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IN RE:
COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM OPERATIONS
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

PUBLIC MEETING

HELD BY
TELECONFERENCE ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020
4:00 P.M.



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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020

4:00 P.M.

OPERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for standing by. Welcome to the Columbia River Systems Operations EIS Public Comments Teleconference. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode and later we will conduct sessions for your comments. Instructions will be given throughout the call.

As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. Should you require assistance off the call with an operator, you may press a star then zero.

It's now my pleasure to turn the conference over to our host, Ms. Maryam Habibi. Please go ahead.

MS. HABIBI: Thank you. Hello, and

1 welcome everyone. I am Maryam Habibi and I'll be
2 your facilitator today.

3 We've scheduled these phone conferences to
4 provide opportunities for you to submit verbal
5 comments during the comment period for the Columbia
6 River System Operations draft EIS. In a few
7 minutes, I will let you know how to indicate if you
8 would like to provide comments.

9 First, I'd like to introduce who will be
10 listening to your remarks today. We have deputies
11 representing the three agencies: the U.S. Army
12 Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and
13 Bonneville Power Administration.

14 We will start with the Bureau of
15 Reclamation and an overview of the draft EIS.
16 Roland?

17 **MR. SPRINGER:** Thank you, Maryam. My name
18 is Roland Springer. I'm the Bureau of Reclamation's
19 Deputy Regional Director for Resources in the
20 Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region.

21 Reclamation owns and operates two dams
22 that are being analyzed as part of the Environmental
23 Impact Statement; they are Grand Coulee Dam in
24 Washington and Hungry Horse Dam in Montana. These
25 facilities are used for irrigation, power

1 generation, and flood control.

2 Bureau of Reclamation's mission is to
3 manage, develop, and protect water and related
4 resources in an environmentally and economically
5 sound manner in the interest of the American public.
6 This Environmental Impact Statement is an important
7 part of our mission.

8 Please know that while you cannot see us,
9 my colleagues and I will listen to all of your
10 comments and consider all of them, whether verbal or
11 written, as we proceed to the final Environmental
12 Impact Statement.

13 Now I'll give you a short overview of the
14 EIS. The goal of the EIS is to analyze the impacts
15 of operating, maintaining, and configuring 14
16 federal dams, reservoirs, and related facilities
17 that make up the Columbia River System. Based on
18 this analysis, we identified, in accordance with the
19 National Environmental Policy Act, a preferred
20 alternative that seeks to balance the many
21 obligations of the Columbia River System.

22 While the region derives many benefits
23 from the Columbia River System, the dams, even those
24 with fish ladders and downstream passage routes,
25 have adversely impacted fish and wildlife and Native

1 American tribes.

2 Construction of the dams directly impacted
3 many of the region's tribal communities, including
4 inundation of tribal homes, villages, resource
5 gathering locations, and traditional fishing sites.
6 These dams also inundated salmon and steelhead
7 habitat.

8 Recognizing the system effects and the
9 many regional interests in the Columbia River
10 System, we made it a priority to listen to and
11 consider all viewpoints. And from regional input
12 and analysis and other information, we developed
13 objectives focused on improvements for fish
14 migration and survival, power supply, greenhouse gas
15 emissions, operating flexibility, and water supply.

16 We narrowed the analysis to five
17 alternatives for operating the system. Each
18 alternative is made up of a combination of measures
19 or actions that were deliberately designed to meet
20 all or most of the eight EIS objectives to the
21 greatest extent possible.

22 One alternative is the no action
23 alternative. This is essentially the way the system
24 was running at the beginning of the EIS in 2016, and
25 it provides us with a baseline from which we can

1 compare the other alternatives. Now let me briefly
2 describe the multiple objective alternatives, or MOs
3 as we call them.

4 Multiple Objective 1 focused on designing
5 an alternative to improve conditions for ESA-listed
6 fish, including both life stages of anadromous fish
7 and resident or non-migrating fish.

8 Multiple Objective 2 was developed to
9 increase hydropower production and reduce regional
10 greenhouse gas emission with a focus on low carbon
11 emissions. It would provide spill at eight dams to
12 110 percent total dissolved gas. It was also
13 intended to benefit lamprey and endangered salmon
14 while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts to
15 other authorized project purposes.

16 Multiple Objective 3 includes breaching
17 the four lower Snake River dams and increasing
18 juvenile fish passage spill with the main features
19 being for anadromous fish while avoiding or
20 minimizing adverse impacts to other authorized
21 project purposes.

22 Multiple Objective 4 focused on high-spill
23 operations at 125 percent total dissolved gas to
24 decrease migration time of juvenile anadromous fish
25 with measures for water management flexibility,

1 hydropower production, and additional water supply
2 for fish flows while avoiding or minimizing adverse
3 impacts to other authorized project purposes.

4 Our analysis shows that these alternatives
5 meet the purposes and objectives of the system to
6 varying degrees and with varying levels of
7 beneficial and adverse effects.

8 To improve on what we learned, we selected
9 a combination of measures from the alternatives to
10 develop a preferred alternative. The operational,
11 maintenance, and structural measures in the
12 preferred alternative will allow us to meet the
13 intent of the EIS and it also balances multiple,
14 sometimes competing river resource needs,
15 congressionally authorized purposes, and the
16 agencies' missions.

17 Specifically, actions in the preferred
18 alternative will accomplish the following: Improve
19 conditions for ESA-listed anadromous and resident
20 fish and provide a plan to address uncertainty
21 related to anadromous fish model outputs. They will
22 continue to provide for reliable economic and carbon
23 free power. They'll continue to provide for
24 authorized water supply. They will improve water
25 management operations, including spill that maintain

1 congressionally authorized flood risk protection,
2 while providing flexibility for current and future
3 climate variability and other purposes. And they
4 will continue fish and wildlife programs and
5 mitigation commitments that were in place or planned
6 at the start of the process.

7 In summary, we will review all comments
8 and consider substantive input as we develop the
9 final EIS. We will publish the final EIS, including
10 responses to substantive comments this summer, and
11 we will issue records of decision by September 30th,
12 2020.

13 I recognize this was a very brief overview
14 and encourage you to read the executive summary for
15 more detailed information and read into some of the
16 EIS chapters to build greater understanding of this
17 work, the outcomes, and to inform your comments.

18 We appreciate you taking the time to join
19 us on the phone today and we look forward to
20 receiving your input.

21 I will now turn it over to Jim Fredericks.

22 **MR. FREDERICKS:** Thanks, Roland. My name
23 is Jim Fredericks. I'm the Corps of Engineers Chief
24 of Planning, Environmental Resources and Fish Policy
25 for the Northwestern Division.

1 The corps has the lead role on this
2 environmental impact statement, and we appreciate
3 our working partnership with the co-lead agencies,
4 Bonneville Power Administration and the Bureau of
5 Reclamation.

6 The corps manages 12 of the 14 dams being
7 analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement.
8 These dams are operated for many purposes, including
9 flood risk management, power production, and
10 navigation. We do understand the significance of
11 this Environmental Impact Statement on individuals,
12 communities, and the environment in the Pacific
13 Northwest. We appreciate you taking time to provide
14 verbal comments on the Environmental Impact
15 Statement over the phone.

16 I'll turn it over to Scott.

17 **MR. ARMENTROUT:** Thanks, Jim. My name is
18 Scott Armentrout. I am Bonneville Power
19 Administration's Executive Vice President for
20 Environment, Fish and Wildlife. Bonneville Power
21 Administration transmits the power produced at Army
22 Corps and Reclamation facilities.

23 Look forward to hearing your comments this
24 evening. Thanks, and I'll turn it back to our
25 facilitator, Maryam.

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you, Scott. We're now
2 ready to begin hearing from those who have called
3 in. If you indicate if you would like to provide a
4 public comment, we will pause for a few moments
5 while we take your name and add your lines to enter
6 a queue. So if you would like to make a comment,
7 please press one then zero now.

8 Agency officials will remain on the line
9 for the entire call to hear your comments. Though
10 we will not be responding to questions or comments
11 today or providing any additional presentation, the
12 agencies welcome and will consider your comments in
13 developing the final EIS, which Roland mentioned
14 will be released this summer.

15 All comments provided during this
16 teleconference will be recorded, transcribed, and
17 submitted to the record for the draft EIS. Any
18 personal information you share on the call will
19 become public. Everyone listening on the call will
20 be able to hear your remarks.

21 Our operator will state your full name
22 when your line is open. Each speaker will have
23 three minutes to provide their comment. We will
24 notify you when you have 30 seconds remaining, and,
25 at that time, you'll hear me say, you have 30

1 seconds remaining. If you do not wish to use your
2 full three minutes, you may let us know that you
3 would like to yield your remaining time. When three
4 minutes have passed, I'll interrupt, letting you
5 know your time has lapsed. And if you are not
6 wrapping up your comment, we'll ask the operator to
7 mute your line so that we can prepare for the next
8 caller.

9 If you are sharing the phone with someone,
10 please let us know before you begin your comment so
11 we can move to the second speaker after the first is
12 finished.

13 Currently, we have 61 callers in the queue
14 who have indicated they would like to provide
15 comments. As a reminder, if you would like to make
16 a comment, you may press one then zero to enter the
17 queue.

18 Operator, we're now ready for the first
19 speaker.

20 **OPERATOR:** Our first comment comes from
21 the line of Kristin Masteller. Ms. Masteller, your
22 comment is now available for the line; please go
23 ahead.

24 **KRISTIN MASTELLER:** I'm Kristin Masteller.
25 I'm the General Manager for Mason County PUD Number

1 1. Mason PUD1 receives nearly all of our power from
2 Bonneville Power Administration at a wholesale
3 price.

4 BPA's surplus electricity that isn't
5 needed to serve customers like us is sold on the
6 spot market. And while that market has been down
7 lately, BPA rarely gets less money than it costs to
8 produce that power. And usually the sales from
9 surplus power help keep public power rates like ours
10 down.

11 So rumors that BPA's financially insolvent
12 is simply untrue. They continue to make great
13 financial strides and are closely monitored by state
14 core agencies.

15 And so wanted to correct the record to let
16 people know that Mason PUD1 supports BPA and is
17 invested in its success.

18 The electricity generated by the Snake
19 River dams is mostly used by consumer-owned
20 utilities like mine in rural communities. And the
21 cost of replacing that power from the dams would hit
22 my utility and customers disproportionately, as much
23 as 25 percent is the projection. So basically, a
24 senior citizen making \$800 a month on Social
25 Security who already struggles to pay their \$200

1 power bill in January, would then have to contend
2 with the decision to either pay another \$50 a month
3 to keep their lights on and stay warm or buy food
4 and prescriptions. And that's unacceptable to us.

5 My PUD is located on the Hood Canal, and
6 we're adjacent to Hammersly Inlet. And these
7 locations are important to note, because we often
8 see orcas migrate down both bodies of water. Three
9 of my employees have family shellfish business that
10 they rely on to survive. And 20 percent of my
11 customers are Native Americans, many of whom rely on
12 salmon runs for a large portion of their annual
13 income.

14 Aquaculture and its subsequent tourism are
15 two of the biggest industry drivers in my county.
16 Mason County cares about fish; a lot of us depend on
17 them. That being said, my PUD doesn't believe based
18 on the data and reports that have been made
19 available to us by peer reviews, scientific studies,
20 the corps, NOAA, and BPA, that removing the lower
21 Snake River dams will even come close to making the
22 necessary impact on salmon survival rates to turn
23 around the decline of the species.

24 We don't believe that while it's the only
25 thing we haven't tried is neither a true statement

1 nor a valid reason for devastating the Pacific
2 Northwest economy or harming our nation's food
3 supply or pricing people out of their homes through
4 gigantic rate increases.

5 There are other things to try first, like
6 cleaning up Puget Sound, curtailing commercial
7 harvesting, and spending tax dollars in meaningful
8 ways to (indiscernible) --

9 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
10 remaining.

11 **KRISTIN MASTELLER:** -- fish outcomes.
12 It's mind boggling to us that people still don't
13 believe us when we say we're concerned about the
14 power grid. We are sounding the alarm. We are
15 telling you that we're already concerned about
16 resource adequacy with those dams intact.

17 This is our field of expertise; it's what
18 we do. And we're warning you, if you remove the
19 dams, we might not be able to keep the power on when
20 there's peak usage. If you remove the dams, we
21 won't be able to meet our clean energy goals in
22 Washington state. Public power doesn't care about
23 profits; we care about our customers. And our
24 customers are telling us that they can't afford
25 this, and neither can our state.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to provide
2 comment.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, we can
4 move to the next caller, please.

5 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next comment
6 comes from the line of Bonnie Gretz. Bonnie Gretz,
7 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

8 **BONNIE GRETZ:** Thank you for the
9 opportunity to make a comment. And I'm not going to
10 go into a lot of technical detail, since that's not
11 my expertise. But I am advocating for the Southern
12 Resident killer whales.

13 Everybody knows that they are in deep
14 trouble and that they need the salmon and they
15 cannot find other sources of food other than fish.
16 And we can adapt and make new investments, use our
17 ingenuity to create new ways of getting power and
18 transportation. But the whales themselves need our
19 help and they need to have essentially a seat at the
20 table.

21 So really strongly requesting from a
22 personal point of view and I also am a naturalist.
23 And we also need the tourist dollars for the salmon
24 and the whales. So all of that needs to be taken
25 into consideration.

1 So thank you very much. And I yield the
2 rest of my time.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
4 move to the next line, please.

5 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
6 line of James Michael Short. Mr. Short, your line
7 is open now for comment; please go ahead.

8 **JAMES MICHAEL SHORT:** Good afternoon, and
9 thank you for the opportunity to make this
10 statement. When my parents, Jim and Kelly Short,
11 moved to (inaudible) 1965 -- 1951 -- I'm sorry --
12 they immediately fell in love with the region,
13 taking full advantage of its abundance of natural
14 resources. My father and several of his closest
15 friends and colleagues from college spent two whole
16 months (indiscernible) the abundant fishing
17 (indiscernible). They loved every minute of it.

