

Mike Nordin: I'm going to apologize ahead of time if I have some deep pauses.

Fran Sant: It's okay. We know you're fighting through some pain.

Mike Nordin: My name is Mike Nordin. I live in Pacific County, Raymond. I'm the manager of the Pacific and Grays Harbor Conservation Districts. I'm speaking on behalf of the Pacific Conservation District, which is in full support of approving this permit. So why? You've been hearing a lot of statements about why and I'm going to try to do some short points on that and I'm going to put some personal to this.

The ecology of the bay is in threat by the burrowing shrimp. This is our opinion at the Conservation District. There has been a tool for controlling the recruitment for over half a century. Without a control there will be an increase of disruption of the environment. I think that's important here. If you do nothing, if you don't let them do this, it's not just their industry that will be hurt. It will be the ecology of the bay. In my opinion it could pass a threshold it could not return. And I'll get to that in a little bit here. The thing that I've been hearing out in the community – and we have to do a lot of outreach for what we do and we try to talk about this issue with people. And one of the most disturbing comments I've heard from people – people that really are ignorant about the issue – is that quite possibly the shellfish industry and the shellfish in itself in the bay, maybe that's the natural thing to do – just let it go. And that is extremely disturbing to me and I think that is the opinion that you hear from the people that are not affected by living in this community and understanding where this economy comes from.

I'm from north Idaho, around the C'oeur d'Alene area and I've seen what happens when the natural industries go away. It gets taken over by development and the area gets destroyed. Everybody goes to north Idaho and they think it's really beautiful but it is not the same. It destroys the culture and the environment. There aren't those people any more to protect and put buffers on that development. You take these folks away – and you've heard some people say that they're in threat of going away – there is no one there to protect the bay. And the fact is, the reason why the bay is the cleanest estuary in the continental United States is because of these people -- and the people that understand what they do. If they go away there will be development around the bay so the people that are trying to stop this permit – in the long run, they are going to get exactly what they ask for. There will be destruction of the bay, make no bones about it. And that's probably the main thing that I want to emphasize here. I could go on and reiterate a lot of the different things here.

I also am disappointed that – I understand why you have to have a hearing in Olympia – but I'd be really sad if this thing gets swayed by a bunch of people up there who are not intimate with the issue and have nothing to – no pain from making that decision – going in and overriding this issue. That scares me. Down here, it's a minority. It's only a couple people. If it was a vote in this area, this would already be done. In fact, I am in pain right now and I can't believe I even have to be here right now. I want you to look at the documents by Dr. Kim Patton and Dr. Brett Dumbold and by Kathleen Sayce. They talk a lot about the ecology of the bay and what's going

to happen here if you don't control this. It's not just about the shellfish. Like I said, they've been controlling it for a long time. If you take their tool away, they go away – and I hate to use the slippery slope argument but I'm pretty sure that that's what's going to happen. I've seen it happen before. Anyway, thank you.