need something like this. There's too much at risk, and  
9 where these -- these jobs can be put elsewhere and more  
10 productive.

11 That's all.

12 MS. RYAN: My name is Susan Ryan. That's R-y-a-n.  
13 I have been a resident of Tacoma since 1992.

14 I recently heard -- when I heard of this proposed  
15 plant was back in August, and I had a friend that was  
16 attending a meeting, and I said, "Well, I didn't know  
17 anything about this plant." And she goes, "Well, you need  
18 to know about it." But I wasn't able to attend that evening  
19 because I was attending another meeting on the City's  
20 comprehensive plan, so I chose to go to that meeting because  
21 that was important as well.

22 In doing a little reading recently, I found that on  
23 May 1, 2014, the Port of Tacoma Commission unanimously  
24 approves methanol plant lease. That was nearly two years  
25 ago now, so I wonder -- it states everybody -- the governor,

1 everyone's talking about how this is kind of a win-win and I  
2 guess I -- I'm opposed to the plant, but I guess I question  
3 the wisdom and the judgment of these people. Did they not  
4 feel that the citizens here would find problems with it? I  
5 mean, there's plenty. Everyone in this room has pointed out  
6 so many of the problems that I can't even mention them, but  
7 it's a cumulative list of so many reasons why not that I'm  
8 just astounded that it's come this far and that it's  
9 believed to be such a win-win by some of the people wanting  
10 to bring it here.

11 As others have said, I truly support the workers  
12 and the union members and I have no doubt they couldn't  
13 deliver a fine-quality product. That's not my concern,  
14 that. My concern is the long-term maintenance, 20 years, 30  
15 years. We've heard about the methane mine, I think it was,  
16 in California that blew, had a leak because there was a part  
17 from 1970 that they couldn't replace so they never replaced  
18 it, from what I read. Yeah, that's just -- that's just  
19 beyond comprehension that you would end up now with where  
20 they are.

21 I guess I also wonder what tax incentives are maybe  
22 being offered. I mean, has that come up?

23 There's just so many reasons to oppose this. I  
24 find no reason to support it, despite the many educated and  
25 talented people that have spoken in support of it. Just the

1 opposition and reasons why not to just seem to outweigh any  
2 positive contribution.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Good evening. I feel sorry for you  
5 guys right now. I wrote a bunch of notes, but you know  
6 what? We've heard them all. I cannot make another point  
7 more of all the facts, that, you know, all the numbers.

8 I am a part of the Eastside Neighborhood Council.  
9 I just got elected, and the reason why I got up in my  
10 neighborhood is because, like everybody says, Tacoma is  
11 changing for the good. But, you know, Tacoma is very unique  
12 because it is a hard-working community, but the potential of  
13 becoming a futurist destiny town, it's beyond recognition  
14 that a lot of towns have worked hard to get to.

15 The bottom line is that what we need is you guys  
16 to -- what I really need from you guys, or from the EIS, is  
17 for you guys to listen. That's all I ask, because I feel  
18 like I got invited to the wedding and then they say, "Does  
19 anybody object?" at the party. Seriously, I do.

20 So, you know, I love the union people because they  
21 are awesome people. You know, I support them. I worked for  
22 awhile with United Way and they were the most generous  
23 bunch. The union people was one of the most generous bunch,  
24 you know, but that tunnel vision in looking at the prize and  
25 not seeing everything out of the other impacts are, you

1 know, substantial.

2           It was brought up that monster trucks use that  
3 fuel, but monster trucks don't bring future jobs. They  
4 don't bring future -- that 7th generation statement hits my  
5 heart, because the reason why I moved to Tacoma is because  
6 they got rid of the aroma, seriously, so that decision  
7 alone, it was not only environmental, but it was the life  
8 line to the city.

9           I'm just a little worried that who is going to be  
10 responsible when that does go wrong. You know, like that  
11 gentleman brought up, the environmental guy, is it going to  
12 be the Chinese, the City, or the Port or the citizens of  
13 Tacoma? So to me, that is the ultimate question. If the  
14 boat sinks in our bay, is it the Chinese who's going to pay  
15 for the fixing of the fish or are those fish replaced?

16           So the bottom line is, I need you guys' help.  
17 Tacoma's going to be a great city. I see nothing but great  
18 for Tacoma, and I hope you believe you can help us with  
19 that. Welcome to the wedding.

20           (Recitation of names.)

21           MS. GONZAGA: Jennifer Gonzaga. Hello, there.  
22 Good evening. Thanks for still being here.

23           I'm here today because I'm concerned for the  
24 welfare of our beautiful home, Tacoma, Washington. I'm a  
25 first-generation born American, and I'm a junior in



1 environmental science at U-Dub, Tacoma, as well as a future  
2 scientist for our great nation.

3 I highly disprove building a methanol plant here in  
4 Tacoma. Commencement Bay sits on top of a major active  
5 fault line, making it extremely vulnerable to seismic  
6 activity. Because of the sheer power of earthquakes, it is  
7 impossible to create a structurally sound building that is  
8 strong enough to withstand nature's worse. We cannot  
9 predict the strength of earthquakes, but I will tell you one  
10 thing: Do not underestimate the damage and chaos that will  
11 eventually take place if you decide to build this plant.

12 Keep this in mind: My peers and myself will be  
13 cleaning up the disaster that your decisions created -- not  
14 you, but my cohorts and future generations of Tacoma will be  
15 cleaning up that mess.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. MERRITT: Good evening. My name is Jim Merritt  
18 and I'm a local architect, facilitator, and planner residing  
19 at 3201 North Madison in the City of Tacoma.

20 For 40 years, our community has been working to  
21 change the image of Tacoma. The infamous Tacoma aroma is  
22 gone. Asarco is now Point Ruston. The Port is one of the  
23 premier container cargo ports in the world, and the Foss  
24 Waterway is a people place.

25 The proposed methanol plant may have short- and

1 long-term significant environmental impacts and social  
2 impacts that could be extremely damaging. This methanol  
3 plant should not be in the center of an urban area within a  
4 few miles of more than a million people.

5 I want to share a story that has been forgotten.  
6 This is not the first time that a new vision -- that our new  
7 vision for Tacoma was almost sidetracked because of the  
8 potential of new jobs in an energy solution that could have  
9 meant substantial sacrifices.

