

TESTIMONY RE BRINGING COAL TO LONGVIEW FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

My name is Gerri Sue Lent. I live at 1834 SE Spokane Street in Portland, Oregon.

I come before you as a volunteer for Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Here are my concerns: the risk of bringing coal by train and barge through the Columbia Gorge is unacceptable. No matter how you bring in massive amounts of coal, the risk to the Gorge by coal dust and diesel emissions far exceeds the temporary advantage of whatever few jobs will be generated. Our Columbia Gorge will be forever blighted with the first over-turning of a barge or a train. Our Gorge neighbors, and the jobs they generate, will see their federally protected Scenic Area accidentally destroyed.

Nothing I have read provides for Ambre corporate responsibility or action in the event of a disaster. Best management practices would require such planning. I believe it will be too late to consider Ambre's hypothetical required actions and financial responsibility after train tracks are swamped by coal dust, blowing, clogging mechanical parts, damaging human lungs, staining river water, and blighting the future enjoyment of our Scenic Gorge.

So I am here to speak against allowing more than 44 million tons of coal to travel through the Columbia Gorge. I can not forget the Gulf Coast or pristine Prince William Sound. If you can't oppose this project, at least require a real disaster management plan, with real insurance requirements and bonding protection for the people who live in the Gorge.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerri Sue Lent". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gerri Sue Lent