

Rep. Jim Walsh

Hi. I'm Jim Walsh. I'm one of the state representatives for District 19 which includes Longview. I mostly testifying also to support the Port's preferred solution here. I think if you at it roughly speaking the IP suggestion is sort of the low end of the cleanup, the Port's you could say is roughly is the middle, and the baseline (ironically) is the high end. And I think all three would arguably clean this site up, but the Port's, I believe, would clean it up most effectively. And as the commissioner said, the difference between the International Paper's commitment to cleanup and the cost of the more ambitious cleanup that the Port would like to do, the Port is willing to bear. So that's not a bad idea. And most importantly, and really most importantly, I think the Port has the best concept of using this space going forward. And using it in a way that is relatively clean but productive and will allow us to have some economic activity on the site rather than the site simply lying empty for decades to come. So the combination of their cleanup commitment and also the fact that they plan to use the site, to me, is the most attractive combination. So I encourage the Department to consider the Port's preferred alternative solution. Thanks.