18 I was born in 1955, and grew up hunting
19 and fishing, hiking and camping on the Snake River
20 when it ran wild. We picked fruit from the orchards
21 of Wawawai. I have memories of stopping in the
22 Wawawai store for candy bars on many trips or of
23 swimming (indiscernible) river while waiting for
24 Lyons Ferry to come by and take us across the river
25 (indiscernible) excavating Marmes Rockshelter before

1 it was flooded out.

2 I learned to technical rock climb at
3 Granite Point. And by that time, in the early '70s,
4 clearing the construction for Lower Granite Dam was
5 underway (indiscernible). The old Wawawai store was
6 nothing more than a ruin, soon to be completely
7 demolished.

8 And I watched as a river once wild in
9 spring turned into a series of flat water with
10 reservoirs, once wondrous and thriving river
11 community and semi-wild ecosystem turned into
12 something that looks lifeless because of this very
13 dam (indiscernible).

14 I would hope that by now we have
15 determined that natural (indiscernible) most
16 productive (indiscernible). While we can't really
17 turn back (indiscernible) centuries (indiscernible)
18 habitat destruction, removal of the four lower Snake
19 River dams would be a great start to restoring
20 healthy populations of our wild salmon and
21 steelhead.

22 Attempting to over engineer these systems
23 with dams, hatcheries, bypass systems and the like,
24 has not worked and will not work to restore these
25 fish.

1 I'm going to quote a favorite author about
2 how I feel about this region. His name is --

3 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
4 remaining.

5 **JAMES MICHAEL SHORT:** -- (indiscernible)
6 Duncan. I would describe my relationship with this
7 region as an endless love affair (indiscernible).
8 In my experience, the (indiscernible) just break
9 into pieces, sometimes breaks (indiscernible)
10 increasing the fierce capacity to see clearly
11 (indiscernible) --

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

13 **JAMES MICHAEL SHORT:** -- (indiscernible)
14 that I may see the lower Snake River once again with
15 healthy salmon and steelhead runs. Thank you.

16 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Mr. Short, we did
17 have a couple of points at which we had trouble
18 hearing your comments, so I would encourage you to
19 also submit them in writing online at CRSO.info, and
20 follow the instructions there.

21 Anyone else on the call is also welcome to
22 submit comments in writing or any of the other
23 methods that are described on CRSO.info.

24 Operator, you can move to the next call.

25 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the

1 line of Fred Morscheck. Fred Morscheck, your line
2 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

3 **FRED MORSCHECK:** Thank you. My name is
4 Fred Morscheck, and I'm the General Manager of
5 Operations at the McGregor Company, a regional
6 supplier of crop nutrients in the Pacific Northwest.

7 I'm here to remind you that the need for
8 river transportation within the Columbia Snake River
9 System is bigger than most people realize. River
10 transportation is not declining, despite allegations
11 to the contrary. I speak from personal experience.
12 A few years ago, we built a 44,000-ton fertilizer
13 river terminal, the largest investment in our nearly
14 140 years in business, with the knowledge that
15 supplying crop nutrients to family farms when they
16 needed then with vital-to-growing high-yield dry-
17 land crops in the Inland Northwest.

18 The logistics of getting the right
19 nutrients to farms across the region when they are
20 needed is no simple task. Even with two river
21 terminals now on the Snake River, it takes the
22 combined resources of barge, rail, and truck, to get
23 the product to the farm. Farmers rely on having
24 essential crop inputs on time to enable them to seed
25 crops in the spring and fall. Delays in seeding

1 dates due to fertilizer sourcing can negatively
2 impact yield and potentially farm profitability.

3 Last fall, our river terminals at the Port
4 of Wilma and the Port of Central Ferry operated at
5 peak capacity and, yet, we barely kept up. We had a
6 narrow window to provide essential nutrients to over
7 a million dry-land acres as fall seeding started.
8 If it were not for access to up-river barge
9 shipments that accounted for more than 7.3 million
10 gallons of liquid nitrogen or alternatively an
11 additional 516 railcars or an additional 1,548
12 truckload deliveries, which amounts to a lineup of
13 trucks bumper-to-bumper for 19 miles, by the way,
14 our farm customers would have had to curtail seeding
15 operations.

16 The four Snake River dams, the river
17 transportation link to the Columbia River, are badly
18 needed by agriculture. They're a vital part of an
19 intermodal system that's relied upon to get products
20 up river to grow the crops and to get those crops
21 down river to market.

22 The McGregor Company's not the only
23 business utilizing and relying on barges on the
24 lower Snake River. Ninety percent of the wheat, 75
25 percent of the garbanzos, 70 percent of the lentil,

1 and many other crops grown in the Inland Northwest
2 are exported. Barge transportation is the only
3 infrastructure built that can handle the enormous
4 amounts of commodities that are destined to millers
5 and export buyers located at the mouth of the
6 Columbia River.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
8 remaining.

9 **FRED MORSCHECK:** The preferred alternative
10 described in the draft EIS allows for timely and
11 efficient movement of goods that are vital to
12 production, agriculture, and the strength of the
13 local economies.

14 Thank you very much. Appreciate the
15 opportunity to pass on these comments. And I yield
16 rest of my time.

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
18 to the next caller, I'd like to take a moment to
19 welcome anyone who's joined us since we began. This
20 is your facilitator, Maryam Habibi. This is a
21 public meeting for providing comments on the CRSO
22 draft EIS. If you would like to provide a comment,
23 please press one then zero to add your name to the
24 queue.

25 Agency officials from U.S. Army Corps of

1 Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville
2 Power Administration remain on the line to hear your
3 comments. Though we're not responding to questions
4 or comments during this meeting or providing
5 additional presentation, the agencies welcome and
6 will consider your comments in developing the final
7 EIS, which will be released this summer.

8 If you do provide comments, we encourage
9 you to remain on the line to hear from others.

10 Currently we have 61 callers in the queue.
11 As a reminder, you may press one then zero to add
12 your name to the queue.

13 Operator, you may go to the next line,
14 please.

15 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next comment
16 comes from the line of Shanna Hamilton. Shanna
17 Hamilton, your line is now open for comment; please
18 go ahead.

19 **SHANNA HAMILTON:** Thank you. My name is
20 Shanna Hamilton. I am the Director of
21 Communications for the Oregon Wheat Growers League
22 located in Pendleton.

23 I strongly support the preferred
24 alternative identified in the draft EIS. Most
25 importantly, the preferred alternative rightly

1 avoids the extreme measure of dam breaching, a
2 significant concern to any dam removal on this
3 system is impact to truck and train activity that
4 will be necessary to take the place of barging.

5 Dam removal would simultaneously be
6 devastating to our economies and wheat growers while
7 also significantly diminishing air quality due to a
8 large increase in emission. The navigation provided
9 through the Columbia River System is essential to
10 the ability to continue commercial farming
11 operation. It is also the most environmentally
12 friendly and safest mode of transportation
13 available.

14 Over a period of just nine months in 2017,
15 more than 3.5 million tons of cargo were barged on
16 the Snake River. It would have taken more than
17 35,000 railcars to carry this cargo or more than
18 135,000 semi trucks.

19 The Columbia Snake River system of dams
20 and locks enables cost-effective and fuel efficient
21 transportation of goods, connecting the farthest
22 inland port in the country to markets in the
23 Northwest and abroad.

24 Much of the food we enjoy and depend on
25 daily is transported up and down these river

1 systems. Barging is the most efficient and least
2 carbon-intensive mode of cargo transportation
3 getting our food to market and mouths the most
4 environmentally safe way. Barging is nearly 40
5 percent more fuel efficient than freight trains and
6 270 percent more fuel efficient than semi trucks.
7 Our clean energy economy cannot rely on conventional
8 freight trains and trucks to reduce carbon.

9 I appreciate the analytical approach
10 taking the necessity to examine options and pursue a
11 balanced approach. The preferred alternative, as
12 outlined, prioritizes the importance of healthy
13 salmon and steelhead populations while also best
14 meeting the multiple purposes of the Columbia River
15 System. It will help support our rural economies
16 and our farmers.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
18 And I yield the rest of my time.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
20 move to the next caller, please.

21 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
22 line of Mark Busto. Mark Busto, your line is now
23 open for comment; please go ahead.

24 **MARK BUSTO:** Good afternoon. My name is
25 Mark Busto. I'm a national board member of American

1 Rivers, the voice for rivers in the United States.
2 One of the missions of American Rivers is to restore
3 damaged rivers, which is why I'm speaking to you
4 today. We advocate for removing dams like the lower
5 Snake River dams when the damage they do to the
6 environment outstrips the benefits that they
7 provide.

8 That said, we do our dam removal work in a
9 collaborative manner, taking into account the
10 interests and the needs of all stakeholders and
11 communities. The DEIS and its preferred alternative
12 does not do this.

13 The DEIS, in our opinion, perpetuates an
14 approach that has pushed salmon, orca, and other
15 fish and wildlife populations to the edge of
16 extinction. This approach has been extremely costly
17 and it's been deemed illegal five different times.
18 It has harmed fishing communities on the coast and
19 inland, reducing fishing opportunity, fishing jobs
20 and fishing income for both tribal and non-native
21 peoples.

22 The federal agency approach resolves
23 little, maintains an untenable status quo, foster
24 uncertainty, and meets no one's needs.

25 The recommendations of the DEIS remind me

1 of the definition of insanity often attributed to
2 Einstein, doing the same thing over and over and
3 expecting a different result.

4 I think most importantly, we are now at a
5 precious moment, one that we must not squander.
6 First, salmon and steelhead runs are at historic
7 lows and the Southern Resident orca pod is desperate
8 and dwindling, which has galvanized public opinion
9 against the lower Snake River dams.

10 Secondly, the Bonneville Power
11 Administration is in financial difficulty as the
12 cost of its electricity has risen relative to the
13 cost of clean energy being generated in California.

14 And finally, studies show that the power
15 from the lower Snake River dams can be replaced by
16 renewable resources like wind and solar, with little
17 increase in rates or greenhouse gas emissions.

18 For all these reasons, it is not a matter
19 of if these dams will be breached, but when.
20 Salmon, people, communities, farmers, energy systems
21 in the Northwest all need a new approach from the
22 federal government that truly solves problems,
23 spends money wisely, recovers healthy and abundant
24 salmon and steelhead populations and meets the needs
25 of farming and fishing communities.

1 Thank you. And I yield my --

2 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds --

3 **MARK BUSTO:** -- remaining time.

4 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
5 move to the next caller, please.

6 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
7 line of Melissa Koch. Melissa Koch, your line is
8 now open; please go ahead.

9 **MELISSA KOCH:** Thank you very much. Thank
10 you for opening this forum up for conversation. I
11 think this is a bigger conversation than just the
12 Snake River dams, which we're starting to look at
13 now with the coronavirus shutting us all down. And
14 we are running out of time to make these important
15 reversals to help our sister and brother species and
16 to restore natural habitats to keep them from
17 further collapse.

18 The Snake River dams are one example of
19 many changes that we need to now implement. If we
20 start to look at how do we live on this planet in a
21 way that allows for other species to live healthily
22 and in habitats that are beneficial for them as
23 well, I think we'll start to look at new ways of
24 creating transportation, new ways of farming, and
25 new ways of inhabiting the planet. So I think we

1 have to start looking at these things as well.

2 It is my understanding that the dams are
3 more or less obsolete on the Snake River, that
4 they're actually only producing, I think it is seven
5 percent of the energy and that they're in need now
6 of being restored, which will cost a lot of dollars
7 and will probably be more cost-effective to remove
8 them.

9 However, even if they aren't removed, it's
10 also my understanding that what we need to do to
11 restore the salmon runs, which I think shouldn't
12 even be a question at this point, it's just
13 something we got to get on with, is we need to have
14 those berms removed.

15 So are we going to just keep having these
16 conversations about human life is more precious and
17 more important than other species? Or are we going
18 to restore this planet to be a pristine place where
19 we don't have to face viruses, we don't have to face
20 abrupt climate change, where we can restore this
21 paradise to a state of balance and harmony.

22 So we need to start thinking differently
23 on working collaboratively to find solutions so that
24 we can save the Chinook salmon, save the orca
25 whales, save the Salish Sea, and cohabit with all

1 other species.

2 Thank you very much.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
4 move to the next caller, please.

5 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
6 line of David Litloff (sic). David Litloff, your
7 line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

8 **DAVID BITTLOFF:** Hi. My name's David
9 Bittloff, B-i-t-t-l-o-f-f, just for the record here.
10 Thank you very much for the opportunity here.

11 First of all, I want to relate here that
12 this is a unbelievably complicated issue. We've got
13 obviously salmon and salmon conservation which has
14 whole ecosystems involved with it, being the
15 keystone species. We've got power. We've got
16 agriculture and irrigation. We've got barge
17 traffic. We've got the ports. It's complicated.

18 And each one of the agencies involved in
19 this EIS doesn't necessarily have management
20 responsibility for all the different constituencies
21 involved in this process.

22 That being said, I feel it's vitally
23 important that the dams do need to be breached and
24 there needs to be some sort of alternative where
25 salmon and steelhead have the ability to have a

1 future within the Columbia River basin, and
2 particularly the Snake River basin.

3 Without breaching of the dams, that is
4 just simply not going to happen. They're doomed to
5 possibly extinction, and, at best, kind of very
6 minimal numbers. And the impacts, the route, the
7 ecosystem caused by that would be innumerable.

