

Lisa Olsen: Hi. My name is Lisa Olsen. I am a Pacific County Commissioner here. But before that, in full disclosure, I am the matriarchal portion of Olsen & Son Oyster Company. Our family – thank you for coming here, by the way – our family has been on this space since the 1860's. We are farming some of the same ground that was done by the first generation. My husband and my son are the fifth and sixth. My grandson's the seventh. He goes out there and he works on the bay. It is an amazing life. And there's a documentary out there. It's called Oyster Farming and the Changing World. It's a 7-segment documentary done by Stony Point Pictures by a native son named Keith Cox. I would really encourage – if you haven't seen it – you to watch it. It's pretty neat. There are so many families here that have been on this bay for many years and they love it. They would not do anything to destroy what they have built and what they are trying to do.

The industry is the number one industry in Pacific County right now. Timber used to be. But after the Spotted Owl in the '80's and now the [unintelligible] the timber is severely challenged again. Especially in Pacific County we're looking at severe financial impacts on the county if this [unintelligible] goes through. If the oyster industry is impacted we might as well roll up the sidewalks. On a purely financial downhill. In the early 1900's the bay died. That's why there are Japanese oysters that were brought in. They were able to – they would be able to do that, you know. All the natives died and they brought in the Japanese oysters. That wouldn't be possible in this current scenario because the mud would be unable to be farmed if the ghost shrimp were allowed to take over.

I would ask you to please consider using a common sense approach rather than succumbing to political pressures of those who really have no stake in what we're doing here in Pacific County and Willapa Bay. The negative impacts of this being questionable at best, but the farmers are not opposed to continuing observation while they continue to farm. They are happy to work and make it better. They're ecologists at heart -- and environmentalists by the very operation of their farms. They need to stay healthy and thriving. The fact that after the years of spraying this bay continues to be productive and thriving and beautiful should be a huge testament to the fact that we can do this. We can use this only tool that we have to keep this industry going. So I would very much be in favor of this permit being approved. Thank you very much.