

12 THE SPEAKER: My name is Ramon Hayes. I'm the
13 mayor of the Town of La Conner. And thank you for
14 putting together this forum.

15 I know there is a lot of feelings of many of you
16 here today totally opposed to the concept of coal as an
17 energy and then those who say, hey, we need the jobs.
18 All of those positions are understandable, but the more
19 I look into this, the more questions I have. And I'm
20 certainly not comprehensively informed entirely to my
21 satisfaction on this issue.

22 It seems to me the more questions I ask, the more
23 questions get raised. Several of those questions if the
24 terminal at Cherry Point is not constructed, will those
25 trains simply still come through this area and right on

1 up to Canada, and is there anything we can do to control
2 the flow of traffic with trains in an increased number?

3 So my comment today and with the many mitigation
4 issues involved with this situation, but the one that I
5 would like to highlight if, in fact, those trains aren't
6 -- is transportation, and transportation absolutely has
7 to be a component of your study and the impacts that
8 would affect many people, not only in Bellingham and
9 other areas, but the area I'm concerned about is Skagit
10 County along the I-5 corridor, to be quite honest with
11 you.

12 I believe that those that would benefit, the
13 companies from this would have to participate also
14 financially in funding those infrastructure improvement
15 projects.

16 So that's my comment, and I thank you for your
17 time.