

Bruce Hoeft

My name is Bruce Hoeft, I live at 508 North 11th Street in Tacoma. I am co-chair of the Conservation Committee of Tahoma Audubon, I prepare some documents here. I doing to read one thing "Tahoma Audubon is taking a lead role in habitat protection and restoration over many decades. We're proud of our successes and the many successes of stakeholders have contributed to the recovery of the tide flats. In Commencement Bay we do not want to see that effort squander.

Coming here this evening, I'm seeing that the Department of Ecology, I want to thank you first of all because you have shared information. I think you're making an effort that impresses me to involve the public and to address this problem. I see representatives from Occidental, this is a good thing. It helps to overcome to some degree my lack of trust.

In 1982, I met with the Chief Plant Manager of the Hooker Chemical Company on the Tacoma Tide Flats. Back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. I asked him, how can you people be doing this, you know how toxic your activities are? Pushed him, pushed him, pushed him, ultimately his response was you have to understand, my primary responsibility is to the shareholders of this corporation. That was his bottom line and I appreciate a whole lot has changed since then, but I don't know if that's changed. So, I hope you will adopt a different ethic with regard to your responsibilities. I hope that Ecology will recognize that things have changed in Tacoma. I mean it's obvious from over the past several decades but particularly in recent years. People in Tacoma do not want to go back to the dirty industrial city it was in the past, that's a big deal and I hope Ecology will embrace as stringent or remedial standard as the Model Toxics Control Act (*sorry miswording that*) can put in play. Because that's really important to us. Last, if this was a drinking water issue as opposed to water at the bottom of Commencement Bay, everybody would be completely freaking out. I'm speaking on behalf of Audubon, on behalf of the fish, the crustaceans, the birds, they have to drink that water, they have to feed in that water and they have some rights as well that I hope the Department of Ecology will recognize. We're asking you to embrace the most stringent, the most comprehensive clean up as you and your wisdom can come up with.

Thank you.