8 That being said, I do think, like I said,
9 there is a difficult situation here in regards to
10 this EIS. I think that ultimately this needs to be
11 handled in Congress so we can handle all the various
12 constituencies and the interests involved in them,
13 and find situations where we have win-win-win
14 situations across the constituencies or at least
15 situations where the different constituencies can
16 live with the outcome.

17 Hopefully our legislative leaders will
18 take up that, because, as written, the EIS doesn't
19 create win-win situations. There is one big, big
20 loser, and that is salmon and steelhead and all
21 anglers and constituencies involved in supporting
22 them.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
25 move to the next caller, please.

1 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
2 line of Dave Hagen. Dave Hagen, your line is now
3 open for comment; please go ahead.

4 **DAVE HAGEN:** Good afternoon. My name is
5 Dave Hagen. I'm the General Manager of Clearwater
6 Power Company located in Lewiston, Idaho. I
7 appreciate and commend the work of the Bonneville
8 Power Administration, the Corps of Engineers, Bureau
9 of Reclamation, and the more than 30 NSCs from
10 across the region, including, but not limited to
11 tribes and state and local governments in shaping
12 the CRSO draft EIS.

13 Clearwater Power is located in Lewiston,
14 Idaho, and is a member-owned, not-for-profit rural
15 electric cooperative that serves just under 11,000
16 customers within 11 counties located in North
17 Central Idaho, Southeastern Washington, and the
18 Northeastern corner of Oregon. We also serve on
19 both the Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene tribal
20 reservations. Clearwater serves some of the most
21 remote and sparsely populated areas within Northern
22 Idaho.

23 The state of Idaho is one of the fastest
24 growing states in the nation. Unfortunately,
25 Clearwater Power has not enjoyed the same. In fact,

1 over the last five years, Clearwater Power has added
2 less than 100 new customers per year on average, and
3 Clearwater weather-adjusted energy sales have
4 declined approximately seven percent over the same
5 period.

6 Because of very slow account growth,
7 declining sales, rising cost, including the
8 wholesale cost of power from the Bonneville Power
9 Administration, Clearwater has the highest retail
10 residential rates in the state of Idaho.

11 In 2019, the wholesale cost of power
12 accounted for 43 percent of our members' monthly
13 power bill. As the single largest expense of
14 providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to
15 our member owners, the ability of the Federal Action
16 Agencies to control their cost is imperative.

17 Because of this, Clearwater Power supports
18 the preferred alternative and rejects the actions
19 laid out in MO-3 and MO-4. The four lower Snake
20 River dams provide more than 2,000 megawatts of
21 peaking capability and play an important role in
22 maintaining reliability in the region. As some of
23 the lowest cost carbon-free generation in the
24 Northwest, their flexibility and dispatchability are
25 valuable components of the FCRPS.

1 Their removal would more than double the
2 risk of regional blackouts and would have a
3 tremendous social economic impact on the region.

4 The preferred alternative lays out a
5 science-based, cost-effective program that
6 appropriately recognizes the role that hydropower
7 plays in the region. It builds on the current
8 flexibility spill agreement and supports adaptive
9 management. This will be key in order to mitigate
10 for any adverse effects of additional spill on ESA-
11 listed fish and any economic impasse.

12 Furthermore, the preferred alternative can
13 serve as a screen board to broader discussions
14 around the more comprehensive -- around a more
15 comprehensive program that will leverage the
16 progress made within --

17 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
18 remaining.

19 **DAVE HAGEN:** -- reason on recovery and
20 mitigation for fish and wildlife while maintaining
21 the region's economic vitality.

22 In closing, Clearwater Power supports the
23 comments submitted by the Pacific Northwest Union
24 Cooperative, the Public Power Council, and Northwest
25 RiverPartners. Clearwater will be submitting

1 detailed written comments over the next week or so.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to comment
3 on the draft EIS. And I yield my remaining time.

4 Thank you.

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
6 to our next speaker, I'd like to take a moment to
7 welcome anyone who has joined us since we began
8 taking comments. This is your facilitator, Maryam
9 Habibi. This is a public meeting for providing
10 comments on the CRSO draft EIS. If you would like
11 to provide a comment, please press one then zero to
12 add your name to the queue.

13 We do have a large number of folks in
14 queue right now. Currently we're at 59. So as we
15 go along, the operator will come on to your line and
16 ask for your name before you're placed in the queue.

17 I'd like to remind you, if you'd like to
18 provide a comment, please press one then zero.

19 Agency officials remain on the line to
20 hear your comments. Though we're not responding to
21 questions or comments during this meeting or
22 providing additional presentation, the agencies do
23 welcome and will consider your comments in
24 developing the final EIS, which will be released
25 this summer.

1 We encourage you to remain on the line
2 after you've provided comments, to hear from others.

3 Currently there are 61 callers in the
4 queue.

5 Operator, you may go to the next line.

6 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next comment
7 comes from the line of Debra Ellers. Debra Ellers,
8 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

9 **DEBRA ELLERS:** Thank you. The current
10 DEIS is a fail both procedurally and substantively.
11 Procedurally, it's a fail in it's not taking the
12 requisite hard look at the four lower Snake River
13 dams and complying with Judge Simon's 2016 order.

14 Both scientists and the agencies know the
15 lower Snake River dams are the major problem with
16 restoring wild fish runs, not the other dams in the
17 system. The lower Snake River dams and their
18 stagnant reservoirs are cutting off salmon migration
19 to and from the 5,500 miles of pristine spawning
20 habitat above them. Including the other dams has
21 been a waste of taxpayer time and agency resources.
22 We know that it's the Snake River dams that need to
23 be breached.

24 Substantively, the DEIS is a fail by not
25 recommending MO-3 dam breaching to save Snake River

1 salmon, steelhead, and Southern Resident orcas.
2 Best available science such as the Fish Passage
3 Center study says that only restoring a free-flowing
4 Snake River will increase Chinook salmon survival
5 enough to permit recovery. The same is true of
6 steelhead.

7 The water temperatures in the already too-
8 hot, stagnant reservoirs created by the dams will
9 only worsen with climate change.

10 The DEIS is an even bigger fail on
11 recovering the Southern Resident orcas. It uses
12 outdated data and science dating back to 2008. It
13 ignores the more recent scientific knowledge about
14 the importance of Snake River Chinook to our
15 starving Southern Resident orcas. These orcas rely
16 on the nutritious salmon from the Snake River at key
17 times of the year. Their numbers have been reduced
18 to just 72.

19 The best available science says that
20 breaching the four lower Snake River dams gives
21 these orcas a meaningful chance for recovery.

22 Regarding power and transportation, the
23 cost associated with the Snake River dams are
24 exaggerated and the benefits understated. Billions
25 of taxpayer dollars have been spent in the last few

1 decades trying to improve fish patches, and it's
2 been a big fail.

3 It's time to admit we can't engineer
4 salmon passage for the lower Snake River dams, and
5 let Mother Nature do it with a free-flowing Snake
6 River dam. With a free-flowing lower Snake River,
7 we're talking about weighing the loss of
8 irreplaceable species like salmon and Southern
9 Resident orcas, while we have alternatives for
10 barging and power.

11 Improving railroads to give farmers
12 increased flexibility for shipping their crops
13 instead of keeping the highly taxpayer-subsidized
14 barging would be a win-win for farmers --

15 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
16 remaining.

17 **DEBRA ELLERS:** -- and the public.
18 Improved trains would bolster our supply chain and
19 transportation system.

20 Finally, breaching the four lower Snake
21 River dams, MO-3 provides the best option for
22 honoring tribal rights and restoring cultural sites
23 for native people. The lower Snake River dams were
24 a gross violation of sovereign rights.

25 Please do the right thing legally,

1 ecologically, and morally, and implement MO-3, dam
2 breaching, in the final decision. Salmon,
3 steelhead, and Southern Resident orcas are going
4 extinct, tribal rights are being violated if you
5 stay with the status quo, the proposed action, MO-4.

6 Thank you for this opportunity. I yield
7 any further time.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
9 move to the next caller, please.

10 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
11 line of John Francisco. John Francisco, your line
12 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

13 **JOHN FRANCISCO:** Thank you. My name's
14 John Francisco. I'm the CEO for Northwest
15 Requirements Utilities, or NRU. NRU is a trade
16 association that represents 53 of the Bonneville
17 Power Administration's load following customer
18 utilities who collectively serve over 650,000 retail
19 electricity consumers, most of those rural. Most of
20 NRU's member utilities also receive the entirety of
21 their wholesale electricity from the BPA.

22 NRU would like to once again extend our
23 appreciation to the three lead agencies and the more
24 than 30 cooperating agencies who collaborated at
25 great effort on the extensive effort necessary to

1 produce the comprehensive and well-balanced draft
2 EIS.

3 NRU is especially pleased to see the
4 engagement of the agencies with Northwest tribal
5 leaders and that their interests were often and
6 appropriately cited in the draft. The lead agencies
7 set clear objectives under comprehensive and
8 collaborative public input for the NEPA process.
9 These objectives endeavored to improve endangered
10 fish stocks. Four of the eight objectives address
11 this, while also providing for a reliable and
12 economic power supply, minimizing greenhouse gas
13 emissions, maximizing adaptable water management,
14 and providing water supply. These are goals that we
15 believe Northwesterners should feel good about
16 supporting.

17 NRU agrees with the critical importance of
18 helping fish populations and also with the assertion
19 that it is crucial we do this without creating
20 hardships for vulnerable communities across the
21 Northwest. I want to repeat, it's crucial we
22 address fish populations without creating hardships
23 for others who use the river in vulnerable
24 communities across the northwest.

25 NRU encourages stakeholders to pause for a

1 moment and see the river through the eyes of those
2 who are different from ourselves and ask, where can
3 I compromise and what actions can be taken that will
4 benefit fish populations without causing undue harm
5 to other stakeholders?

6 Only through collaboration and compromise
7 will we, as a region, be able to end the needless
8 legal battle and focus our collective strength on
9 increasing fish populations while benefiting users
10 of the river.

11 Thank you again for the tremendous effort
12 it took to produce this holistic and balanced draft
13 EIS. Please don't waiver when considering comments
14 that push back on the preferred alternative in favor
15 of alternatives that are not well-balanced or do not
16 meet all objectives that the agencies established
17 through a deep public process.

18 Transition from the in-person meetings to
19 conference calls has not only been appropriate in
20 light of the pandemic, but has also allowed --

21 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
22 remaining.

23 **JOHN FRANCISCO:** -- much broader -- Thank
24 you. -- has also allowed much broader participation
25 and public comment process.

1 That's the end of my comments. I'll yield
2 my remaining time.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
4 move to the next caller, please.

5 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
6 line of Greg Larsen. Greg Larsen, your line is now
7 open for comment; please go ahead. Just one moment.

8 Our next comment will now come from Brian
9 Brooks. Brian Brooks, your line is now open for
10 comment; please go ahead.

11 **BRIAN BROOKS:** Okay. Thank you. I sit
12 on the Idaho Governor's Salmon Workgroup. We've
13 been learning quite a lot over the last year about
14 what we need for our fish to survive. And the key
15 indicator of recovery is reaching a two to six
16 percent smolt-to-adult return ratio, or SAR. A two
17 percent SAR will keep the fish at a plateau, not
18 recovering them, but just keeping them sustained at
19 the same level. A four percent average is what is
20 considered healthy and harvestable, an abundance
21 that allows meaningful harvest for tribes,
22 sportsmen, and the outfitting industry here in
23 Idaho.

24 The preferred alternative, unfortunately,
25 fails on several fronts for Idaho anglers and

1 outfitters and guides. By the acting agencies' own
2 admittance, the smolt-to-adult return ratio for
3 Idaho stocks under these preferred alternative, will
4 only reach two percent, one out of every three
5 years, ensuring we remain on extinction trajectory.

6 Further, the DEIS did not even account for
7 the economic impact of fishing in Idaho. In one
8 good year, the town of Riggins made \$40 million in
9 primary and secondary spending from just one season
10 of good returns. With steelhead season closure last
11 year, Clearwater County lost \$8 million a month just
12 on steelhead.

13 We have economic data; and it's omissions
14 from the DEIS is, quite honestly, mind boggling.
15 When that was presented to the Governor's Workgroup,
16 it was pretty confusing why that was left out.

17 But we need to zoom out a little bit here
18 and look to the future. By their own strategic
19 plan, BPA has stated that they will reach their
20 federal borrowing cap by 2023. And the only way
21 they've extended it so long is by spreading the
22 federal debt to private debtors totaling over \$15
23 billion in debt. That does not sound like financial
24 solvency.

25 In fact, the impacts of their financial

1 situation has already resulted in less money going
2 towards fish mitigation projects in Idaho, when,
3 arguably, we need more money for fish than ever.
4 That has been clearly communicated to the Governor's
5 Workgroup.

6 BPA charges \$36 per megawatt hour, while
7 their competitors charge \$22 per megawatt hour on
8 the wholesale market. PUDs and other customers are
9 leaving. One PUD in Idaho is investing in new
10 transmission lines to leave BPA behind for another
11 producer. Those who stay behind with BPA will be
12 forced to incur the new cost for every PUD that
13 leaves. It seems that the writing is on the wall.

14 But if we continue to zoom out, we all
15 know the four lower Snake River dams will not last
16 forever. They don't provide flood control. They
17 don't provide water supply as run of the river dams.
18 But they do provide valuable transportation and
19 some, but not much, electricity. It's still
20 important.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
22 remaining.

23 **BRIAN BROOKS:** I support the -- okay.
24 Thank you. I support the transportation and
25 electricity generation, but the river is not

1 necessary to provide such services. The fish have
2 no such choices; they only have the one river to get
3 back to Idaho.

4 We transported agricultural products
5 before the dams were built, and we are already
6 replacing the power generated by the dams. But to
7 call the dams clean energy while they're causing an
8 extinction of a species and an industry is not clean
9 energy.