10 In the 1970s, energy was becoming a huge concern.  
11 A gasohol report was released by the federal Office of  
12 Technology Assessments in 1979. Then in 1986, a proposal  
13 surfaced to convert the closed Carling Brewery plant at  
14 South 21st and Jefferson to a gasohol plant making ethanol.  
15 After much research and discussion, the newly formed Union  
16 Station Historic District Owners Association, along with  
17 other citizens, in the face of strong support from the  
18 elected officials as well as the business community, decided  
19 that we needed to step up against this and we took a  
20 position against the gasohol plant. After considerable  
21 intense public debate, the momentum and support for the  
22 gasohol plant was reversed, and for a number of reasons,  
23 the gasohol plant initiative was abandoned. At the time,  
24 elected officials and the business community felt that this  
25 was a tremendous loss of economic opportunity. However, if

1 the gasohol plant had been completed, Tacoma would have had  
2 essentially a hard-liquor distillery in the urban center and  
3 the area may have become an industrial backwater zone. In  
4 that case, the Tacoma Union Station restoration to federal  
5 courts, the Washington State History Museum, the Tacoma Art  
6 Museum, the Foss Waterway development, the Chihuly Bridge of  
7 Glass, and the University of Washington, Tacoma, may never  
8 have happened. Where would our city be now?

9 In the 1960s, Roy Clark recorded a song: Right or  
10 Left at Oak Street. That can relate to Tacoma's current  
11 decision needs: a choice Tacoma will face. So with minor  
12 edits to one of the song's verses, a city must make its  
13 decisions, but it must consider the stakes. For every  
14 city's life is a gamble. It depends on the turns that it  
15 takes.

16 So let's get refocused on our vision that the  
17 community has been struggling to build for the last four  
18 decades. Say thanks, but no thanks, to the methanol plant.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. DARNEILLE: Hi. I'm Jeanne Darneille, state  
21 senator for this area. I'll see if I can add any value to  
22 what have we heard tonight.

23 I want to say first that I am so impressed. I have  
24 been awed by the speeches tonight. I have no doubt that our  
25 city is in good hands with the leadership that's been shown

1 tonight, the love for our city that's been shown tonight,  
2 and I'm just -- it just chokes me up. It's been great.

3 I think we were asked what we want in this process,  
4 and I was -- I happen to have been at that May 1, 2014  
5 meeting. It was decidedly a different gathering than  
6 tonight and I would like to welcome you to the world of  
7 social media. That's why we ran out of room. I was  
8 outraged out there to get here a half hour before this  
9 started and have no room in the overflow room, have no room  
10 in here. So people signed up and I think we see by those  
11 that were not able to stay that there -- it wasn't an  
12 accommodating process, so I want to offer the experience  
13 I've had in the legislature on how to run a big meeting like  
14 this where we've had people carrying guns and all kinds of  
15 really interesting things in Olympia.

16 But what do I want? It's the same thing I wanted  
17 on May 14th when I had to call them to find out where the  
18 location was of the meeting. It wasn't on the website for  
19 the Port of Tacoma. I made it in time to be able to add my  
20 name to the end of that list and there were only 17 people  
21 that spoke at that hearing -- 17 people, compared with 170  
22 or more tonight on this list. And what I asked for then was  
23 some assurances about communication and about openness for a  
24 transparent process to unfold.

25 It's true the governor wrote a letter endorsing

1 that project before there was much known about it, and I  
2 think it was disgraceful then; I think it's disgraceful now.

3 But we've got the chance now to actually hear and  
4 we have learned tonight about things -- even I, after over a  
5 year of study on this, have learned so much tonight.

6 So I would like to just talk a little bit about  
7 honoring the investments that have been made in the  
8 reparation of the land in the Port of Tacoma and in the  
9 transportation packages. In my 16 years in Olympia, we have  
10 been working for this county, our delegation, both R's and  
11 D's, a very bipartisan approach to try and say yes to the  
12 projects that are needed by the Port, to say yes to the  
13 projects that are needed by the city and county, so just a  
14 brief overview:

15 In the last three years, we have invested over  
16 \$1 billion in transportation projects which we can drive  
17 through on nights like tonight -- (timer sounds) oh, dear  
18 God -- and complain about them.

19 I want to say that we fought hard for rate payers  
20 when there was a real challenge and the rate payers for  
21 electricity going way up in Tacoma and Vancouver and our two  
22 cities took over the legislature.

23 We've put over \$23 million in the city of Tacoma  
24 for reparation of things like the Asarco site, derelict  
25 vessel removal in the Foss Waterway. And since 2001, we've

1 given \$15 million to the Port for remediation of  
2 contaminated soil, ironically the very soil upon which this  
3 methanol plant is supposed to be built.

4 The question was asked, have we ever remediated  
5 twice? I asked that of the Department of Ecology today.  
6 We have not ever done that.

7 I will say that I've done enough research about  
8 this to say unquestionably that we are not a colony of  
9 China. We are the City of Destiny and our destiny is about  
10 continuing to improve our city, not place it at more risk.  
11 We're not for sale.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. SATTIACUM: I'd like to say good evening. Good  
14 evening to everybody that stayed behind. Good evening to  
15 the panel. Good evening, Madam Senator.

16 You know, my name is Elizabeth Sattiacum. I married  
17 into the Sattiacum family that is well-known for fighting for  
18 the water, for the fish, for the rights of the indigenous  
19 people in Puget Sound. I stand here to continue that fight  
20 to say no to the methanol plant. I stand here fighting to  
21 say no to the coal trains. I stand here saying no to the  
22 Naval warfare in the Olympic Peninsula and in the 68  
23 national parks that they want to practice at. I stand here  
24 to help protect the future for my children, my grandchildren  
25 and their grandchildren.

1           We are people of fishermen. We clam dig. We crab.  
2 We honor all animals. We honor Mother Earth. I stand here  
3 to fight. I will stand here. I will not go anywhere. I  
4 will stand and protect because there has to be alternatives.  
5 There has to be alternatives to this methanol plant. There  
6 has to be alternatives. There has to be another answer and  
7 we have to find it. We have to stand up and say, "Enough is  
8 enough," because the planet is all we have.

9           I stand here and I will fight you. I'll fight you  
10 until the last stand. I'll be at the next hearing, I'll be  
11 at the next hearing, and I'll be at the next hearing. I  
12 will write letters. I will encourage all my family to write  
13 letters, because there's no business for the methanol plant  
14 in our Tideflats that will kill everything that I stand for.

15           My name is Elizabeth Satiacum, and I stand here on  
16 behalf of my family and my family's family.

17           MS. MORKEN: My name is Sarah Morken and I live and  
18 work here in Tacoma. I'm a health care worker.

19           The supporters of this project say that because I  
20 use plastic, that I should support this project, and I don't  
21 remember ever voting in favor of all the things that I need  
22 to be made with planned obsolescence so they wear out really  
23 quickly and end up in the landfill or in the ocean within a  
24 really short time.

