

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Richard Marshall and I live in downtown Camas. My wife, Beth, and I live a block and a half from the railroad tracks. We're very concerned by this coal export proposal and the vast number of unprotected coal trains that will have to rumble through our community and neighborhood.

We strongly urge you to consider the negative environmental, health, and subsequent economic effects (including reduced property values) on our community and all rail communities from mine to port.

In our neighborhood, we've seen a number of older homes and businesses that have been renovated. Thousands of dollars are being invested in downtown Camas. We are very concerned that when people realize they could be impacted by toxic coal dust containing mercury, lead, and arsenic; a huge increase in diesel exhaust; and a big increase in noise and blocked intersections, that investment will stop and our neighborhood will go into decline. For many people living near the tracks, their homes represent the bulk of their entire life savings.

My dad worked for Clark Public utilities for 25 years as an Electrical Engineer. He'd be very excited that we just used a PUD program to install a new super efficient ductless heat-pump in our older home. The heat is great and we're using only about 1/3 of the energy as our old system. Why aren't we exporting heat pumps? Or solar panels? Or LED lights? We can do a lot better. Thank you.

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