10 We should take the investment we're making
11 in subsidies and other ratepayer incomes and look
12 for other ways to work on transportation and
13 electricity generation in a way that also benefits
14 fish and the economic industries that brings to
15 Idaho, which is --

16 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

17 **BRIAN BROOKS:** -- beneficial. Thank you.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
19 move to the next caller, please.

20 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
21 line of Karen Davis. Karen Davis, your line is open
22 for comment; please go ahead.

23 **KAREN DAVIS:** Hi. Thank you. My name is
24 Karen Davis, and I'm a concerned citizen from the
25 state of Washington. I participated in the

1 teleconference on March 26th. And over a period of
2 three and a half hours, I heard 58 people call in.
3 Forty-five of those 58 were in favor of breaching
4 the lower four Snake River dams. That's 78 percent
5 of the callers.

6 Those people called from Washington,
7 Idaho, Oregon, Montana, California, Alaska, and even
8 Europe. They took their time during this worldwide
9 pandemic to make you hear their voice. I hope you
10 were listening.

11 That was proof that this issue does not
12 just affect people in Eastern Washington. This
13 issue affects people across the entire Western North
14 America and, indeed, the world over.

15 Those rivers don't belong to you; they
16 belong to everyone. For 50 years, there have been
17 four tourniquets across the Snake River squeezing
18 the life out of it, robbing people of their
19 ancestral lands, robbing people of their
20 livelihoods, robbing the Pacific Northwest of our
21 most iconic species, and bringing our ecosystem to
22 the brink of collapse. Why? So that a handful of
23 farmers can have taxpayer-subsidized barging of
24 their wheat and a relatively insignificant source of
25 electricity that peaks when it's least needed and

1 has already largely been replaced by true clean,
2 green renewable energy.

3 The bottom line is, we have the technology
4 to continue business as usual without the Snake
5 River dams. We can still get wheat to market. We
6 can still irrigate farms. We can still power our
7 cities while the Snake River runs free. But there
8 is no other way to save the dwindling salmon and
9 steelhead runs along with the countless jobs and
10 130-some species who rely on them.

11 So why isn't breaching the preferred
12 alternative? Why are you saying that we have to
13 choose fish over farms? Because we don't. We can
14 have it all. We can take those billions of dollars
15 that you spent on failed salmon recovery efforts and
16 use it to retool farms for irrigation with a free-
17 flowing river. It is possible.

18 Take those billions of dollars and beef up
19 the rail system to accommodate increased crop
20 shipments. It is possible.

21 What is not possible is for us to stomach
22 the same old moldy leftovers you've been feeding us
23 for 50 years. We reject it. Times have changed.
24 Technologies have changed. That should be reflected
25 in this document. Stop trying to sell us the same

1 tired ineffective plan that hasn't worked and never
2 will.

3 For 50 years, you have hijacked those
4 rivers for your gain, stealing them and all that
5 they provide from the rest of us. The jig is up.
6 It's time to give us back our river, our lands, our
7 jobs, and our ecosystems. Breach the dams.

8 Thank you. I yield the rest of my time.

9 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
10 move to the next caller, please.

11 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
12 name of Telly Stanger. Telly Stanger, your line is
13 now open for comment; please go ahead.

14 **TELLY STANGER:** Thank you. My name is
15 Telly Stanger. I'm the General Manager of Lincoln
16 Electric Cooperative, a nonprofit electric
17 cooperative that serves parts of Lincoln and
18 Flathead counties in Northwest Montana.

19 For the record, Lincoln Electric supports
20 the preferred alternative. And as a member of
21 Bonneville Power, our members rely on affordable
22 energy as an essential component to their quality of
23 life.

24 While Bonneville Power has responsibility
25 for fish migration, there are many other factors

1 that contribute to fish survival and population
2 increases. Lincoln Electric believes that there
3 needs to be a holistic view of the entire fish
4 lifecycle, not just the impacts of the dams. The
5 solutions need to include hydro, hatcheries,
6 harvesting, and habitat, since they are all crucial
7 to fish restoration efforts.

8 The narrow view of what others believe are
9 the responsibilities of public power in achieving
10 positive results are prejudicially targeted and
11 unfair to all members of Lincoln Electric and public
12 power. Lincoln Electric believes the financial
13 responsibility for fish restoration should be borne
14 by everyone that benefit from the clean affordable
15 energy provided by the Columbia River System,
16 including special interest groups.

17 Viable solutions can be achieved if all
18 parties come to the table with open minds and
19 flexible solutions.

20 The objectives that come from the EIS are
21 not as beneficial to public power and do not meet
22 long-term challenges. Increased spill is also not
23 ideal for fish survival since it can cause harmful
24 or deadly amounts of gas in the water. From a
25 conservation perspective, spill is wasteful and puts

1 Bonneville Power in danger of not being able to
2 provide reliability and affordability.

3 Dam breaching is radical, extreme, and
4 irresponsible and would increase the reality of
5 energy shortages in the Northwest very soon.

6 Lincoln Electric is relying on the affordable
7 clean renewable energy we receive from Bonneville
8 Power. However, reliability can only be achieved if
9 the power produced by the Columbia River System.
10 Reliable hydroelectricity is vital to incorporate
11 intermittent generation sources like solar and wind
12 into the grid. It would be counter effective to
13 spill more precious water or breach dams. We need
14 to fully utilize the amazing resource we have
15 available in the Pacific Northwest: clean,
16 reliable, carbon-free energy produced by dams on the
17 Columbia River System.

18 Thank you. And I yield the rest of my
19 time.

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
21 move to the next caller, please.

22 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
23 line of Ron Gold. Ron Gold, your line is open for
24 comment; please go ahead.

25 **RON GOLD:** Thank you. My name's Ron Gold.

1 I'm a commissioner for Mason County PUD Number 1 on
2 the Hood Canal. And I'd like to thank all the
3 agencies for all the work they have done on the EIS.

4 And I am definitely for the preferred
5 alternative, even though it's not exactly what I
6 would like.

7 But what would be really interesting is to
8 get some facts about the southern orca whales. The
9 salmon that go up the Fraser River is also a major
10 source of food for the South Residency pod. And
11 their runs are no better than the runs that come
12 back up to the Snake River. There is no impairments
13 on the Snake River dams, other than -- excuse me --
14 none on the Fraser River system. They had a bad
15 landslide this past summer and it caused some
16 problems with fisheries. But the true fact is, the
17 resident's population of orcas on the west side of
18 Vancouver Island's over 300.

19 The biggest problem is over harvesting of
20 the fish. The Puget Sound itself is a cesspool.
21 Part of the problem the reason the Chinook are not
22 doing as well is that their main food source,
23 herring, in the Puget Sound, is over harvested.

24 Just the benefits that the Snake River and
25 the Columbia system provide for the people is

1 tremendous, the amount of food that's produced, the
2 amount of transportation that it provides, the
3 amount of electricity.

4 And what a lot of people do not realize,
5 that we are in a crossroads in terms of resource
6 adequacy to be able to keep the lights on. Last
7 February, beginning of March, there was a situation
8 where we had a very cold snap, and there was -- the
9 river starts -- we didn't have the ability to
10 provide power, almost. So we had to go to market to
11 go buy it. So during a one-week period, we spent
12 millions and millions of dollars to keep the lights
13 on that if we did not have the power from the Snake
14 River dams at that time, we would have gone black in
15 the Northwest.

16 I have a deep respect for the indigenous
17 people and the culture. But at the same time,
18 there's seven billion people that live on this
19 planet right now. It would be nice to go back to
20 where everything was natural. But the bottom line
21 here is, no matter what human beings do, there is
22 impacts. With those impacts, unfortunately, there
23 is cost. But we are trying to mitigate those costs
24 by being good stewards to the planet and trying to
25 reestablish the fish runs.

1 But with all the different predatory --
2 with seals, with terns, with cormorants --

3 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
4 remaining.

5 **RON GOLD:** -- ocean conditions, there's a
6 lot of other -- it's a complex problem. And I can
7 understand people's concerns about the orcas, which
8 I do have, but at the same time, look at the big
9 picture. Look at the conditions that they're living
10 in, and I think that has a lot to do with it also.

11 And thank you for listening and thank you
12 again for your time.

13 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
14 to the next caller, I'd like to take a moment to
15 welcome anyone who has joined us. This is your
16 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. This is a public
17 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO draft
18 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
19 press one then zero to add your name to the queue.

20 Currently there are 60 callers in queue.
21 Agency officials from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
22 Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power
23 Administration, remain on the line to hear your
24 comments. Though we are not responding to questions
25 or comments during this meeting or providing

1 additional presentation, the agencies do welcome and
2 will consider your comments as we develop the final
3 EIS, which will be released this summer.

4 If you do provide comments, we encourage
5 you to remain on the line to hear from others.

6 Now there are 63 callers in the queue.

7 Operator, you may move to the next line.

8 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
9 line of Pat Fuerst. Pat Fuerst, your line is open
10 for comment; please go ahead.

11 **PAT FUERST:** My name is Pat Fuerst, F-u-e-
12 r-s-t. I live in Moscow, Idaho. This is the land
13 of the Niimiipuu, the Nez Perce Indians. This is
14 also the land of wolves and salmon, the grizzly
15 bear, and the Palouse Prairie; all of those seem to
16 be disappearing.

17 I stand for justice for the whole earth,
18 all the lands, the air, the waters, and all its
19 streaming life, including us human beings, and all
20 the creatures that can't speak for themselves.

21 This is a call for change. This is my
22 dream. A dream that salmon will have a river again
23 and Native Americans will have their rightful
24 cultural heritage returned to them.

25 The draft EIS says of the breaching

1 alternative three, that this predicts the highest
2 benefits for several Endangered Species Act listed
3 juvenile and adult salmon, and also return to
4 cultural resources for tribal purposes. Bringing
5 the salmon back to Idaho, that is what the courts
6 ordered you to do. Flexible spill, alternative
7 four, does not give the salmon a river and salmon
8 will go extinct.

9 Mike Simpson said, representative of
10 Idaho, said to the Corps of Engineers, he said,
11 Salmon need one thing; they need a river.

12 This is a call for change. We can do
13 this. This is my dream, a dream that salmon will
14 have a river again and Native Americans will have
15 their rightful cultural heritage returned to them.
16 Remember, salmon need one thing; they need a river.
17 Thank you.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
19 move to the next caller, please.

20 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
21 line off Jack McIntyre. Jack McIntyre, your line is
22 now open for comments; please go ahead.

23 **JACK MCINTYRE:** Thank you. This is Jack
24 McIntyre from Eastern Washington. I will not be
25 reading from prepared remarks today. I think it's

1 best to speak from the heart.

2 In the Northwest, it's all about quality
3 of life. We, most of us, define our quality of life
4 by the natural system around us. More I read all
5 scientists are agreeing we're entering the
6 Anthropocene, a geological age where our impact on
7 the earth is measurable, from the Antarctic to the
8 Sahara Desert, we've left our traces. Our traces
9 have not been so positive.

10 There was a time 100 years ago where the
11 dams were seen as being environmentally friendly, a
12 good thing for progress. We have seen the err of
13 our ways. The salmon are being devastated. We're
14 losing species every day. If we could restore the
15 quality of life that we used to have, if we could
16 get a quarter of the way there, if we could
17 reestablish a quarter of the ancient salmon runs,
18 the lifestyle of every person in the Northwest would
19 be increased. The economic benefit would be
20 tremendous. So many people on this line have
21 overstated the impact of removing the Snake River
22 dams, talking about the entire Columbia system.
23 We're not talking about taking down every dam on the
24 Columbia River. We're talking about four dams on
25 the Snake River. When you give out facts, please

1 restrict them to just the four dams.

2 The amount of power produced is minor.

3 The few families, very few that get water from the
4 four dams for agricultural uses is a small number.

5 Let's return Mother Nature to at least a
6 level where we can sustain ourselves. If we
7 continue down the course of Anthropocene, we will
8 destroy the salmon, we will destroy the orcas, we
9 will destroy ourselves.

10 I yield the balance of my time.

11 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
12 go to the next line, please.

13 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
14 line of Rebecca Sayre. Rebecca Sayre, your line is
15 now open for comment; please go ahead.

16 **REBECCA SAYRE:** Good afternoon. Thank
17 you. My name is Rebecca Sayre. I am a concerned
18 citizen from Washington.

19 And findings show that only dam removal
20 will restore our Chinook runs. The preferred
21 alternative uses outdated data and is less than
22 inadequate, essentially continuing the policies of
23 failing science and significantly found illegal for
24 well over 25 years.

25 As I said, the dam removal is the best way

1 to restore the salmon runs of the Columbia and Snake
2 River systems. This option is appropriate action at
3 a time of extinction crisis for the fish stock and
4 the orca. Their condition is considered to be
5 imminent if we don't act and act boldly.

6 We must absolutely mitigate the impact to
7 the communities who have to deal with the project
8 changes. But we must, in light, accomplish big,
9 complex things, and we can if we work together. In
10 fact, the times that we're in and we're dealing with
11 the coronavirus is showing the power that
12 communities can work together in the face of big
13 challenges.

14 The data sets of these dams and the
15 challenges of these systems are being exaggerated.
16 Barging, wheat farming, irrigation, and the
17 financial crisis that the utilities frame themselves
18 in can be mitigated if we work collaboratively.

19 Furthermore, studies show that only 78
20 percent of the energy are going to be utilized
21 that's produced by these dams, and that those can be
22 addressed in solar, wind, and conservation, which,
23 by the way, are growing and evolving technologies in
24 our state. We're a leader. Let's be a leader and
25 let's transition this economy. It's not 100 years

1 ago; it's now. Work towards the future and state
2 boldly.

