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LEE TAYLOR: My name is Lee Taylor; I'm the superintendent of San Juan Island National Historical Park. And San Juan Island National Historical Park encompasses 1752 acres of land here on the island, and that includes more than six miles of shoreline.

The park receives more than 250,000 visitors each year. And I'm speaking on behalf of the National Park Service in my comments.

The National Park Service mission is to preserve the resources in the park unimpaired and to provide for their enjoyment by visitors.

And I have concerns about the potential adverse impacts of the Gateway Pacific Terminal on the park service mission.

1 The transport of 48 million metric tons of
2 coal from the proposed terminal at Cherry Point would
3 require an additional 450 ships transiting the Salish
4 Sea each year.

5 And as has been mentioned numerous times
6 already, a spill of coal or oil from one of those
7 ships would be devastating to wetland and riparian
8 habitat and wildlife, and would also impact
9 recreational enjoyment of the shoreline in the
10 National Park and elsewhere on the island.

11 How will the EIS mitigate the risk of oil
12 spills? That's a critical question that must be
13 answered.

14 The project would also potentially have an
15 impact on a wide variety of species that are federally
16 listed, including the resident orcas.

17 How will the increased ship traffic impact
18 these species whose protection is mandated by federal
19 law?

20 And finally, the National Park Service would
21 like the EIS to assess air quality impacts on National
22 Park Service areas that are within 50 kilometers of
23 the terminal or the rail lines over which the coal
24 will be passing.

25 And that request does apply to San Juan

1 Island National Historical Park.

2 These questions must be fully and
3 objectively answered, and alternatives crafted which
4 recognize and mitigate these potential adverse
5 impacts. Thank you.

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