25           The people that are promoting this are climate

1 change deniers. This is implicit support for fracking of  
2 natural gas. We should not be building more fossil fuel  
3 infrastructure, and I know the way the environmental scoping  
4 process was, you want to look at things that are just right  
5 there on the site, but the thing is, our environment, our --  
6 climate change doesn't work that way. Every greenhouse gas  
7 that is emitted affects the climate. It doesn't matter  
8 where it's located. And right now, there's 2,000 people in  
9 southern California that have evacuated their homes and two  
10 schools that are closed because of the natural gas industry,  
11 because of the methane, which I know we're talking about  
12 methanol, but the methanol is made from natural gas.

13 We need democratically run green public works  
14 projects and free retraining for all workers in the fossil  
15 fuel industry, because we can have an environment and a  
16 planet and jobs for everyone.

17 Thank you.

18 (Recitation of names.)

19 MR. GEORGE: Kenneth George.

20 So I will approach as a resident of the Tacoma  
21 area, and a lot -- anything I could mention has already been  
22 stated, so I won't take up too much time as the evening is  
23 drawing out and folks are leaving.

24 I do have professional experience and education, a  
25 U-Dub graduate in Tacoma, but I wanted to -- figured I might



1 as well come -- and I'll submit written comments, but I will  
2 come as an approach that it took me a long time to find a  
3 job after graduation (unclear) during the economy and I had  
4 to leave the Tacoma area in order to find that job, and I  
5 just finally got back and I am excited. A new family, a  
6 young family, a child of a year and a half and I have one  
7 more on the way, so I'm going to be a father to two boys.

8 That's how I want to approach at least the verbal  
9 comments: that I don't want to move after fighting so hard,  
10 job interview after job interview to finally get in this  
11 area and I don't want to have to say to my family -- because  
12 we're a young and scared family -- to leave and I absolutely  
13 don't want that to happen. This is where -- I told my wife,  
14 this is where we're going to -- when we got married, this is  
15 where we're going to live. This is where we're going to  
16 grow up. This is where we're going to raise our family.  
17 We're already making those plans.

18 So during this process, the EIS statements that are  
19 going to come out, everyone has already addressed the  
20 environmental concerns, the economic concerns, and the  
21 benefits of a few jobs. And of course, everyone has already  
22 mentioned that we don't -- we're not against the union  
23 workers and the workers. We do want more jobs. We  
24 especially want a viable port industry to be able to be  
25 built up in this area. That's where the foundation of

1 Tacoma was built and it's going to continue; we want it to  
2 continue.

3           Something needs to be built on this site, and this  
4 methanol plant is not going to be it. We're going to fight  
5 to make sure that it doesn't happen. And when something is  
6 proposed that will be great for Tacoma, we'll fight to make  
7 sure that is built and we'll support that. This is one  
8 proposal, though, that we're not going to support.

9           Thank you very much for listening to my comments.

10           MS. KIMMERLING: So I'm Marilyn Kimmerling. This  
11 is Aviva Lemberger and this is Joan Wallis, and we are three  
12 of Tacoma's Raging Grannies. Thank you. I'd thought we  
13 would lighten the tone a little bit.

14           But, first, before we do that, we know how serious  
15 this issue is, and one thing that I haven't heard mentioned  
16 tonight in speaking about the possibility of this plant  
17 exploding in the flood plain of Mount Rainier lahar is the  
18 position of the Northwest Detention Center with all of those  
19 incarcerated people stuck there unable to get out in the  
20 event of a catastrophe that of course will affect all of  
21 Tacoma, but just think of that.

22           THE RAGING GRANNIES: So once again, we're the  
23 Tacoma Raging Grannies and we'll start with:

24           Oh, we're a gaggle of grannies, urging you off of  
25 your fannies. We're raising our voice. We want a new

1 choice. No methanol plant.

2 With the natural gas pipeline extending and  
3 methanol production pending, our water they'll use, our air  
4 they'll abuse. No methanol plant.

5 We're sick of this tradition. Feeding spin, that  
6 is not fair. Let us join together. Show that you really  
7 care.

8 So join this gaggle of grannies. Get up off of  
9 your fannies. We are angry and how. No methanol plant.

10 We really mean it.

11 Seriously, you need to listen to the wisdom of  
12 grandmothers everywhere.

13 Come gather round, folks, and lend us a hand.

14 Demand that your leaders say no to this plan, a methane  
15 pipeline to make methanol in the world's largest methanol  
16 plant, which we then ship to China in huge super tanks,  
17 while we all know the climate is changin'.

18 Come coal, gas, and oil men. You've poisoned the  
19 air and the land and the water as if you don't care for  
20 naught but your profits and more than your share. Well,  
21 your hour of reckoning's arrivin'. Your in-the-ground  
22 assets will have to stay there, for the climate on earth is  
23 a-changin'.

24 Come elected officials, city council, heed the  
25 call. Don't pretend you don't know. Don't deny and don't

1 stall, for your failure to act could well doom us all in a  
2 mountain of cheap plastic crap that'll float in our waters  
3 and clog up your tap, and the climate on earth is a-changin'.

4 Come mothers and fathers throughout the land. If  
5 you don't step up now, your kids won't understand. How will  
6 they forgive you if you don't lend a hand? If Tacoma for  
7 them is worth savin', they get off of your assets, pull your  
8 head from the sand, for the climate on earth is a-changin'.

9 Accept nothing less. You will not stand alone.  
10 If Tacoma to you is worth savin', the few jobs it would make  
11 don't equal our fall, for the climate on earth is a-changin'.

12 We get more time because we've got two people.

13 MS. SCHULTZ: You've already had more time.

14 THE RAGING GRANNIES: So China lies over the ocean  
15 and wants a plant in the Tideflats --

16 MS. SCHULTZ: We do need to move on.

17 THE RAGING GRANNIES: -- to make methanol to ship  
18 back to them so we can have more plastic crap. Hell, no,  
19 hell, no. We don't need jobs that damn bad. We don't.  
20 Hell no, hell, no. And if they don't build it, we're glad.

21 Here's why:

22 They'll use quite a lot of our water, ten million  
23 gallons a day, and then there's the wastewater from it to  
24 get treated and go in the bay. Hell, no, oh, no, we don't  
25 need this plant over here, my dears. Oh, no, hell, no, we

1 don't want that plant over here.

2 Remember the stink of Tacoma? A joke it took years  
3 to live down. They add stink to brew so that folks will  
4 know a toxic is bubbling around. Hell, no, oh, no, no  
5 methanol plan should be -- well, hell, no, hell, no, no  
6 methanol refinery here.

7 Last verse:

8 Did we mention the problem in Cali, the huge  
9 methane leak over there? If we have a leak from the  
10 pipeline, it could easily blow us away.

11 Doesn't rhyme.

12 Hell, no, oh, no, there's never, no never been  
13 methane leaks. Hell, no, oh, no, we don't need that plant  
14 over here.