3 Also, we can re-direct money currently
4 being wasted on fish barging, maintaining these
5 crumbling dams, to transitioning our system. We
6 need to be bold. We can do this together. In this
7 we will collaboratively restore our land, over 72-
8 named rapids and recreational (indiscernible) our
9 tribal community rights, and more. We can all side
10 against (indiscernible) who say not just possibly
11 but as a region-wide conversion.

12 I want to add that the Southern Resident
13 killer whales feed at the mouth of the Columbia and
14 (indiscernible) --

15 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
16 remaining.

17 **REBECCA SAYRE:** -- (indiscernible). Yes,
18 we need to clean up Puget Sound and curb fishing.
19 As others have stated that this is a red herring.
20 (Indiscernible) come from this river and this is
21 also not radical or impossible. That's a past-
22 looking view. It's time to look forward
23 (indiscernible) and be collaborative.

24 And I'll just leave you with, what is the
25 legacy we want to leave? This is a region-wide

1 concern. We need to be collaborative and
2 (indiscernible), not just stick to the same old
3 thing that we've been doing for the last 25 years.

4 And with that, I'll yield the rest of my
5 time. Thank you.

6 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
7 move to the next line, please.

8 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
9 line of Michael Messina. Michael Messina, your line
10 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

11 **MICHAEL MESSINA:** Hi. My name is Michael
12 Messina, M-e-s-s-i-n-a. I'm with Whooshh
13 Innovations. Whooshh is W-h-o-o-s-h-h.

14 I listen through all these comments. I
15 hear quite a bit of polarity either for or against
16 dam removal. And the reason I am -- I want to
17 invite people to think along the lines where I've
18 heard some people speak to, which is being flexible,
19 thinking of alternatives, think differently.
20 They're encouraging all the agencies to please think
21 differently than you have.

22 Well, a different solution does exist.
23 And we make systems that move fish gently and safely
24 up and over large barriers such as dams. Just a few
25 months ago we demonstrated this on the Columbia

1 River at the Chief Joseph Dam.

2 What is important about this -- I won't go
3 into exactly how. It would take too long to explain
4 how it all works. However, this is something that
5 can be installed now. So we could, as the debate
6 rages on whether to remove the dams or not, we can
7 start moving salmon this year if you want. And we
8 could just -- This is helpful for salmon
9 restoration. It's helpful for -- there's benefit
10 for everybody across the spectrum. So most
11 importantly, there's benefit for the fish. You can
12 get more salmon up and over the dams. We can move
13 more quickly toward salmon restoration.

14 But for all those other people in this who
15 have opinions on this complex issue, there's benefit
16 to power producers in that there's more water
17 available to use to produce power. If it's
18 determined the four Snake River dams should come out
19 some day, and I think there are going to be many
20 years of discussion and litigation, we can help
21 there, too. We can move fish up and around what's
22 going to be a very complicated site removal process.

23 If they're determined that they should
24 stay, fine; we can still move fish up and over the
25 dam and that's something we can start doing right

1 now on any dam on the Columbia.

2 Our systems even have the ability to sort
3 out other things like invasive species that compete
4 for habitat for salmon. It benefits the fish. It
5 benefits tribes. It benefits power users.

6 And speaking of power users, the
7 Bonneville Power Administration pours millions and
8 millions and millions of dollars into fish passage
9 solutions, which still need so much work, as
10 evidenced by how many people are on these calls.
11 But I would like --

12 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
13 remaining.

14 **MICHAEL MESSINA:** -- to -- I'd like to
15 point out these systems are economical, too. We can
16 use the value of the water that currently goes down
17 fish ladders; that water can effectively pay for all
18 the fish passage systems that we could use to move
19 fish up and over dams.

20 So I encourage everyone to, please, think
21 differently, consider alternatives. We would like
22 to be considered as one of the alternatives in the
23 EIS document. Thank you.

24 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
25 move to the next caller, please.

1 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
2 line of Kat Murphy. Kat Murphy, your line is open
3 for comment now; please go ahead.

4 **KAT MURPHY:** Hello. My name is a Kat
5 Murphy, and I am a commercial fisherman. I own a
6 Power Troll permit to the State of Alaska, but Port
7 Townsend, Washington, is my home. I purchased my
8 boat and permit two years ago and started a small
9 direct market fish business.

10 I could only afford to purchase one permit
11 and I had to decide between purchasing a permit in
12 my home state of Washington or in Southeast Alaska.
13 I chose Alaska because I came to the conclusion that
14 I could not make my living as a young entrepreneur
15 in my own home state. A sobering fact that I hope
16 can change in the future.

17 I would like to see more economic
18 opportunity for young people like me in Washington
19 state's rural coastal communities. There are
20 limited job opportunities where I live and direct
21 marketing a portion of my frozen catch from Alaska
22 is my only way of contributing to the bolstering of
23 my local economy. I am a one-fish-at-a-time hook-
24 and-line operation. And I am a choice people make
25 when they purchase their fish. I'd like that choice

1 to be able to continue for future generations.

2 Recently, I participated in a panel
3 discussion on jobs and food production at a local
4 high school. It was hard to know that if we don't
5 do our part now, I cannot guarantee these kids a
6 future in my industry or food from the waters of the
7 Pacific Northwest, something that should be their
8 birthright.

9 The latest DEIS fails to protect salmon
10 and, in turn, orcas. I am asking you to remove the
11 lower Snake River dams and restore critical salmon
12 habitat. Simply stated, wild animals need wild
13 lands. A United Nations Conference on Sustainable
14 Fisheries and eating wild fish, the greenest way to
15 ingest protein on the planet. Let's do our part to
16 keep it that way.

17 Thank you for your time and consideration.
18 I yield the rest of my time.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
20 move to the next caller, please.

21 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
22 line of David Doeringsfeld. David Doeringsfeld,
23 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

24 **DAVID DOERINGSFELD:** Hello. This is David
25 Doeringsfeld. I'm the General Manager of the Port

1 of Lewiston. And the Port of Lewiston supports the
2 preferred alternative and appreciates the work of
3 the action agencies and cooperating agencies.

4 Additionally, we appreciate the public
5 comment process the action agencies have implemented
6 due to the coronavirus.

7 We will provide or full written comments
8 at a later (inaudible).

9 There have been comments that the Lewiston
10 and Clarkston Valley will benefit from dam breaching
11 by increased recreational opportunities. This
12 assumption is really quite ridiculous.

13 First, considering statements have been
14 made that we would have whitewater rafting between
15 Lewiston, Idaho, and the Tri-Cities in Washington.
16 The elevation difference from Lewiston to the Tri-
17 Cities is approximately 200 feet in roughly 170
18 miles. This is less than one inch per mile. This
19 elevation difference is not conducive to whitewater
20 rafting.

21 The L-C Valley has enjoyed a lake
22 environment for 45 years after Lower Granite Dam was
23 completed. Water recreation examples include
24 sailing, paddle boarding, water skiing, and
25 enjoyable floats on a pontoon boat. However, most

1 of these activities would no longer be available.
2 Approximately 20,000 cruise boat passengers visited
3 the L-C Valley in 2019. This tourist industry would
4 disappear.

5 Concerning transportation, the EIS does
6 not reflect the total transportation cost increases
7 if dams are breached. Short-line rail tracks are
8 not adequate to handle increased grain exports.
9 Unit train loading facilities are not adequate to
10 handle increased grain exports.

11 The cost to improve rail service will be
12 made by private sector rail companies, and these
13 private sector companies may choose not to make an
14 investment of hundreds of millions of dollars. We
15 would see rail rates skyrocket.

16 The cost to improve road, bridge, and rail
17 track and rail loading facilities could easily be
18 ten times higher than the cost reflected in the EIS.

19 The preferred alternative increases the
20 gas cap to 125 percent. We have concerns whether
21 smolts can physically handle 125 percent gas cap.
22 The preferred alternative does not provide the
23 science to support 125 percent gas cap.

24 We recommend an incremental approach to
25 increasing the gas cap and to scientifically

1 evaluate --

2 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
3 remaining.

4 **DAVID DOERINGSFELD:** -- whether smolts can
5 handle this increase.

6 I yield the balance of my time.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
8 move to the next caller, please.

9 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
10 line of Jean Murphy. Jean Murphy, your line is now
11 open for comment; please go ahead.

12 **JEAN MURPHY OUELLETTE:** Hi. My name is
13 Jean Murphy Ouellette, and I'm calling as a
14 concerned Washington citizen. I am for breaching
15 the lower four Snake River dams to protect Pacific
16 Northwest salmon and to save the Puget Sound
17 Resident orca population from extinction.

18 We've spent 25 years and billions of
19 dollars on a series of five several salmon plans for
20 the Columbia basin that have not restored a single
21 population.

22 In its 2000 biological opinion for
23 operation of hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and
24 Snake Rivers, NOAA fisheries concluded, Breaching
25 the four lower Snake River dams would provide more

1 certainty of long-term survival and recovery of
2 salmon than would other measures. The four lower
3 Snake River dams provide low value in terms of power
4 and their increasing cost.

5 I would also like to comment about a
6 governmental report from 1949 regarding the proposed
7 building of the Snake River dams. Another serious
8 threat to the Columbia River Fishery is the proposed
9 construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of
10 Ice Harbor and three other dams on the lower Snake
11 River between Pasco, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho,
12 to provide flat water navigation and a relatively
13 minor block of power. The development would remove
14 part of the cost of waterborne shipping from the
15 shipper and place it on the taxpayer, jeopardizing
16 more than one half of the Columbia River salmon
17 production in exchange for 148 miles of subsidized
18 barging route.

19 The transportation saver to the shipper
20 would amount to \$2 million annually, while salmon
21 runs, having a wholesale value of \$9 million, would
22 be threatened with destruction.

23 The Army Corps of Engineers has defied the
24 opinions of every state and federal fisheries
25 biologist since before the dams were built.

1 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau
2 of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration
3 developed the draft EIS in response to the need to
4 review and update management of the system,
5 including evaluating impacts to resources in the
6 context of new information and changed conditions in
7 the Columbia River basin and in response to a court
8 order by the U.S. District Court for the District of
9 Oregon.

10 What would you expect of the Army Corps of
11 Engineers and BPA? BPA is in dire straits
12 economically and wants to save itself, which, to me,
13 seems like a strong economic argument for breaching
14 the dam. The Army Corps of Engineers is using
15 taxpayer funding to disseminate false rationale --

16 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
17 remaining.

18 **JEAN MURPHY OUELLETTE:** -- to justify the
19 dams by support and silence critics of the dams.

20 I would like to breach the dams as soon as
21 possible within the year 2020. Thank you.

22 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
23 move to the next caller, please.

24 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
25 line of Norman Teve (sic). Norman Teve, your line

1 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

2 **NORMAL TEBAY:** Thank you. My name is
3 Norman Tebay, T-e-b-a-y. I'm a trustee at Vigilante
4 Electric Cooperative in Western Montana and also a
5 trustee on Western Montana G&T Board. We receive
6 100 percent of our power from Bonneville.

7 I'm opposed to the breaching of the dams
8 on the lower Snake River for the following reasons:

9 Water and electricity are the backbone of
10 the Northwest as well as the shipment of commodities
11 by barge on the Snake. It would be very evident at
12 this time of turmoil and uncertainty that the well-
13 being and safety of our people is most important.
14 Take away the firm carbon-free power the dams
15 produce along with the loss of agricultural
16 productivity not only here by across the nation, and
17 we will have more than a few shelves that are empty
18 as we do now.

19 We in the Northwest supply a large portion
20 of food for the entire nation. This is a national
21 security and a moral issue for our citizens.

22 Do not breach the Snake River dams and let
23 us use common sense to solve this issue, not
24 emotion.

25 Thank you for this time letting us

1 comment. I yield the remaining time.

2 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move to
3 the next caller, I'd like to take a moment to
4 welcome anyone who has joined us. I'm your
5 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. This is a public
6 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO draft
7 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
8 press one then zero to add your name to the queue.

9 Agency officials remain on the line to
10 hear your comments. Though we're not responding to
11 questions or comments during this meeting or
12 providing additional presentation, the agencies
13 welcome and will consider your comments in
14 developing the final EIS, which will be released
15 this summer.

16 If you do provide comments, you're welcome
17 to remain on the line to hear from others.

18 Currently there are 56 callers in the
19 queue.

20 Operator, you may move to the next line,
21 please.

22 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
23 the line of Edwina Allen. Edwina Allen, your line
24 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

25 **EDWINA ALLEN:** Thank you. My name is

1 Edwina Allen. I'm a Boise, Idaho resident.
2 Checking my files, I verified that since 1991, I
3 have been submitting comments to federal agencies,
4 advocating for salmon, to save the Northwest salmon.

5 The issue was and remains a disastrous
6 effect on salmon survival caused by the four lower
7 Snake River dams. I've seen salmon decline to the
8 point where they are now on the edge of extinction.

9 After five rejections in court of the
10 federal agency plans, to manage the Columbia River
11 basin dams, the major objective of the current DEIS
12 should be to produce a plan that will, in fact, meet
13 legal requirements, recovery of salmon and steelhead
14 in the Snake River.

15 The recommended preferred alternative
16 fails to do this, even though the document
17 acknowledges that removing the four lower Snake
18 River dams is the best choice for fish recovery.

19 Despite credible scientific information,
20 the DEIS denies removing those dams would increase
21 Snake River Chinook, a critical food source for the
22 starving Puget Sound orcas.

23 It is tragic that although Idaho has
24 hundreds of miles of pristine spawning habitat for
25 salmon and steelhead, those fish face extinction

1 because of the natural obstacles of the dammed lower
2 Snake River.

3 History shows us that as the dams were
4 built, the fish returns above them declined to
5 levels now near extinction. Before the dams, the
6 young salmon smolt were quickly flushed to the ocean
7 with the spring runoff. After the dams, that
8 passage takes perilous weeks with no current to
9 guide them through the flat water reservoirs.

