Pauline Druffel

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I thank you also for the opportunity to be here, and to speak with you today. So thank you for coming to Spokane. And my comments, in essence, are these. I wrote them before I realized that the contingency planning involves if an accident occurs rather than preventing an accident, but I'm going to go continue reading what I more or less what I wrote.

I've always considered our Washington state waterways to be magnificent gems with amazing diverse ecosystems. But the presence of Canadian tar sands crude oil puts all that beauty and diversity at risk. I see that you, the Department of Ecology, have the responsibility to do all in your power to safeguard that magnificence. And I'm pleased to hear a lot of what you're arguing and that you work for it. Thank you. I wish we didn't have to deal with the very damaging Canadian crude oil that sinks as soon as it spills. But we do have to deal with it. And we depend on you to come up with the regulations and to enforce them.

I understand that this is a contingency plan rather than a prevention plan, but I wish, I wish that you could require that the shipping entities show a department -- to show to a Department of Ecology inspector that each ship has with it the materials it would need to use for an immediate complete cleanup of a worst case spill. I don't know how feasible that is, but I wish that could be. And I would like that inspector to inspect each vessel before the vessel is allowed to carry the oil through our waters.

I would like that. Our waterways with their fragile ecosystems are too important to us to not do all that we can to require that shipping entities take every precaution possible to prevent a spill and be ready to immediately clean up any spill that does happen. Thank you.