15 We're done. Thank you.

16 MS. SCHULTZ: Can I still have a show of hands of  
17 who wishes to speak? Why don't we just have the last ten or  
18 so people line up.

19 (Recitation of names.)

20 MR. HASSERTT: Billy Hassertt, H-a-s-s-e-r-t-t.

21 I'd like to say that the claim that this is clean  
22 energy is somewhat disingenuous. It is cleaner than coal,  
23 which is not saying much.

24 I have reactive airway disease. It's a relatively  
25 common affliction and it's very problematic if this plant

1 comes in. I live less than a mile away from where this  
2 plant will be. I will have to leave my home. I will have  
3 to leave the city that I grew up in. I will have to leave  
4 the city that I love.

5 Now, I went to the Science and Math Institute at  
6 Point Defiance. We had classes, had the school groups and  
7 informative adventures where we went out into the sea and  
8 soil and found ecosystems still reeling from the pain of the  
9 Asarco smelter. Our plants, animals, and human beings  
10 suffer because of it. Cut open a tree in this area and you  
11 will see the burn of that smelter. It was a horrifying  
12 ecological catastrophe, a grand mistake that we cannot  
13 afford to make again, and that's the best-case scenario.

14 It's been mentioned earthquakes would kill people  
15 if it happens, something seismologists say is relatively  
16 imminent.

17 Even then, return to the best-case scenario:  
18 You're taking water that we need. You're taking almost as  
19 much water as we already use. You're taking it during a  
20 time where during our summer months we're told to be careful  
21 because we're facing drought during those months.

22 Now you're polluting my neighborhood, the Eastside.  
23 Eastside is next door, and we're told that 260 jobs matter  
24 more than the health of our minority youth and community.

25 It will lower our property values.

1           It will insult already abused populations. This is  
2 unequivocal genocide.

3           Yes, it will make jobs. Money will flow, but it  
4 won't be worth the drain on our property value, the drain on  
5 our water, our power. And worst-case scenario, the entire  
6 area could be leveled. Kill this city instantly is our  
7 best-case scenario. Kill it slowly -- no. Kill it  
8 instantly is our worst-case scenario, whereas the best-case  
9 scenario is just that you're killing it slowly.

10           Thank you.

11           MS. BOYLE: Hi. I'm Emily Boyle. I'm probably the  
12 very last one because I just decided.

13           MS. SCHULTZ: Close, but not quite.

14           MS. BOYLE: I would like the EIS to also include an  
15 investigation of the explosions of the Chinese methane  
16 plants over the last decade. There have been four this year  
17 alone, this year alone.

18           The thing foremost on my mind is the fact that my  
19 family lives within one mile of the hazard zone. It's one  
20 thing to build something ugly in someone's back yard. It's  
21 a completely other situation if you're trying to build a  
22 potential bomb in somebody's backyard. Even the smallest  
23 chance of the facility's catastrophic failure is  
24 unacceptable. No amount of insurance can cover the  
25 potential loss of (unclear) health.

1           Next let's look at the pollution this plant will  
2 create. My children breathe this air. They play in the  
3 water along this coast. It would be criminal to allow the  
4 pollution to pollute -- to allow that to be polluted to  
5 create more plastic trash, to create more pollution.

6           I live in a community that's been here for over 60  
7 years. Generations of families have stayed on here. Our  
8 children safely play in the neighborhood with their friends.  
9 Neighbors know each other -- that's my neighbor. We look  
10 out for each other. We'll move. They'll move, following  
11 the Lorax to greener pastures while you sit there like the  
12 Once-Ler, knowing you chose poorly, breathing poor air,  
13 watching dead sea life pile up on your shores, waiting for  
14 the day it all explodes.

15           I'm sure there's a myriad of economic issues that  
16 would go on my con list, right -- cost of electricity due to  
17 the man, water shortages, et cetera -- just like I'm sure  
18 there's a couple that would go on your pro list: possible  
19 tax revenues, perceived jobs during construction, back-room  
20 payoffs. In the end, none of these dirty pieces of paper  
21 will ever balance out the real and actual damage that will  
22 be done to the community and the environment that surrounds  
23 the project.

24           Let the good union workers build something Tacoma  
25 can be proud of instead of something they're going to be



1 poisoned by.

2           You don't live in Tacoma. I looked you up. You  
3 are going to retire in Anacortes Island, two and a half  
4 hours away. Ian Munce, I looked up my --

5           MALE SPEAKER: Ian, what you are doing up there?  
6 Come on, move down to the Tacoma Tideflats. Come on, Ian.

7           MS. SCHULTZ: All right. We need to stay in order,  
8 guys. Come on.

9           MS. MURRAY: My name is Roxann Murray. There's  
10 this little quote that Samuel L. Jackson is known for:  
11 "Wake the fuck up."

12           MR. ROSNER: Madam Chair, members of the  
13 audience --

14           MS. SCHULTZ: What's your name?

15           MR. ROSNER: Dan Rosner. I'm way down the list.

16           My name is Dan Rosner. I have been in Tacoma 19  
17 years with my family. Grew up in New Jersey. My friends  
18 from outside the area thought I was nuts when I moved here.  
19 I have watched the revitalization of this great city. It's  
20 amazing to see the outpouring of support tonight against  
21 this methanol refinery.

22           I would like to request that the scoping process  
23 specifically address the compliance of Tacoma with the  
24 growth management legislation. We have been asked as a  
25 community to accommodate tens of thousands of new residents

1 over the coming decades and that would involve increasing  
2 the density in the city, an addition of ADUs we're building.

3           What I'm seeing -- and I've tried to keep an open  
4 mind about this in the scoping process as it's presented to  
5 the community -- roughly, this methanol refinery would  
6 double the water use and double the energy use of Tacoma, so  
7 you're basically committing to doubling the resource use of  
8 the city, to double the city for just one project, to create  
9 260 jobs. And thinking about this earlier through this  
10 process, reading about it in the paper and tonight, it just  
11 seems like such a rotten deal for this city and we can do  
12 better than that. So I would request that you specifically  
13 address the compliance with the growth management  
14 legislation, because doubling the water use and the power  
15 use, where is it going to come from? It's just mind  
16 boggling that this process can proceed so far without  
17 notification.

18           The Port of Tacoma, they are public servants, and  
19 as Senator Darneille said, the meeting at which that was  
20 decided was not posted for the community to find out. It's  
21 outrageous. Our property taxes pay for this. Our tax  
22 district money from our property taxes goes to the Port of  
23 Tacoma, so I'm confident that this refinery will not be  
24 built. The citizens of Tacoma will stop it and something  
25 better will rise in its place.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. OSTHELLER: Sarah Ostheller. So thank you for  
3 the opportunity to speak. I know that this is probably not  
4 ideal for you guys either. And my name's Ostheller,  
5 O-s-t-h-e-l-l-e-r.