10 Predators in the reservoirs eat the
11 smolts. Smolts don't eat as they migrate, so they
12 lose weight. Smolts that are put in barges or
13 trucks to speed their journey have a very poor rate
14 of return as adults. On the return trip as adults,
15 the fish must avoid predators, cluster to fish
16 ladders, and especially with the climate change
17 survive reservoirs often reaching lethally warm
18 temperatures.

19 I call on you to develop a plan that works
20 for fish and for people. The solutions are
21 available. Fish in the river. Rail to transport
22 agriculture products. Clean solar and wind to
23 replace the small amount of hydropower produced by
24 the dams.

25 Imagine a restored river teaming with

1 salmon as in the old days, when vibrant economies
2 and the local communities depended on recreational
3 and commercial fishing. Imagine the orca pods
4 flourishing, giving birth to healthy calves that
5 survive rather than immediately dying of starvation.

6 Current economic studies show we are
7 spending more to kill the fish than what it cost to
8 both save them and replace the transportation and
9 hydropower --

10 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
11 remaining.

12 **EDWINA ALLEN:** -- services the dams
13 provide. This DEIS is your opportunity to craft an
14 innovative plan that offers a pathway to a
15 comprehensive solution that works for all affected
16 interests. Please take advantage of the moment.

17 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
19 move to the next caller, please.

20 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
21 line of Debbie Stempf. Debbie Stempf, your line is
22 now open for comment; please go ahead.

23 **DEBBIE STEMPEF:** Hi. My name is Debbie
24 Stempf. I'm a citizen of Washington state. We need
25 a new approach to save our Chinook and sockeye runs

1 in the Snake River system. We've spent 17 billion
2 on salmon restoration and haven't recovered a single
3 run of our salmon, our salmon.

4 Five previous management plans were all
5 rejected by the courts as not doing enough to
6 protect salmon. This latest plan is simply the same
7 basic plan and appears that this was all just to
8 waste more time and money.

9 There is no more time for our salmon and
10 orcas or the people dependent on return of the
11 salmon stocks.

12 Our tribal treaties guaranteed the fishing
13 rights for the salmon. Well, if no salmon, then we
14 are not respecting our treaties, and I am ashamed by
15 this as a citizen of this country.

16 It is time now to restore abundant
17 fishable salmon and steelhead populations in the
18 Snake River system. We need to protect and invest
19 in the economic vitality of local farming and
20 fishing communities, continue the region's legacy of
21 providing reliable, affordable, but carbonless
22 energy, and honor our nation's treaty commitments to
23 Native American tribes and cultures.

24 I went searching for salmon last fall in
25 the Stanley, Idaho basin area. I found eight salmon

1 on their routes, spawning wild Chinook salmon. I
2 was very excited and so happy to welcome them home -
3 eight salmon, where there used to be millions.

4 The science and fishery scientists have
5 weighed in on this issue, and breaching the four
6 lower Snake River dams is the best solution for
7 increasing our salmon runs. It's beautiful and
8 pristine country - just add salmon. Thank you.

9 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
10 move to the next caller, please.

11 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
12 line of Felice (sic) Kelly. Felice Kelly, your line
13 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

14 **FELICIA KELLY:** Hello. Thank you for
15 holding these forums. I call today because time is
16 running out for wild salmon, which are an essential
17 part of the heritage of the Pacific Northwest.

18 The preferred alternative, MO-4,
19 perpetuates a status quo that has completely failed
20 to restore salmon populations; whereas, the option
21 to breach the dams, MO-3, has the highest predicted
22 smolt to adult returns, which is the key measure of
23 whether or not salmon can recover.

24 The warm water in reservoirs is not
25 significantly addressed by MO-4, and will get worse

1 as global warming proceeds.

2 In addition, calling to raise the fact
3 that the preferred alternative may increase the gas
4 cap, yet another reason that it may be bad for
5 salmon.

6 We have done so much to try to recover
7 these populations, except for the obvious thing.
8 And numerous studies are out that show that when
9 dams come down, salmon return.

10 Given that we don't have another way to
11 get salmon back, I urge the decision makers to
12 pursue option MO-3 and breach these four Snake River
13 dams.

14 I yield the remainder of my time. Thank
15 you.

16 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
17 move to the next caller, please.

18 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
19 line of Julia Reitan. Julia Reitan, your line is
20 now open for comment; please go ahead.

21 **JULIA REITAN:** Thank you. My name is
22 Julia Reitan. I'm a resident of Washington state.

23 I'm calling in to oppose the preferred
24 alternative that fails to recover salmon and, by
25 extension, also fails our orcas, and to speak in

1 support of removing the four lower Snake River dams.
2 That alternative was looked at, but rejected largely
3 on the basis of a flawed economic analysis.

4 The economic analysis of why breaching the
5 Snake River dams is too expensive for us does not
6 include at all, does not factor in the cost of
7 maintaining the dams, the turbines, and the locks
8 over the next 20 to 30 years. These costs are
9 considerable because the dams and locks and turbines
10 are now 40-some years old and maintenance has been
11 delayed. The estimates are north of a billion
12 dollars to keep the dams, turbines, and locks
13 running.

14 And the economic analysis also does not
15 assign any value, any economic value to the recovery
16 of salmon, and that is patently false. The way I
17 see it, we're going to spend a lot of money in the
18 Snake River in the near future. We're either going
19 to spend it to maintain the status quo and because
20 of the need for significant maintenance to these
21 facilities. And if we spend millions of dollars to
22 maintain the status quo, that's all we'll have is a
23 status quo that was designed in the 1950s, '60s, and
24 ultimately completed in the 1970s, and that status
25 quo is not serving us well now.

1 Or we can spend millions of dollars, yes,
2 it will be costly, to remove the four lower Snake
3 River dams and replace lost power with clean
4 renewable energy and conservation. Solar power,
5 wind power, and conservation are much cheaper now,
6 even than our so-called cheap hydropower.

7 We can spend that money to invest in rail
8 to get crops to market. We can spend that money to
9 revitalize river communities that have really not
10 been well served by the dams. And then we will have
11 spent our money for a future --

12 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
13 remaining.

14 **JULIA REITAN:** -- not for the old status
15 quo of the 1970s, but for a future that includes
16 renewable energy and revitalized community and
17 continued agricultural success.

18 I urge you to supplement the EIS with a
19 fair economic analysis that shows we can afford to
20 remove the lower Snake River dams, restore salmon,
21 and keep our communities whole. Thank you very
22 much.

23 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
24 move to the next caller, please.

25 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the

1 line of Lori Kerr. Lori Kerr, your line is now open
2 for comment; please go ahead.

3 **LORI KERR:** Thank you for this opportunity
4 to comment. My name is Lori Kerr, and I live in
5 Battle Ground, Washington. I grew up in the Pacific
6 Northwest and I visit San Juan Islands every summer.

7 I'm concerned about the potential loss of
8 two keystone species; the Southern Resident orca
9 whales and the salmon populations in the Columbia
10 River. It's time to come together to find a long-
11 term solution. The DEIS falls short of recommending
12 dam breaching on the lower Snake, which is the
13 preferred action by scientists to help restore the
14 salmon.

15 Over \$17 billion have been wasted as well
16 as precious time in which we could have spent
17 taxpayers' dollars more wisely and helped fishing
18 communities along the coast and the rivers.

19 The federal agency approach only maintains
20 a status quo and fails to resolve the core of the
21 problem. In the DEIS, a number of alternative
22 strategies are listed. The corps, bureau, and BPA
23 have picked MO-4.

24 With respect to Columbia basin salmon and
25 steelhead recovery, the DEIS (inaudible) MO-4

1 basically calls for a continuation of the status quo
2 on the lower Snake River and the lower Columbia
3 River system, and is, therefore, entirely
4 inadequate.

5 As stated (inaudible) --

6 **MS. HABIBI:** Sorry. We're having trouble
7 hearing you.

8 **LORI KERR:** The MO-3, the four dam breach
9 alternative, resulted in the highest smolt to adult
10 return and in river survival. In light of looming
11 salmon and steelhead extinctions, MO-3 must be
12 implemented. Nothing less will enable fish
13 survival.

14 The time has come for our three state
15 governors and members of Congress to take leadership
16 on the issue. The DEIS preferred alternative makes
17 clear that our federal agencies have failed to
18 dramatically change course in order to meet the
19 Northwest fish recovery challenge.

20 We also need to help farming and fishing
21 communities, address climate impacts, and promote
22 clean energy, as well as meeting our obligations to
23 tribal communities. Fish hatcheries cannot meet the
24 needs of restoration of wild fish population due to
25 the specific DNA characteristics of the wild salmon.

1 Small river towns in Idaho rely on the salmon for
2 their outdoor recreation industry and generate \$7.8
3 billion in consumer spending annually. This also
4 provides 78,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in salaries
5 and wages for over the state.

6 The dams on the lower Snake only --

7 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
8 remaining.

9 **LORI KERR:** The dams on the lower Snake
10 only provide a small amount of needed power to this
11 region. Studies by the Northwest Energy Coalition
12 indicate that power from the lower Snake dams can be
13 replaced by new renewable resources such as wind and
14 solar, with little or no increase in rates or
15 greenhouse gases.

16 The solution is clear that we need to come
17 together and address this salmon crisis with no-
18 nonsense science-based solutions. Breach the dams
19 to save our salmon before they become extinct in our
20 lifetime. Thank you.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
22 move to the next caller, please.

23 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
24 line of Ted Chu. Ted Chu, your line is now open for
25 comment. Please go ahead.

1 **TED CHU:** Thank you. Optimistic
2 projections can see that court challenges, red tape,
3 and renewed stalling could delay the start of dam
4 breaching for up to ten years following approval.
5 This provides ample time to develop and improve new
6 solutions at which point the process could be
7 halted. However, waiting any longer to start that
8 process is inexcusable and probably fatal to the
9 fish.

10 The paragraph I just read is part of a
11 much longer piece I wrote to encourage people to
12 comment on Corps of Engineers' documents addressing
13 salmon and the Snake River. The tragic fact is that
14 I wrote it in 1999. I repeat, I wrote that in 1999.

15 Here we are again 20 years later. Twenty
16 years of our lifetimes gone. Billions of our
17 dollars gone. Five court rejections at our expense
18 wasted. And as this document stands, it will
19 probably be the sixth one rejected by the court.

20 We are tired of this. We are tired of
21 paying to kill sea lions, cormorants, and terns, and
22 the (indiscernible) generates for our states. We
23 are tired of the livelihood supported by both
24 commercial and sport fishing industries being
25 sacrificed for the subsidized profits of Palouse

1 grain farmers who were profitable before the Snake
2 River dams were built. We are tired of the absurd
3 notion that Lewiston, Idaho, should be a seaport.
4 Seattle is a seaport. Tacoma's a seaport. Lewiston
5 will not be a seaport until Washington and Oregon
6 slip into the ocean.

7 We are tired of the stalling and
8 deflecting and the ignoring of science. It feels
9 like these agencies see us and these fish simply as
10 nuisances which will eventually disappear, if only
11 they can hold us for another five years or less.

12 We all know the only possible way to
13 restore these fish runs is by removing the Snake
14 River dams, yet the agencies continue to offer only
15 slightly altered strategies with proven records of
16 failure as options.

17 Removing the Snake River dams will be the
18 greatest conservation project ever attempted by
19 humans. There's good reason to believe it will
20 restore fish runs to the Snake River system.
21 There's abundant history to prove another flex spill
22 or barge or pipe mineral bounty or whatever stop-gap
23 measure will fail again.

24 It is time to remove the earthen portions
25 of these dams. The material can be stockpiled. If

1 after 20 years there's no improvement in fish
2 populations, then rebuild the dams. But to leave
3 them in place now guarantees the extinction of these
4 valuable fish. How can that be acceptable?

5 Please stop ignoring the obvious, the so-
6 called elephant in the room - the dams. Revise the
7 EIS so the process of removing these dams can begin.
8 Please implement Multiple Objective 3, dam removal.

9 I yield the rest of my time.

10 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
11 move to the next caller, please.

12 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
13 the line of Oviar Ordari (phonetic). Oviar Ordari,
14 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

15 **AVIAR BHANDARI:** Hi. My name is Aviar
16 Bhandari (phonetic), and I'm in sixth grade at
17 Highlands Elementary.

18 The DEIS says that breaching the four
19 lower Snake River dams would give the wild salmon
20 and steelhead protected by the Endangered Species
21 Act, the best chance at recovery. But the altering
22 agencies run on to recommend against breaching the
23 dams on the basis that it would be too disruptive to
24 power production, barge transportation, and
25 recreation.

1 But the truth is, we know that these dams
2 are easy to live without. First, consider
3 electricity generation. A number of people who have
4 testified in favor of DEIS have argued for keeping
5 the dams because of the electricity they produce.
6 But the simple truth is, we do not need the
7 electricity from these dams to meet BPA energy
8 contracts.

9 The four lower Snake River dams produce
10 only two to four percent of the electricity used in
11 the Pacific Northwest. Not only are they not
12 needed, but the power they produce just contributes
13 to a surplus. In 2016, the Pacific Northwest had a
14 surplus of 16 percent in energy. Currently, in the
15 Northwest, we have two point times more energy from
16 clean energy, wind and solar, than that produced by
17 these dams.

18 Flood control. The dams provide no flood
19 control. They're simply run of the river dams,
20 which means they are not designed for flood control.
21 They are full, nearly full all the time and cannot
22 stop floodwaters.

23 Irrigation. Only the lowest or last of
24 the four lower Snake River dams provides any
25 irrigation water. Only about 14 farms and 40,000

1 acres are irrigated from this dam by pumping water
2 from the reservoir. These farms could continue to
3 irrigate by simply extending pump intakes, a longer
4 straw.

