William Kupinse

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on an important subject. My name is William Kupinse. I am a Tacoma resident, I am an educator, and I am a parent. And I'm here to ask that the Department of Ecology reject the draft modified NOC Order Number 4153-AQ07. I'm frankly shocked to see that this pollution request is listed as a mitigated determination of non-significance. Anytime someone is having to do some kind of offset or some sort of good act to offset the thing that they're doing that's usually a pretty good sign that it's significantly bad. 60,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent put into the air at a time of a climate crisis seems pretty significant to me. What is it, 3.78 tons per year of PM 2.5 seems pretty significant to this asthma sufferer. And the nitrous oxides of 3 tons per year also seem significant. I won't go through all of these, but these are significant pollutants, and these are on top of everything else. We don't even know what the baseline is down at the port because it's been a decade since we had independent, comprehensive measurement of any pollutants other than the particulates and that's something that I ask DOE to do, and to do immediately. I'm against this expansion because, number one, it violates the sacred lands of the Puyallup Tribe, which we've heard about this evening from other speakers. Number two, it violates the health of Tacomans. Number three, given our current climate crisis, it violates common sense. And number four, it violates a livable future for our children. We need to be putting less greenhouse gas into the air, not more. In a sane world, the DOE would reject this dangerous scheme and we wouldn't even have to be here, coming out in a rainy evening to testify as the public because you would be protecting us from things that are this self-evidently dangerous. But we don't live in a sane world. I do expect that the DOE will do what it always does, which is to let the corporate polluters go ahead and do what they want to do. But when my child's health and the future of everybody's children are at stake, I feel the need to come out here tonight, no matter how unrealistic it is to think that the DOE will do the right thing. Please surprise me. Thank you.