

Good Evening,

My name is Andrew Johnson, I am a 7th generation native Washingtonian from this area.

I stand before you tonight to express not only my personal concerns but those of the 9th generation of my family; my grandchildren – who are too young to understand the current events surrounding the topic of tonight's conversation, but are old enough to suffer from the bad choices and decisions which could affect their health and safety and quite possibly endanger the quality of life in the future.

Although I am inclined to think America is becoming a global prostitute at the expense of its citizens by selling our natural resources to foreign interests, our concerns surround the environmental and public health and safety issues which encompasses the massive transportation of coal in open car containers over track lines of questionable integrity throughout this community, county, state and nation.

Specifically:

- unwanted release and dispersion and buildup of coal dust in effected areas as a result of these massive uncovered coal trains.
- Of equal concern is the distinct possibility of derailment and the subsequent economic damage and environmental destruction it would cause. No less than 19 coal train derailments have occurred already this year across the nation.
- Where is the regulatory oversight of this industry? Who will be the responsible authority to ensure that the transportation of coal exports conforms to Federal and State regulations, since the Interstate Commerce Committee was abolished in 1996?

Andy Johnson

P.O. Box 3251

Pasco, Wash

99302