5 Transportation of grain. Barge shipping
6 is down 70 percent in the last 20 years. Grain
7 volume has decreased 45 percent in favor of rail
8 shipping. The Port Lewiston is heavily subsidized
9 by taxpayers and is rarely profitable. Barge
10 shipping is an unsustainable financial burden on the
11 residents of the U.S.A. and Idaho. Taxpayers and
12 ratepayers subsidize each and every barge shipment
13 to the tune of about 20,000 per barge. Modern,
14 affordable transportation alternatives exist for the
15 transporting grain and other goods.

16 As I've shown, none of these arguments are
17 sound; none give reason to keep four of the lower
18 Snake River dams. And certainly none of these
19 arguments --

20 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
21 remaining.

22 **AVIAR BHANDARI:** -- outweigh the immediate
23 necessity of restoring the lower Snake River to a
24 free-flowing river and saving Idaho's wild salmon.

25 The federal DEIS has failed; it leaves

1 Idaho and the Snake River salmon on an extinction
2 path. It is not the plan we need. One, the plan we
3 need is one in which salmon recover, energy remains
4 reliable and farmers have affordable shipping. We
5 can do better. We must do better.

6 Thank you. I yield the rest of my time.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
8 to the next caller, I'd like to welcome anyone who
9 has joined us. This is your facilitator, Maryam
10 Habibi. This is a public meeting for providing
11 comments on the CRSO draft EIS. If you would like
12 to provide a comment, please press one then zero to
13 add your name to the queue.

14 Agency officials from U.S. Army Corps of
15 Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville
16 Power Administration remain on the line to hear your
17 comments. Though we are not responding to questions
18 or comments during this meeting or providing
19 additional presentation, the agencies do welcome and
20 will consider your comments in developing the final
21 EIS, which will be released this summer.

22 Currently, we have 51 callers in our
23 queue. If you do provide comments, we encourage you
24 to remain on the line to hear from others.

25 Operator, you can move to the next caller,

1 please.

2 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
3 line of Al Jenkins. Al Jenkins, your line is now
4 open for comment; please go ahead.

5 **AL JENKINS:** Hey. Can you hear me? Let
6 me turn this other one down.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, we can hear you.

8 **AL JENKINS:** Hey, so I just, man, I just
9 got real excited about the sixth grader who just
10 presented. I think that's the most important thing
11 we've heard is to have a sixth grader give such a
12 great speech, and he's the next generation. So I
13 don't know which of the people on the call want to
14 give this young man a future without wild salmon and
15 steelhead in the Northwest and coming back up the
16 Snake River and the Salmon River in Idaho and the
17 Clearwater.

18 I just think you ought to think about that
19 while you advocate for the status quo, a status quo
20 which has been rejected five times by the courts.
21 I've been following this issue since the late 1990s.
22 I testified at a hearing that the Army Corps put on
23 in Seattle back then, and it's the same story. And
24 we could have made a lot of progress over the last
25 20 years. But we're doing the same thing and the

1 agencies are giving us the same plan that got
2 rejected five times.

3 So I don't support the preferred
4 alternative. I support alternative number three,
5 breach the lower four Snake River dams. And I know
6 the Snake River dams are important to a lot of
7 people. But we can come up with a plan that
8 transitions and gives economic benefits to a lot of
9 people and invest in other ways to transport product
10 and other irrigation. You don't need dams to have
11 irrigation. And the power generated is small.

12 Just talking about dams, there's 60 dams
13 on the whole Columbia Snake River system. Sixty.
14 So we're talking about 4 out of 60. That's seven
15 percent of the total and they generate less than
16 seven percent of the Northwest power. So is 60 the
17 right number? Is 64 the right number of dams?
18 What's wrong with the number 56? That's still a lot
19 of damn dams.

20 So the salmon and steelhead and orcas and
21 the people that depend on them, commercial fishers,
22 tribal fishers, recreational fishers, professional
23 guides that serve recreational fishermen, and
24 businesses in small towns like Orofino, Idaho,
25 depend on people coming back and supporting their

1 economy. They've lost a lot of business over the
2 last several years because the fish are not
3 returning to Idaho and they're not returning to
4 Eastern Washington in significant numbers.

5 Talking about the seven percent of the
6 dams, we also need to recognize that a,
7 quote/unquote, balanced approach has led to a 95
8 percent reduction in wild salmon and steelhead that
9 come back to the Columbia Snake River system. It
10 used to be between 15 and 20 million salmon and
11 steelhead came back every year and nobody had to do
12 anything. They just showed up by the grace of God
13 and creation and biology, and that's amazing.

14 And so now we're talking about balancing
15 out the last five percent. So I don't know why we
16 can't lose seven percent of the dams, but we have to
17 go ahead and lose 95-plus percent of the salmon.

18 Anyway. Felton Jenkins is my name.
19 Professionally, I'm a (indiscernible) financial
20 analyst. I own my own investment management
21 business. I'm an economist, got an MBA degree. And
22 this is an economic problem as well as an ecological
23 problem. It's a --

24 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
25 remaining.

1 **AL JENKINS:** -- disaster on both fronts.
2 So I just I wish you'd consider that. I live on the
3 Columbia River. I pay a lot of money to fish and be
4 active and recreate on the Columbia system. And I
5 drive to Idaho to fish when the fishery's open; it
6 got closed this past year, first time in a long
7 time. Probably the first time ever. Anyway, and I
8 spent a lot of money on hunting and fishing licenses
9 in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and Montana
10 and Idaho, well over 1,000 bucks in the past couple
11 of years. And that doesn't include money for guides
12 --

13 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

14 **AL JENKINS:** -- lodging, food, et cetera,
15 et cetera. Thanks a lot.

16 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
17 move to the next caller, please.

18 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
19 line of Dave Schneider. Dave Schneider, your line
20 is open for comment now; please go ahead.

21 **DAVE SCHNEIDER:** Good evening. I am Dave
22 Schneider, the General Manager of Midstate Electric
23 Cooperative. Thank you for the opportunity to
24 comment on the draft EIS.

25 **MS. HABIBI:** Excuse me, Dave. We're

1 having a hard time hearing your line. If there's a
2 way for you to get either closer to your microphone
3 --

4 **DAVE SCHNEIDER:** Is that better?

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, that's much better.

6 Thank you.

7 **DAVE SCHNEIDER:** Okay. Thank you. Good
8 evening. I am Dave Schneider, the General Manager
9 of Midstate Electric Cooperative. Thank you for the
10 opportunity to comment on the draft EIS.

11 Midstate Electric is a rural electric
12 cooperative located in La Pine, Oregon, that
13 provides electric service to over 36,000 citizens
14 and 2,000 businesses in four counties in Central
15 Oregon. One hundred percent of our power is from
16 the Bonneville Power Administration.

17 Midstate Electric is relieved that the EIS
18 rejected Multiple Objective 3, breaching the lower
19 four Snake River dams and rejected increased spill
20 as envisioned by the Multiple Objective 4. Both
21 MOUs would have had major adverse effects on rates
22 that could cause up to a 50 percent increase in
23 wholesale power cost.

24 The 50 percent increase in BPA's rate
25 could lead to an increase of several hundred dollars

1 a year for our members. Demographically, most of
2 our members are senior citizens and many on fixed
3 incomes. They should not have to choose between
4 medicine, food, or paying their electric bill.

5 Those that believe maintaining reliable
6 power grid is important for the health and well-
7 being of our communities. Midstate Electric takes
8 seriously our commitment to keep the lights on for
9 everyone.

10 The DEIS concludes MO-3 and MO-4 creates a
11 higher risk of brownouts and blackouts in the
12 Pacific Northwest. It is not uncommon for
13 temperatures to be well below zero in Midstate
14 Electric service territory. Reliable base load
15 generation is critical for the safety of our
16 communities. Our resource needs can almost double
17 overnight due do huge temperature swings that can
18 last anywhere from a couple of hours to weeks.
19 These are the times that Midstate Electric needs
20 insurance against blackouts, which is exactly what
21 the hydro system provides.

22 Wind and solar implement and cannot alone
23 meet the needs of the grid to have a precise balance
24 of electricity production and consumption. Although
25 battery storage is being developed to make wind and

1 solar resources more reliable, they're a long way
2 from being economical and having the needed storage
3 capacity for our service territory with our cold
4 weather extremes.

5 In conclusion, Midstate Electric supports
6 the preferred alternative that provides the best
7 blueprint to benefit the ESA-listed fish, reduces
8 the risk of power shortages with carbon-free base
9 generation, and meets the other multiple purposes
10 the federal hydro system provides.

11 Thank you for this opportunity to comment.
12 We will be submitting written technical comments as
13 well. I yield my remaining time.

14 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
15 to our next caller, I'd like to take a moment to
16 welcome anyone who's joined us. This is your
17 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. This is a public
18 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO draft
19 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
20 press one then zero to add your name to the queue.

21 Agency officials remain on the line to
22 hear your comments. I'll let Jim speak for a
23 moment.

24 **MR. FREDERICKS:** All right. This is Jim
25 Fredericks with the Corps of Engineers. And I want

1 to thank all the people that have had comments and
2 thank the people for listening. We are listening
3 and we appreciate both the passionate and well
4 thought out comments.

5 So I'll let you guys get back at it. But
6 thank you.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** And this is Maryam again.
8 Just a reminder, if you'd like to provide a comment,
9 you may press one then zero to add your name to the
10 queue. And if you do provide comments, you're
11 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.

12 Currently there are 51 callers in queue.
13 Operator, you may go to the next line,
14 please.

15 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
16 line of Dan Drase (phonetic). Dan Drase, your line
17 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

18 **DAN DRASE:** Thank you. And I hope my
19 phone doesn't die during this. My name is Dan
20 Drase. I'd like to thank the action agencies for
21 holding this session. I'm a retired federal
22 employee. I was an environmental protection
23 specialist at the Department of Transportation. I
24 prepared and oversaw dozens of environmental
25 assessments and quite a few EISs. I also assisted

1 our regional counsel in defending these documents
2 when we were sued. I'm glad to say we didn't lose
3 any of those lawsuits. I have also worked on EISS
4 as an attorney in private practice and as a staff
5 member of nonprofits.

6 So knowing what is involved in putting
7 together one of these things, I have to say I don't
8 envy the team that had to prepare this one.

9 First, I note that the document says --
10 I'm sorry. First I'll talk about a process issue.
11 I'm kind of surprised that you're not extending the
12 comment period. My agency would likely have allowed
13 an extended comment period for (indiscernible) scope
14 and importance and controversy, even without a
15 global pandemic interfering in the ability of the
16 public and the tribes and the agencies to review and
17 comment on it.

18 I think it's generally unwise and
19 inefficient not to take advantage of the input that
20 you can get at this stage of the process to make a
21 better final document, especially because you're on
22 a extremely tight timeline and especially because
23 you're going to get sued no matter what you do, you
24 might as well make a bulletproof document and take
25 advantage of what you're going to hear from people

1 who are critical of it and fix those things now,
2 because the flaws that are not raised and addressed
3 now may well support successful appeals further on.

4 In terms of substance, the EIS repeats
5 frequently how it attempts to balance a number of
6 competing demands; I understand that. But to the
7 extent that the Endangered Species Act comes into
8 play, I don't think you get to balance those other
9 interests. ESA allows for the creation of a God
10 Squad to say that the government's going to ignore
11 ESA. But otherwise, the government has to comply
12 with federal law. It has to comply with the
13 Endangered Species Act, which requires agencies to
14 conserve the listed species. And conserve under the
15 act means to use all methods and procedures which
16 are necessary to bring endangered species out from
17 under the act, to recover them.

18 And your document, by its own admission,
19 does not come anywhere close to recovering the
20 listed species. And this is why you guys have lost
21 five lawsuits on biological opinions, because you're
22 flouting --

23 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
24 remaining.

25 **DAN DRASE:** -- the Endangered Species Act.

1 Similarly, the agencies have to respect tribal
2 sovereignty and the resources of those sovereigns
3 deemed critical both because of its trust
4 obligations and because of its treaty obligations.

5 And I can't help but think that many of
6 those affected tribes find the preferred alternative
7 falls far short of meeting those requirements.

8 I'll submit the rest of my requirements in
9 writing. For the record, I don't believe the EIS is
10 now legally adequate to support taking any action.

11 And in closing, I'd just like to quote
12 Congressman Mike Simpson. Those dams produce 3,000
13 megawatts of power. You can produce power
14 differently. Everything we do, we can do
15 differently. Salmon need one thing; they need a
16 river.

17 Thank you for listening.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
19 move to the next caller, please.

20 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
21 line of Kim Jones. Kim Jones, your line is now open
22 for comment; please go ahead.

23 **KIM JONES:** Hi. I am a concerned
24 Washington citizen; extremely, extremely concerned
25 about this whole ecosystem of Washington state. And

1 it's basically in violation of the Endangered
2 Species Act to blatantly fail to protect wild
3 Chinook salmon as well as the Southern Resident
4 orca.

5 And the only real way is breaching the
6 lower four Snake River dams in 2020. And we, as
7 people, can adapt to agricultural needs, but our
8 salmon and our whales and our ecosystem simply
9 cannot. And the impact economically is
10 immeasurable, really.

11 And I've had people -- I've heard people
12 in previous calls say, let's look at the big
13 picture. But the big picture's extinction, you
14 guys. And this is serious, and we need to breach
15 the dams.

16 And I yield the rest of my time.

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
18 move to the next caller, please.

19 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next comment
20 comes from the line of Dallas Reed. Dallas Reed,
21 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

22 **DALLAS REED:** Great. Thank you. First of
23 all, land use versus electricity produced from any
24 other electricity -- energy source is unmatched.
25 And the cost to remove the dams increases the cost

1 of alternative energy.