6 As a student of chemistry and the president of the  
7 Environmental Club at Tacoma Community College, I have a lot  
8 of environmental concerns about this methanol plant, and I  
9 know that the environmental concerns were the focus of the  
10 meeting, so I'll start with those and probably some other  
11 stuff too.

12 I would like for -- I would like to see the ETA  
13 [sic] to address some of the following issues:

14 Number 1 is the bioaccumulation of some of the  
15 byproducts is something that hasn't been brought up to an  
16 extent, and a lot of heavy metals are used as catalysts in  
17 the conversion of methane to methanol and I would like a  
18 full assay of the bioaccumulation factors that those could  
19 be attributed to in the environment.

20 Number 2 is the effect on TAGRO. I know that TAGRO  
21 comes from our waste management and how the water will be  
22 treated that it will be going into are a significant  
23 environmental factor because it affects the long-reaching  
24 parts of the waste management, and I don't know if there's  
25 infrastructure when there's that much water.

1           Sub-point 3 is if we're selling this to China,  
2           which it's said out there that we're turning it into olefins  
3           and then selling them to China, that's not to be used as  
4           energy. That's to be turned into plastic. You don't use  
5           olefins in energy, so that's a -- and they use primarily  
6           coal, so I know that you're looking at local issues, but the  
7           amount of coal that they use in China is a global issue even  
8           though it's happening in China.

9           And sub-point 4 is more of an anecdote: When I  
10          started raising the student garden at TCC, we found out that  
11          you can't plant vegetables in the ground here. You have to  
12          have the ground tested for lead and arsenic because of  
13          plants that were here in the past, and I think that that is  
14          bad and I think that propagating that would be a horrible  
15          mistake which goes back some more to the bioaccumulation  
16          assay which I strongly recommend.

17          The take-home point is I feel like people are  
18          profiting off this and that is the strong push for this.  
19          Please don't let profit-centric decisions hurt Tacoma and  
20          its citizens like it did in Flint, Michigan. That would be  
21          a disaster.

22          And I'd like to go on record saying that I am  
23          somewhat disappointed and disgusted in the dealings of this  
24          issue. I feel like I'm an active community member. I serve  
25          at the Tacoma -- the Green Tacoma Partnership and (unclear)

1 Partnership, the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed. I  
2 feel like I'm active and I didn't find out about this until  
3 the other day. I live in Tacoma/University Place.

4 But there was another meeting tonight about the  
5 expansion of the greenhouse in Wright Park at the same time,  
6 and I think that it's horrible to try to break the support  
7 apart, two meetings at the same time, and, yeah, you should  
8 plan better because it's happened more than once.

9 MS. LEFRENIERE: My name is Bree Lefreniere,  
10 L-e-f-r-e-n-i-e-r-e.

11 I'm going to talk about something that has not been  
12 mentioned this evening, which is corruption, c-o-r-r-u-p-t-  
13 i-o-n. I have been a citizen of Tacoma since 1989 and I  
14 have never felt a need to come to speak at any forum until  
15 last week when I heard about this proposed methanol  
16 refinery. There's no excuse why you guys had to keep this  
17 so secret except that it was corruption. You could have put  
18 a little note in our water bill to let us know about this.

19 When I heard about it, I was shocked, disappointed,  
20 confused, upset, and most of all angry. I am angry about it  
21 because my elected officials are not representing the best  
22 interests of the citizens of Tacoma but rather the interests  
23 of China. It's infuriating to think that we've been asked  
24 to conserve water while you were over there negotiating a  
25 deal to give our water away to China.

1           The news was piled on top of my previous anger over  
2 the total waste of tax payer money spent on the visit of  
3 President Xi and the exposure of our innocent children at  
4 Lincoln High School to a leader of a country that has  
5 absolutely no respect for human life. And before you decide  
6 that I don't like foreigners, I'll tell you that as a Peace  
7 Corps volunteer, I worked with refugees from Asia for ten  
8 years and I foolishly went to Beijing.

9           Please don't lie to us to make us believe this  
10 project is somehow good for us and will provide jobs.  
11 While I applaud any attempts at economic development, the  
12 costs of this proposal are way too high in human health and  
13 the health of our one and only planet, a God-given gift to  
14 us. You have no right to give away our precious resources.

15           I would not support this any more than I would  
16 support an economic development project related to drug  
17 dealing, human trafficking, the sale of dog meat or human  
18 organs or poisonous drywall or poisonous flooring or  
19 poisonous dog food or poisonous baby formula. And if you  
20 want to check some other ideas, check the China Product  
21 Monthly bulletin produced by the United States Consumer  
22 Protection and Safety Commission. Come on, guys. Is  
23 methanol the best you can come up with?

24           I suggest that all of you watch the documentary  
25 "Death by China," narrated by Martin Sheen, and then see if

1 you don't feel like total fools for walking right into the  
2 Chinese trap.

3 (Timer sounds.)

4 Wait a minute. I have a gift. I have a gift. I  
5 have a gift I'd like to give to the mayor. This is made in  
6 China and it says, "This product contains lead or other  
7 chemicals known to cause cancer or birth defects or other  
8 reproductive organs." Maybe she can give me her water  
9 bottle.

10 MS. BOWENS: My name is Natalie Bowens.

11 So I first want to thank you guys for letting me  
12 speak. I know people said that, but it's probably not very  
13 fun for you guys.

14 So I live in Tacoma, obviously. I've lived here  
15 for eight years. I love and I work here and I love the  
16 people here.

17 So I'm currently -- before, I was from a city in  
18 Rancho -- a city called Rancho Cucamonga in California and  
19 bad air quality days impacted us in our school system, so we  
20 saw a lot of -- we -- my -- sorry. The effects of the  
21 pollution in the surrounding areas ended up sitting on our  
22 valley, so even though we might not have produced much, it  
23 ended up sitting in our area. And me as a kid, I remember  
24 not being able to play outside because of the bad air  
25 quality days and whatnot.

1           So, okay, I just wanted to know, like, if you guys  
2 would be able to produce, like, some sort of consistent  
3 health testing so that the public can be made aware of,  
4 like, certain chemicals that will be produced but, like, on  
5 a consistent basis, so daily we'd be able see, oh, these  
6 levels of this is being poured into our environment and  
7 whatnot, and maybe putting it on a forum that everyone has  
8 access to, like on television or the news even, so that  
9 those who don't have the time, those who work in Seattle or  
10 are, like, traveling places who don't have time to, like,  
11 research things heavily will be made known of it, of the  
12 effects and whatnot.

