

## Tom Luce

My name is Tom Lewis. I'm a lifelong Washingtonian. What I've learned throughout these hearings, is that everyone is in agreement on one thing, the status quo today isn't working when it comes to confronting climate change. If we don't do things differently than we are doing today, the results will be catastrophic. As a father of three daughters, one of which will speak immediately after my time comments, this is an issue that matters to me on a personal level. It's why I support several environmental nonprofit organizations.

As anyone who spends time on these issues knows, the air we breathe doesn't begin or end at Washington State borders. We witnessed evidence of that in the last few days with this terrible smoky air. It's a lesson on why we have to look at the net effect of projects on our global environment, especially when it comes to carbon. Which is what project opponents argued when they went to court to get the analysis, we are now commenting upon.

I heard a few people reference the Paris Climate Accords earlier in this hearing. As anyone who reads that report knows, one of its biggest specific priorities is reducing our reliance on Chinese coal production. The analysis we consider today literally shows us a path to doing exactly that. Unfortunately, during the four years, this project has been delayed. China has continued to permit and construct even more coal-based facilities as several surveys have shown.

That's more evidence that we have to do something differently to make things better. To those who support delayed in opposing this project further, please know your actions however well-intended, are adding over 6 million metric tons of GHGs into our atmosphere every year. If you believe in making decisions based on science over politics and if you believe we have a responsibility to make the world better, including Washington State, then you should support this project.