

Thank you for giving me the chance to speak today. My name is Beth Marshall, and I live with my husband, Richard, in downtown Camas. Our home is 1 and a half blocks from the railroad tracks.

I taught music for 19 years in the Battleground District and have directed church choirs for over 30 years. Music is a big part of my life -- my email for many years was "grandmamusic". For the last 20 years, my favorite sound has been the rich baritone voice of my husband. But about a year ago, Richard was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis -- a degenerative lung disease. He's now down to 65% lung capacity.

We don't know what caused Richard's disease but we know darn well that any amount of toxic coal dust, dust that contains mercury, lead and arsenic, and huge increases in diesel exhaust, exhaust that is widely known to cause and exacerbate all sorts of respiratory conditions, we know these pollutants can't be good for my husband's lungs. I don't want coal dust coming anywhere near Richard's lungs. I don't want our music to stop.

We also have 10 grandchildren that live in Clark County and I know that there are hundreds more, thousands more grandkids that live in rail communities all the way from Montana to Longview. These kids need to be protected and I strongly urge you to consider health and environmental impacts all the way from mine to port.

The sound of coal trains is definitely not music to my ears. Don't believe the paid-for PR from these coal companies that somehow coal exports are good for our community. I will not entrust my husband's, my grandchildren's, my community's health to a foreign owned, fly-by-night coal company. This coal export proposal is a bad deal for Camas, a bad deal for Clark County, and a bad deal for our whole state. We can do better! Thank you.

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