

# Georg Taylor

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Thank you for coming to eastern Washington to hear testimony from us on the east side who sometimes we feel we get the short end from the west side. Then you can join us tomorrow in a very important climate action strike which is being held downtown that relates to this hearing indirectly. As you know, a young Swedish woman named Greta Thunberg has started a worldwide movement that will have a protest tomorrow in downtown Spokane which Governor Inslee is coming to hear in Spokane we learned today. And this -- what she's saying folds into our hearing today because she -- what she's saying and what I'm saying here on the record is that our house is on fire. That these fossil fuels that we've been talking about today that are being transported by rail which we're not really dealing with today but also by pipeline, by -- to end up in our terminals and on vessels which seems to be our focus today. The safety of our vessels and what happens if there is a spill and developing contingency.

I'd like to echo what Jennifer said about it's not if a spill is going to happen, it's when it's going to happen. And how often. And spills have often occurred. We saw the Exxon Valdez example in Alaska and of course the incredible damage that was done in the gulf with the gulf oil spill some years ago. And what I liked in your presentation was how we've learned lessons from those incidents that will help us in the future. But there will be oil spills in the future and we've got to learn how better to deal with those.

But even better than that, we should be keeping our fossil fuels in the ground where they belong and developing as fast as we can other sustainable forms of energy. Solar, wind, it warms my heart when I drive across the mountains over to Seattle and I see all those wind farms that are -- but we need more of that. We need more of sustainable energy. But what I think I'll focus on today because our hearing is focused on contingency plans for oil spills in our waterways and I think as Pauline so eloquently said, water and our waterways are our most precious human resource. And our Washington State Department of Ecology is charged with protecting our waters.

Water is the one resource we cannot live without. We can live without food, we can live out fossil fuels, but we cannot live without water. That includes water that we use to drink from our waterways and the aquifers that are affected by oil spills.

But I think I would conclude by saying the one thing I want to drive home in terms of our hearing today is this assessment time. When an oil spill occurs, and it will occur, how fast is your assessment going to do. And I'd like to piggyback on what Laura said. You're a five-minute time for a 911 response team. I heard you reference an hour ballpark is going to be the time that you're going to require some kind of assessment to be done. And that's great, I believe as a citizen it should be a shorter time than an hour. Certainly, the local responders could do it almost immediately. Those on the ship or on the pipeline can do an immediate assessment. You're saying we're going to make it an hour more or less. But I like the health analogy that Laura pointed out that when you have a stroke, they call it the golden hour. If you get the stroke victim to an emergency room within an hour, they can administer medication that will turn around that stroke. By analogy, if you get your response team to the site before an hour is gone and have local responders all up and down the state that can be there not only within the hour but within minutes to do that assessment so that these nonfloatable fossil fuels will not do the damage that is too late to mitigate.

So learning the lessons from the Exxon Valdez, that huge oil spill, and the gulf and other disasters that you cited in your presentation. Let's have a more stringent more robust, not only assessment but cleanup effort to make it not the minimal regulation that the industry will except but the maximum regulation that the public demands. Thank you.