

## Jose Chavez

Good evening. My name is Juan Jose Chavez. I go by Jose. I consider myself a local environment - environmental person, also a little bit of a troublemaker. I started a few groups here in town that help fight the environment. I - I feel very lucky that I'm here tonight, that I'm able to see the process. As she was mentioning, you know, we are in a dire situation and I feel that most of us that are - that are here are coming from a place from our heart because we believe that - we love our environment and we want to do everything for it that we can. I believe it so much that I go swimming in the Sound twice a week. I get in the water twice a week in the Sound. And I do check with Ecology group to see there's no things that'll - you know. But being in that cold water allows me to think and gives things to what I call ancestor water. And with the things I've heard about ancestor water is that yes, we are in trouble.

And talking about trouble, my biggest surprise here tonight, believe it or not, was not that processes that we believe that can happen. I'm more worried about the Ecology Department. I'm leaving here more - how - I feel like I'm watching a Rocky movie and your hands are tied behind your back because you guys do want to fight. I feel that this is a fair process. I've been in a lot of processes before for permits. And to me, this has been I think one of the best processes that I've been through because of the fact that I felt I was heard. But most important, I hope that you can hear what we're trying to say is that I know you have to deal with law; you have to - it comes from the state level; it comes from the federal level. But there was - somebody mentioned how there was a little bit of play that you guys can do and that's the part that I'm praying that you guys listen. Because yes, we all have to follow the rules on the road, you know. We all have to follow the rules at work. We all have to follow national rules. But we also have a little bit of freedom. And that's what I hope I get to talk to you guys tonight, your freedom to make those choices, the things that you guys can do, the things that we all believe in you. The whole reason of this Department is not really to follow state rules. It's that people want to maintain the environment. I think that's the calling for the Ecology Department is that yes, you are scientific. Yes, you have process. You have laws. But what you really do is you're saving nature, bottom line.

So I hope that there's a way that we can use legislation to help your departments grow. But most important, I hope that you listen to this extension and these permits and the nonpolicing. It really hurts my heart because the way I see it is all you're doing is pretty much taking notes until something happens. And I don't mean to insult you. I'm just saying is that - that a proactive versus reactive? And to me, I think that Department of Ecology, it's - this is your time. And yeah, Rocky wins because he fought with his heart, not because he knew how to punch, not because he could take a punch. It's because of the heart. What's in your guys's heart we believe in. And that's what I'm hoping that you hear of me tonight, that your guys's heart push those rules.

You know, I want to get ahold of Millie so bad right now. I wish she was here because I want - I want to . . . It becomes a culture thing in your department that you hear people like us. Because yes, we will be the first people to support you in the legislation level.

Thank you. Good night. And I hope you heard me from the ancestor waters.