

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

---

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center  
1500 Broadway  
Tacoma, Washington

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

## 1 PROCEEDINGS

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

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

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

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

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

25           I want to thank everybody who attended the last

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the timer works.

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

6 (A logistics discussion was had.)

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

8 THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

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

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

15 (Recitation of names.)

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

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

25 So, Chris McClain, go ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 I thank you for your time.

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

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

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

25 It is also worth noting that Tacoma and Pierce

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

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

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

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

1 methanol plant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 Thank you.

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

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

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

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



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

10           I am in opposition to this. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 Yes, one more sentence.

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

1 Pull the plug now.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19           Thank you.

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

23           (Recitation of names.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20           MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Hamilton.

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

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

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

5 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Hamilton.

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

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

12 MR. ELDAGO: All right, thanks.

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

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

25 Two: According to the National Academy of Science,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

24           Thank you.

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

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

2 Tell me, what is wrong with this question:

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

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

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

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

25 There should be no surprise by our level of

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

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

11 MS. SCHULTZ: Ms. Lind.

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

14 MALE SPEAKER: Welcome to Methapotamia.

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

24 Ten million gallons of water a day? Really?

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

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

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

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

14 This all assumes that the plant is built.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 Doug.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (Recitation of names.)

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

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



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

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

15 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22           Thank you very much.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 The Federal Way Mayor's Office implores both the

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

5 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

9           That's all that I wanted to say.

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

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

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

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



1 Thank you for hearing my comments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Higley.

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

12 MALE SPEAKER: Madam chairman, one quick question.

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

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

16 MS. SCHULTZ: Sir --

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

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

23 (Inaudible audience comments.)

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

1 like to ask people to stay in turn.

2 (Inaudible audience comments.)

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

5 (Inaudible audience comments.)

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

10 Mr. Young.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 Thank you.

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

8 (A short recess was taken.)

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

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

12 (Recitation of names.)

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

6 Thank you.

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

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

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

25 And if the decision-makers choose to ignore the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 over. This is...

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           So thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

11 MS. SCHULTZ: Time.

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

15 MS. SCHULTZ: Mr. Storms.

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

18 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 This is Ben.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (Recitation of names.)

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

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

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

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

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

17 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

22           Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

5 Thank you.

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

11 (Inaudible audience comments.)

12 There's more?

13 (Inaudible audience comments.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 I am completely against this folly of folly.

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

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

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

25 Number 3: Northwest Innovation Works estimates the

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

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

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

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

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

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

8           Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13           Thank you.

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

15           (Recitation of names.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25           Thank you.

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

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

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

20 Thank you.

21 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Sherry Anderson.

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

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



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

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

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

1 impacts to others.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 Thank you.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 I can talk about the significant dangers to human

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

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

7           MS. SCHULTZ: Our next ten speakers are:

8           (Recitation of names.)

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

11           So is one of you Wade? Go ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 The climate matters. Esthetics and reputation  
12 matter.

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

16 Thank you very much.

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

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

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

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

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

18 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Tacoma is at a crossroads now. It has an

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

11 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

8 Thank you.

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

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

1 I'm asking for that first.

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

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

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

1 the others.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21           Thank you.

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

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

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

4 (Recitation of names.)

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

11 MS. MANNIE: Good evening. Patricia Mannie.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18           Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 Thank you very much.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

4 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

1 pipeline running through that area?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9           Thank you.

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

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

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

1 the Chinese Academy of Science.

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

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

23 Am I yellow? Almost. There it goes.

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



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

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

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

16 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

1 various air pollutants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17           Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 That's all I'll say tonight.

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

13 (Recitation of names.)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

14 Thank you.

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

18 (Inaudible audience comment.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you again for your time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

24 Thank you.

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

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

5 (Recitation of names.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 Thank you.

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

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

1 site of this plant.

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

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

8 So, Ms. Bradley, go ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 MR. MUNCE: Thank you for your comments.

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

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

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

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

5 Sir, did you --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Thank you for letting me speak.

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

11 MR. BROOKE: I was actually signed up.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

16           Thank you.

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

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

24           MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

25           (The EIS Public Scoping Meeting adjourned.)