13           I also was requesting that you guys would also look  
14 up the incidence of cancer and lung disease with the workers  
15 in these types of plants, because usually that relates to  
16 what the public will see. And although you can't -- maybe  
17 you wouldn't be able to create causation -- or prove  
18 causation, there's still definitely a connection between  
19 those things, and then also the neighboring cities as well.  
20 So I want to just say that this is not really researched,  
21 obviously, in this magnitude, and this types of the effects  
22 in our bodies and the environment aren't either, so just --  
23 I don't know much about it, so I kind of want you guys to  
24 inform us or whatever.

25           And then also, I wanted to know a little bit more



1 about persistent organic pollutants which could be made or  
2 stabilized in the process, as researching this, there was a  
3 plant in China that made methanol and they did it with  
4 chlorine and it ended up making persistent organic  
5 pollutants which got into the body and those things can be  
6 passed on biologically as well.

7 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Jody Johnson and I didn't  
8 plan to speak until towards the end. I wrote on a different  
9 list before I decided to speak.

10 As I said, I didn't plan to speak, but a couple of  
11 things came to mind and I don't know if they were talked  
12 about earlier, but it does seem like the City's talking out  
13 of two sides of its mouth. I just saw an article about how  
14 we're attempting to keep more trees and grow more trees in  
15 the Tacoma area. And as we know, we have the inversion here  
16 and a lot of pollution sits in our lovely town and so we're  
17 growing trees, want to grow more trees and make it more  
18 green. And then we also have the coal trains which have  
19 started to run down by Titlow and along there and the  
20 citizens down there are at risk with trains in their back  
21 yards, literally, so that's on one side and then we've got  
22 the body of water on the other side which is the Tideflats.

23 I grew up here and I grew up with my mother calling  
24 the Asarco plant -- when I'd come in and say, "Mom, my  
25 throat hurts," because I would swallow sulfur while I was

1 playing outside, so that and the St. Regis and the meat  
2 plant and different things all helped contribute to the  
3 Tacoma aroma.

4 I'm married to a Seattlite and it would tic me off  
5 because his father used to call this the armpit of the  
6 state, and I can see that anything like this is going to  
7 contribute to that hard-fought thing we've been stamping out  
8 for years and the fact that we were a Superfund site.  
9 Still, so many people have brought up all the environmental  
10 issues, but I just want to see us take a step back and look  
11 at the different reasons we choose to do things like this.

12 And I'm a very strong union person. I'm not  
13 employed with a union at this point, but I have been on an  
14 executive board at different points and I'm shocked that the  
15 unions are selling our souls for 250 jobs -- and a thousand  
16 is not anything. It's a drop in the bucket for a few  
17 minutes, and the rest of our life on this planet is based on  
18 what we have left and so these jobs are not going to be  
19 worth what we end up getting for it.

20 And I also have a few things that -- the whole idea  
21 of us going to -- sending this off to China, it sticks in my  
22 craw too. I don't want to see the products that come back,  
23 because usually they're not worth the effort.

24 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

25 MS. SCHULTZ: I'm going to ask anybody else who

1 wants to speak to line up and then go ahead and give me your  
2 name.

3 MR. SAGER: Thank you. I'm Alex Sager (phonetic).

4 Jobs were referred to this evening, and I support  
5 local labor and local unions whenever possible, but although  
6 my family, my ancestors are from this area and I've made my  
7 entire adult life in the Northwest, I moved to Tacoma three  
8 years ago. I'm a private contractor who moved my business  
9 here because I was confident with the choices Tacoma was  
10 making and where it wanted to go and what it wanted grow  
11 into. I have plans for future business in this area, but if  
12 I see Tacoma making choices that I can't agree with and that  
13 show that it's choosing to go in a different direction, I  
14 may have to as well, so keep that in mind when you're  
15 thinking about these 250 jobs: how many you'll be losing to  
16 other industries.

17 What sort of industries do you want here? What  
18 sort of growth do you want here? I want to see a strong,  
19 thriving community, but I want to see a sustainable one.  
20 Look to these sorts of industries in Flint, Michigan, and  
21 what the effects have been there. Look at any mining town  
22 across America or up and down the East Coast and what  
23 happens once those resources are extracted. Once the  
24 resources are gone, those jobs are gone as well.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. SCHULTZ: Last call for people to line up.  
2 We're closing in on 10:00, so we want to make sure that  
3 anybody who does want to speak can get in line. Looks like  
4 we're good.

5 MS. OSBORN: My name is Deborah Osborn and my home  
6 is here in Tacoma and it's in the proposed blast zone. I  
7 wanted to share that with you right away, because I'll be  
8 applying for emergency assistance when my house blows down,  
9 so you might want to keep me in mind in the future. But  
10 when that happens, I want you to know that the medical mile  
11 we brag about, as a medical provider I got to tell you  
12 something: It isn't big enough to manage the care of the  
13 victims of that accident.

14 In addition to all of the environmental impact and  
15 the societal impact, Tacoma can do better. We can do  
16 better. We need more than 250 jobs, and the paperwork you  
17 better be reading better not have presidents on it.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. JORDAN: Hello. Hi. How's it going? My  
20 name's Chris Jordan, born in Tacoma, born in the Hilltop. I  
21 love this city, and, you know, I'm going to be here until I  
22 die.

23 But one of the things that's really important to me  
24 and kind of sad, I think, about tonight was seeing our  
25 unions fight for this. What kind of place are we in as an

1 economy when we have to be spoon-fed jobs from the Chinese  
2 government and Chinese investors? I think that it speaks to  
3 how much our city has failed in terms of planning and  
4 development to strategically develop the kinds of jobs that  
5 our workers should be proud to fight for and work in. These  
6 aren't jobs they can be proud about, and I think that we  
7 need to take that really seriously.

8           We have a whole -- our entire economy as a state is  
9 kind of being lauded as one of top in the country, but we  
10 have people who are struggling with addiction now in huge  
11 counties across our state because our economics have been  
12 failing them and the logging industry is gone and all these,  
13 so people are scrambling for jobs like this, I mean, just to  
14 build something? That's just, like, really sad to me, so  
15 what I want to see as a part of this study is, you know,  
16 what are the demographics of people who will be receiving  
17 those jobs?

18           When it comes to the environmental impacts, where  
19 are our rivers and streams going to be as a result of these  
20 reservoirs being taken into this?

21           How is this going to impact agriculture? That's  
22 something that we need to constantly be looking back to as  
23 part of our economy, because within ten miles we have farms,  
24 so how is this going to impact them?

