

1 firsthand. And to the River  
2 Basin Commission, and to you,  
3 Your Honor, and to everybody  
4 here that allows us to speak  
5 today, many thanks. We thank  
6 the Creator.

7 And I'm very concerned  
8 that Oomcheemaka is not given  
9 her respect. I'm sad to say  
10 that we put corporate interest  
11 in front of human interest.  
12 And it must end. We must go  
13 back and understand what is  
14 sacred in life. We must  
15 protect what is sacred. We  
16 must all. Thank you very much.

17 HEARING OFFICER:

18 Bruce Birchard, please.  
19 And then Andrea Strout. And  
20 then Marta Guttenberg.

21 MR. BIRCHARD:

22 Well, good afternoon.  
23 My name is Bruce Birchard. I  
24 live in Delaware County. I've  
25 lived there since --- my life

1           has been wrapped around the  
2           Delaware River. I was born in  
3           Easton Hospital in 1945. And I  
4           have lived my entire life, with  
5           the exception of a couple years  
6           in Chicago, within a few miles  
7           of the river.

8                     In the mid-1950s, I went  
9           to Boy Scout camp. I learned  
10          to canoe. In those days,  
11          late-1950s, you might see a few  
12          dozen canoes on the river. It  
13          wasn't --- you know, there  
14          weren't many people doing that.

15                    I bought my first canoe  
16          when I was 15 years old for \$50  
17          and fixed it up. And I've been  
18          doing it ever since. I don't  
19          think there has been a summer  
20          in my life since the late 1950s  
21          when I wasn't in the river, on  
22          the river, and then camping  
23          beside the river.

24                    Now, though, there are  
25          thousands and thousands and

1           thousands. I mean, there are  
2           hundred of thousands of people  
3           who enjoy the Delaware River,  
4           which include the Upper  
5           Delaware and down past the  
6           water gap.

7                        So I mean, there are  
8           canoe liveries that rent out  
9           hundreds and hundreds, a couple  
10          of thousand, or 1000 or more  
11          canoes to people who come to  
12          enjoy the river. And that is  
13          not counting the people with  
14          kayaks and also all those  
15          people tubing. And all the  
16          people who come just to swim in  
17          the river or camp beside the  
18          river, or hike, or bike beside  
19          the river. So there is an  
20          economic interest in  
21          maintaining the Delaware River  
22          Basin.

23                       But it's not just  
24          economic. I have taken Sunday  
25          school kids. I have taken

1           young adults. I've taken many  
2           people out for weekend trips  
3           paddling and camping on the  
4           river.

5                   I remember one Sunday  
6           school class where we were  
7           paddling from Dingmans Ferry  
8           down to Walpack Bend where we  
9           were going camping. And all  
10          the kids wanted to go in the  
11          river.

12                   And then one girl who  
13          was really very overweight said  
14          I want to swim across the river  
15          to Pennsylvania and back again.  
16          And she assured me she was a  
17          good swimmer.

18                   So I got in the canoe.  
19          And all the adults watched the  
20          other kids. And I accompanied  
21          her across the river and back.  
22          She was so proud.

23                   The next morning we woke  
24          up in fog over the river. And  
25          the sun burned through. And it

1           was like heaven. Let's not  
2           sacrifice this.

3                   HEARING OFFICER:

4                   Andrea Strout, please.  
5           Ms. Strout is coming forward.  
6           And then Marta Guttenberg, and  
7           Carol Ward.

8                   MS. STROUT:

9                   Thank you. My name is  
10          Andrea Strout. I live in  
11          Buckingham Township. I am here  
12          as a private citizen. I  
13          apologize for not having any  
14          prepared remarks. I didn't  
15          know I wanted to speak actually  
16          until I got here today. And  
17          then I really felt I wanted to  
18          very strongly. But I'll be  
19          very brief.

20                  I just want to thank all  
21          the people who did come  
22          prepared with facts and  
23          figures, and wonderful stories  
24          like the one we just heard.  
25          Thank you for you eloquence and