25           How is the change in the -- is it going to effect

1 change in our water prices? And, really, there needs to be  
2 new levels of accountability with our public utilities in  
3 general. There's no reason that something like this should  
4 even be considered without a public vote, so that's as far  
5 as I'm concerned. So, yeah, all the ways that this is going  
6 to impact our agriculture and other industries like the  
7 person brought up before.

8 And also, I want to know what's the history of the  
9 ethanol refineries within China and why those are gone and  
10 how have those impacted the communities and previous places  
11 where they have been?

12 And what is actually -- what is actually the cost  
13 benefits, so when it comes to like -- do you guys go -- do  
14 you go into -- oh, sorry. How much time do I have?

15 MS. SCHULTZ: No. Keep on.

16 MR. JORDAN: Okay. Is it okay for me to ask you a  
17 question?

18 MS. SCHULTZ: We won't -- it's just a comment.  
19 Then it will get answered in the EIS.

20 MR. JORDAN: Okay, probably what I'm wondering is  
21 if you're -- because it's an environmental impact study, but  
22 does it actually evaluate economic issues?

23 MS. SCHULTZ: Uh-huh.

24 MR. JORDAN: It does. Okay, yeah, so I want to see  
25 economic projections of, like, what the benefit is of this,

1 and there's also economists that work with -- (timer  
2 sounds). That's me?

3 MS. SCHULTZ: You can wrap up.

4 MR. JORDAN: Okay. So there's economists that work  
5 with the environmental impacts and they factor the costs of  
6 environmental impacts into that, so I'd like to see an  
7 economist who has the expertise actually inform me what the  
8 costs to the environmental are monetarily and which of those  
9 costs are actually possible to -- there's some irreparable  
10 damage as a part of this too, so I want to see which kind of  
11 damages will be done.

12 MS. COOLEY: I didn't sign up. My name is  
13 Christine Cooley (phonetic). Thanks for letting me speak.  
14 Thank you for being here tonight.

15 I would like to respectfully respect that the SEPA  
16 cover some communication processes. So, for example, I  
17 myself have been very proud to participate in Tacoma Power's  
18 Energy Resources Planning Team and we came up with a plan  
19 for what resources Tacoma Power would be using and that was  
20 before this new information of doubling the power load and  
21 that such. I know a great deal of city resources went into  
22 that planning process, to get the community input organized,  
23 and I fear that with all of this new information coming from  
24 the methanol plant, that all of these grand community  
25 processes will be lost, so I would like to know the economic

1 impact of having to repeat those and also what the City  
2 plans to do with that lost trust of those community  
3 processes going for naught.

4 So, again, thank you for your time and have a good  
5 day.

6 MR. CLARK: Before you push my button, would you  
7 identify yourselves and are you -- first of all, who are  
8 you, who are you affiliated with, and are you a decision-  
9 maker on the EIS?

10 MS. SCHULTZ: So my name is Shirley Schultz, and  
11 I'm a principal planner with the City of Tacoma. I work  
12 with Ian. He's my colleague. He works two cubicles over.  
13 I work for Peter Huffman, and my role here tonight is to  
14 name names. I will assist Ian with the EIS. No, I'm not a  
15 decision-maker. I'm a planner.

16 THE AUDIENCE: (Inaudible.)

17 MS. SCHULTZ: Pardon me? I don't -- I don't think  
18 that that's relevant this evening. I don't need to go into  
19 it. If you want to shoot me an e-mail, I can send you my  
20 resume or CV. You know, I'm 22 years into my career and I  
21 have a master's degree and we can go at it from there, but  
22 that's just telling you who I am and why I'm here.

23 MR. MUNCE: I was going to address that when we  
24 came to the conclusion as far as next steps, because our  
25 assignment after -- I'll do that now, if I may.



1           So our assignment after tonight is to prepare a  
2 Draft Scope of Work for an Environmental Impact Statement  
3 and circulate that to those who we have e-mails addresses  
4 for and put it on our Web page and we're going to ask you if  
5 you think we have captured the issues that you present to us  
6 this evening properly. Then we will work to retain an  
7 independent environmental consultant to prepare a Draft  
8 Environmental Impact Statement which will be several hundred  
9 pages, hopefully addressing your issues well. We'll then  
10 come back this summer and ask you one-to-one, in settings  
11 like this, whether we answered the questions that you asked  
12 us, if we answered them well enough or not, and we'll be  
13 accountable to you for that work. And then where there are  
14 simple gaps that we can address, we will address those. The  
15 goal is to have a final impact statement available at the  
16 end of the year, and that impact statement will then inform  
17 the permit reviews that may follow.

18           But the basic -- and this is what I talked to the  
19 city council about a couple of weeks ago -- the basic  
20 structure of the Environmental Impact Statement is to look  
21 at the details, make some statements about whether this is  
22 the right place for this project or not, and if it could be  
23 located here, what conditions would be put on the project.

24           So that's the structure we're in. The applicant is  
25 ready -- the property is zoned industrial. The applicant is

1 looking to make applications. Before they can make  
2 applications, we have this year-long environmental process,  
3 and, really, the kick-off for that process is this evening.

4 MR. CLARK: Thank you. I hate public speaking  
5 myself, but let me just say I'm Jim Clark from University  
6 Place.

7 I would like to speak tonight against the plant for  
8 several reasons, but I'd first like to ask if there are  
9 other city, country, state, or federal officials in the  
10 room.

11 You're a state senator. Thank you for being here.

12 MS. SCHULTZ: There's a city council member behind  
13 you.

14 MR. MEYER: Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma Commission.

15 MR. CLARK: Oh, very good.

16 MR. McCARTHY: Conor McCarthy, Tacoma City Council.

17 MS. PETRICH: Clare Petrich, Port of Tacoma  
18 Commission.

19 MR. CLARK: Oh, very good. Thank you.

20 Well, I'm somewhat heartened by that, because I  
21 didn't recognize, frankly, any of you, and as I listened to  
22 all of the comments, I was beginning to wonder if the  
23 wedding hadn't already happened in terms of the agreements  
24 to put the plant in place. I did hear in the hallway that  
25 Congressman Dicks, retired, is actually lobbying for the

1 plant. I wish he were here to defend himself.

2 I guess I would like to say that we have a history  
3 here in Tacoma of involving, you know, a small group of  
4 local decision-makers approving industrial facilities in an  
5 urban built-up area, like the Tacoma smelter, and their  
6 decision subsequently destroyed the Ruston Tacoma  
7 waterfront, deposited heavy metals and arsenic in Puget  
8 Sound, across the land from Steilacoom to Bainbridge Island,  
9 Federal Way to Gig Harbor, and my property is still  
10 contaminated in University Place. When it came time to pay  
11 for the bill to clean up the mess, the company skipped town  
12 and many properties were left polluted, as they are today.  
13 We don't need a Tianjin -- sorry for the pronunciation --  
14 style chemical plant explosion here in Tacoma in the midst  
15 of our communities.

16 And I noted that one of the speakers for the plant  
17 said, "You really ought to see this great film about how  
18 safe it is," but what I've seen is that we've had several  
19 explosions up in Anacortes at that refinery facility.  
20 They're supposed to be state of the art. And I would  
21 encourage you to take a look at the Halifax Nova Scotia  
22 film. It's called, "A Shattered City," and it shows the  
23 effect of -- in this case, it was a benzine TNT explosion  
24 right in the middle of the city and it's devastating.

25 I wish I had more confidence in the SEPA process,

1 but my experience in University Place is it's not as  
2 thorough and the decision-making is a little hokey. Quite  
3 often in our case, it goes to a hearing or a -- I think it  
4 was a hearing examiner who just brushed away all the  
5 environmental concerns.

6 I'm wondering why this is a local city decision-  
7 making process or Port of Tacoma decision-making process.

8 As a resident and property owner in University  
9 Place, I can see that this proposed Chinese plant poses  
10 health and safety risks across multiple counties, Puget  
11 Sound waterways, and threatens water and power supplies. I  
12 think it's going to adversely affect my family's personal  
13 history -- sorry -- safety, air quality, water availability,  
14 power costs, tax and utility bills, and I wish to heck we  
15 weren't paying the Port of Tacoma the taxes on our property  
16 and subsidizing these multi-billionaire trade partners at  
17 the Port of Tacoma.

18 So I feel I have a strong vested interest in any  
19 decision that is being made here at the City and down at the  
20 Port -- which I didn't know about, by the way -- and I can  
21 see that residents in King, Kitsap, and Pierce Counties also  
22 are going to be affected by the decisions on this project,  
23 so I think the decision process should be elevated to a  
24 higher level: state and federal.

25 My last comment is I really appreciated the EPA

1 fellow that, you know, gave us the inside scoop on a limited  
2 liability company. I think the answer to that is part of  
3 the permitting process if this goes ahead -- and I hope it  
4 doesn't -- but we need to demand an upfront escrow account  
5 for loss of life and property.

6 MS. SCHULTZ: I thank everyone for waiting and for  
7 taking turns and being polite. I very much appreciate that.  
8 You made my job very easy, so thank you.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank you. I'm  
10 sure we're all tired and I appreciate your time, everybody  
11 who has stayed. I will make this as quick as possible.

12 I have a huge concern, though, and my concern  
13 started way back in May 2014. Had the information -- maybe  
14 this is out of your scope now and out of your hands -- but  
15 had the information been made available like it was  
16 tonight -- which, honestly, it was mainly social media two  
17 weeks ago -- you probably would have had a different  
18 turnout, and I ask that you look into that. And that is --  
19 is that something that we can go back and look at, at their  
20 processes? And hearing this room full of people all night  
21 tonight voicing their concerns and their house concerns and  
22 their environmental concerns, could we not have had that  
23 opportunity a year and a half ago? Why are we -- I don't  
24 think we would be here tonight. I really think that needs  
25 to be looked at -- I honestly do -- and if that's not you

1 guys, then tell us who that can look at that. I think it's  
2 really important. I mean, you're talking about people's  
3 lives. I understand jobs are important and I want the union  
4 workers to have a job. I want them to have a safe job.

5 Have you gone on to YouTube? Because last night I  
6 went on to YouTube on methanol refineries blowing up and  
7 it's a video that was not probably a minute long and it took  
8 over the whole entire refinery and blew up a truck that was  
9 in its way that was approaching behind a fuel truck and it  
10 exploded. There's no way -- even if you put a fire  
11 department there, they're not going to be able to come in  
12 time fast enough to take care of that situation. And my  
13 understanding, when it's methanol, you cannot just kill it  
14 with water. There's other chemicals that you have to put  
15 into it, and what are those chemicals as far as risks to us?  
16 And what's the risks to the fire fighters? They're fighting  
17 an invisible flame, is my understanding. It's on YouTube.  
18 There was a -- when there was just one tanker truck that  
19 crashed and it was on fire, they had to have a helicopter  
20 tell the firemen where to put the hose and yet the firemen  
21 were so close to that tanker that they almost blew up when  
22 the tanker blew up and they were literally -- had they been  
23 standing where you guys are, they would have been  
24 incinerated.

25 So I ask you, also, have you talked to the

1 businesses, the big businesses that you've tried so hard to  
2 bring into Tacoma to make Tacoma the way it is tonight and  
3 today? Have you told them about this methanol refinery?  
4 And are you going to? Because that's important, and I  
5 promise you, those businesses will not be staying.

6 Have you guys gotten -- have you done your due  
7 diligence to let the people know -- Thea's Landing, all  
8 those brand new, beautiful homes and condos -- that you are  
9 about to put the world's largest methanol refinery here in  
10 Tacoma in their front yard, in their waterway? You think  
11 they're going to stay? I ask you to look at that in the  
12 consideration of the big businesses.

13 One really, really important thing and I am done  
14 and I didn't hear it tonight: I ask that you look at all  
15 the refineries that are in the U.S. I ask you to look at  
16 the health conditions of those people there before the  
17 refineries were made, and I ask that you now go back and see  
18 what their health conditions are now. Is there a higher  
19 increase in cancer? Is there a high increase in various  
20 different diseases? I think that's important.

21 And can you look at -- if you decide that this is  
22 something that you want to pass, is there somewhere you can  
23 put in the scope that you request that the citizens of  
24 Tacoma get the chance to vote yes or no? Or Pierce County  
25 and King County and Thurston County -- because you know that

1 it is not just Tacoma that is affected.

2 I'm done. Thank you so much for your time.

3 MS. SCHULTZ: We need to -- we need to --

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: Since I didn't use all my time, I  
5 just want to say one thing here.

6 MS. SCHULTZ: We really need to close down.

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: The News Tribune, I used to work  
8 there and when letters to the editor came in, they said if  
9 we got one letter, that represented 400 people. And so just  
10 be encouraged: There's probably a similar statistic when  
11 you have bodies actually showing up.

12 MS. SCHULTZ: Again, thank you, everyone, for  
13 coming this evening. I'm going to turn things back over to  
14 Ian and excuse myself. I'm very appreciative of everyone,  
15 so thank you.

16 MR. MUNCE: So, really, I gave my concluding  
17 remarks before. I'll be around for questions afterwards.  
18 Watch our website. Watch your e-mail. We'll give you a  
19 Draft Scope of Work and we'll get together next month and  
20 talk about what a good job we did or didn't do.

21 Thank you.

22

23 (Hearing concluded at 10:15 p.m.)

24

25