2 If we're worried about carbon emissions,
3 what's going to happen when truck traffic and rail
4 traffic increases?

5 I'm getting the sense that not everybody
6 listening in and chiming in here is from Eastern
7 Washington. But did you know that it takes a train
8 six hours to get from Spokane to Tri-Cities as it
9 stands? So if rail traffic increases, that time is
10 going to increase.

11 And let's not overlook the disgusting
12 cesspool that the Puget Sound is. So in regard to
13 the Southern Residents and maybe some of the
14 chemicals that are washed into the Puget Sound from
15 Seattle and the greater Seattle area, birth control
16 could very well be the number one reason for
17 unsuccessful reproduction for the Southern Resident.
18 Not to mention heroin and other opioids that are
19 rinsed into the Puget Sound.

20 So as far as the salmon supply from the
21 Snake River, NOAA has found that 90 percent of the
22 diet from the Chinook for the Southern Residents
23 come from the Fraser River in British Columbia. And
24 during the other half of the year, the orcas are so
25 far out that scientists don't even know what the

1 hell they eat.

2 And if all that needs to be done is to
3 help supplement fish for orcas, which is what
4 hatcheries are, just a supplement, and I think
5 they're supposed to produce somewhere around two
6 percent of the salmon population for recreational
7 needs and supplemental population needs, why don't
8 we just increase the flow during times when juvenile
9 salmon are out migrating.

10 I think that barging salmon, juvenile
11 salmon down the Snake River is actually pretty
12 successful, somewhere to the tune of 93 percent
13 survival rate, according to the Army Corps of
14 Engineers website.

15 And obviously there's a whole bunch of
16 other hurdles that migrating juvenile salmon
17 encounter due to slow water. So increasing flow is
18 probably a great idea, especially because that's
19 usually in the spring when there's an abundance of
20 water in most years, which would also, in turn, lead
21 into irrigation for crops and storage of energy for
22 other times.

23 And I think somebody earlier said that our
24 greatest peak period is when there's a time of least
25 use electrically. When we talk about alternative

1 energy, and I assume everybody's mind just goes to
2 wind and solar, but wind is \$2.2 million per
3 megawatt. And in a small stretch of river, near the
4 Columbia River, 35 miles south of Goldendale east up
5 river, there's 20 project sites. Those 20 projects
6 site include 829 turbines. That's a bunch, to the
7 tune of \$2.2 million per megawatt. There's seven --

8 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
9 remaining.

10 **DALLAS REED:** -- 1,742 megawatts for those
11 20 project sites. Unmatched. John Day Dam is right
12 there; it produces 2,160 megawatts.

13 Increase the flow; increase fish survival.

14 I yield the rest of my time. Thank you.

15 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
16 move to the next caller, please.

17 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
18 line of Ajir Rajgavari (sic). Rajir Rajgabari
19 (sic), your line is now open for comment; please go
20 ahead.

21 **AJIT RAJBHANDARI:** Hi. My name is Ajit
22 Rajbhandari, and I live in Boise, Idaho. I am a
23 small business owner.

24 Those with vested interest in this dam and
25 those generally opposed to breaching have for

1 decades. (Indiscernible) complicated issue. But
2 the public is beginning to understand that there is
3 only one solution, which is bypassing those dams.
4 So basically taking the smaller dams out.

5 The problem is quite simple; there's not
6 enough flow to carry smolts quickly and safely out
7 to the sea and adults, particularly steelhead and
8 sockeye salmons suffer from overheated water,
9 meaning flat water reservoirs. And then the
10 reservoirs subject smolts to enhanced predator for
11 an abnormally long time.

12 Lack of flow means that smolts cannot
13 migrate swiftly enough to the ocean. Obviously if
14 juveniles don't survive, there are too few adults to
15 return to spawn (indiscernible) fish and wildlife.
16 It is an issue of extreme smolt mortality, either en
17 route to the ocean or after they reach the ocean in
18 a compromised state of health in the journey the
19 altered river system.

20 Salmon are facing extinction. We may have
21 never have the opportunity to restore the population
22 again. The preferred alternative in the contract
23 EIS would fail to restore the lower Snake River to
24 its natural free-flowing state, the one that's
25 necessary to restore the fish.

1 I would say bring back the salmon, retire
2 the four lower Snake dams, restore the conditions
3 like (indiscernible) legacy. It's only four dams
4 we're talking about.

5 I wish to reject the current draft EIS.
6 Thank you. I yield my time.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
8 move to the next caller, please.

9 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
10 line of Shiva Rajbhandari. Shiva Rajbhandari, your
11 line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

12 **SHIVA RAJBHANDARI:** Hello. My name is
13 Shiva Rajbhandari, and I'm a freshman at North
14 Junior High in Boise, Idaho.

15 The four lower Snake River dams are a
16 financial burden to Idaho taxpayers and ratepayers,
17 and that burden is likely to increase sharply in the
18 near future as expensive repair costs are incurred.
19 Today, taxpayers that support the operation and
20 maintenance of these dams get back 17 cents for
21 every dollar invested.

22 The dams do not supply energy that is
23 needed by Idahoans. They simply contribute to a
24 surplus of energy. As much as 16 percent power
25 surplus in the Pacific Northwest in 2016. If it is

1 needed at all in the future, it can be supplied by
2 less lethal generating sources.

3 By preventing wild salmon from returning
4 to their pristine Idaho habitat, these dams suppress
5 an economic opportunity unique to the lower 48 -
6 sport fishing in a wild pristine, incredibly
7 beautiful natural setting.

8 The dams keep the city of Lewiston stuck
9 in a dream of the past, a booming inland seaport.
10 This seaport is rarely profitable. Lewiston and
11 Riggins is easily transitioned to a vastly more
12 successful economy based upon a sport fishing
13 economy that is valued at about \$500 million
14 annually.

15 Idaho needs salmon policies that are
16 effective, scientifically sound, lawful, and
17 fiscally responsible. The draft EIS is none of the
18 above. It is time to make smart investments that
19 recover our fish while protecting our energy and
20 agricultural communities.

21 By bringing stakeholders together and
22 pursuing creative solutions, we can realize the
23 economic and ecological benefits of a free-flowing
24 river while ensuring that BPA is financially sound
25 and can continue to provide cost-effective

1 electricity to the region. Bypass the dams, restore
2 the river, bring back our salmon, and reject this
3 DEIS.

4 Thank you. I yield my time.

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
6 move to the next caller, please.

7 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
8 line of Rachel Park. Rachel Park, your line is now
9 open for comment; please go ahead.

10 Rachel, is your line muted? It's opened
11 on this end. Rachel Park, your line is open for
12 comment? Is your line muted on your end?

13 We'll go to the next person. The next
14 comment is from the line of Jacob Schmidt. Jacob
15 Schmidt, your line is now open for comment; please
16 go ahead.

17 **JACOB SCHMIDT:** Hi. My name's Jacob
18 Schmidt and I live in Spokane Washington. I'd like
19 to voice a few issues I have with the CRSO draft
20 EIS.

21 Having read the executive summary, I
22 believe that this process is really flawed from the
23 outset. The stated objectives of the EIS are to
24 operate the system in a way that, quote, improves
25 fish survival. And you divide it into four parts

1 here. But also to provide lost-cost electricity
2 with minimal greenhouse gas emissions and reliable
3 water supply.

4 Failure to meet Endangered Species Act
5 benchmarks for salmon recovery is what instigated
6 this renewed process in the first place. Yet, your
7 own objectives fall far short of what would be
8 required to achieve that and stay out of the
9 courtroom for the sixth time.

10 If you only seek to improve fish survival
11 rather than setting a more reasonable goal of
12 achieving fish recovery, you will never develop a
13 plan that means ESA requirements.

14 Why is it that when it comes to the power
15 supply and the shipping channel there's no room for
16 failure, but when it comes to the fish we give out
17 points just for trying?

18 The preferred alternative draws heavily
19 from the 2008 biological opinion that was ruled
20 inadequate, which established the survival goal of
21 96 percent for juvenile migration at each dam in the
22 spring and 93 percent at each dam in the summer.
23 While that might sound like an impressive survival
24 rate, when you multiply that over eight dams that
25 Snake River salmon must traverse, you get a 32 to 56

1 percent die-off of juvenile fish across the system.

2 And that's if you meet the goal that you set for
3 yourselves.

4 Allowing for that level of mortality at
5 the project themselves, not to mention the mortality
6 that occurs at other points in the reservoir chain,
7 we will never get close to recovering the Snake
8 basin.

9 The improvements at each of the four lower
10 Snake dams and lower Columbia dams have helped to
11 achieve the survival rates that federal entities set
12 as a goal, yet salmon, steelhead, and the whole web
13 of life that rely on them for food are still
14 slipping toward extinction.

15 Continuing down the road of installing
16 extremely expensive bypass systems rather than
17 taking an honest look at the value of the projects
18 themselves, makes neither biological nor fiscal
19 sense.

20 If the federal entities and, by extension,
21 the tax and rate payers ever want to be free of the
22 high cost of Endangered Species Act-mandated salmon
23 mitigation, then they need to work with regional
24 stakeholders, sovereigns, and legislators to fund
25 replacement infrastructure for the four lower Snake

1 River dams so that those dams can be removed.

2 This action alone would be capable of
3 reducing the river temperature from Pasco to
4 Lewiston to a survivable level, which, in turn,
5 would reduce predation of juvenile salmon and
6 steelhead in that section of the river.

7 I see this as a tremendous opportunity for
8 the people of Eastern Washington, Oregon, and North
9 Idaho to have a say in the overhaul of their road
10 and rail network with federal and state money, while
11 also receiving the benefits of a boom in recreation
12 and ecology-related spending in their region. After
13 all, it's going to take a lot of hands --

14 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
15 remaining.

16 **JACOB SCHMIDT:** -- to replant the riparian
17 zone of a free-flowing Snake River and someone is
18 going to have to feed all of the tourists who will
19 come to catch steelhead.

20 There's a bright future to be achieved,
21 but the structure of this process will never bring
22 us there. Thank you.

23 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
24 move to the next caller, please.

25 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the

1 line of Kurt Miller. Kurt Miller, your line is now
2 open for comment; please go ahead.

3 **KURT MILLER:** Hi, and thank you. My name
4 is Kurt Miller. I'm the Executive Director for
5 Northwest RiverPartners.

6 I'd like to take this opportunity to
7 personally thank our over 60 not-for-profit utility
8 members as well as our port and agricultural members
9 who are maintaining critical services during this
10 time of national emergency. We are all grateful for
11 what you do in keeping society going, and thank you.

12 Tonight I will focus my comments on salmon
13 and steelhead. At this point with multiple studies,
14 including the DEIS, that have demonstrated that
15 removing the lower Snake River dams would cause
16 tremendous harm to the region's carbon reduction and
17 socioeconomic goals, it is fair to ask, do we have
18 proof that breaching the lower Snake River dams
19 would actually return Snake River salmon to self-
20 sustaining numbers?

21 It will probably surprise many people to
22 find out that the answer to that question is no,
23 that the EIS used two models to determine the likely
24 adult salmon returns to the lower Snake River as the
25 result of dam breaching. One model showed up to a

1 170 percent increase in returning adults. The other
2 model showed a 14 percent increase in returning
3 adults.

4 That kind of result doesn't prove the dam
5 breaching will work. It only proves that there is a
6 high degree of uncertainty. The 14 percent increase
7 in salmon returns, importantly, would not return
8 salmon to self-sustaining numbers in the lower Snake
9 River.

10 I believe very few people on this call
11 would argue that sort of increase would merit the
12 hardships to communities that dam breaching would
13 cause. It's important to realize that juvenile
14 sockeye salmon and the hydro system from Lower
15 Granite Dam to Bonneville Dam survive at nearly the
16 same rates, 46 percent, as salmon before they
17 entered the hydro system from Redfish Lake to Lower
18 Granite Dam at 48 percent.

19 This is according to data from NOAA
20 fisheries covering the period of 1997 to 2018.
21 During that same time period, spring Chinook smolt
22 survival from Lower Granite Dam to Bonneville Dam
23 averaged 50 percent.

24 A 2013 peer review study in the
25 prestigious Proceedings of National Academy of

1 Sciences showed that salmon pass through the lower
2 Snake River and lower Columbia rivers as they do
3 through the free-flowing Fraser River.

4 Lastly, in 2014, the independent
5 scientific advisory board found in its critique of
6 the comparative survival study model, that increased
7 spill levels have not proven to have a cause-and-
8 effect relationship to adult salmon return rates
9 because there are too many moving parts in the river
10 and the ocean ecosystems. In essence, this finding
11 indicates that the theory of dam-caused latent
12 mortality is also unproven.

13 On the other hand --

14 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
15 remaining.

16 **KURT MILLER:** -- it has been well
17 documented that warming to a point in oceans may be
18 causing salmon populations around the world to
19 decline at a near synchronous rate. These declines
20 have from been felt from Southern Oregon to
21 Southeastern Alaska and include both rivers with and
22 without dams.

23 In 2019, the United Nations
24 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that
25 these conditions are being --

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

2 **KURT MILLER:** -- caused by climate change.

3 Thank you.

4 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
5 move to the next caller, please.

6 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
7 line of Jessica Zimmerel (sic). Jessica Zimmerel,
8 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

9 **JESSICA ZIMMERLE:** Good evening. My name
10 is Jessica Zimmerle and I am the Permanent Outreach
11 Director at Earth Ministry in Washington Interfaith
12 Power and Light. We're a statewide organization
13 that engages faith communities in environmental
14 justice and stewardship. And my job is to inform
15 and mobilize congregations and clergy to put their
16 faith in action.

17 And one issue area where people of faith
18 are quick to speak up is in support of tribal treaty
19 rights. Why? Well, because we have a moral
20 obligation to uphold our promises made to native
21 nations.

22 Earth Ministry has been honored to partner
23 with the Nez Perce group Niimiipuu for protecting
24 the environment. And at their request, we have
25 helped hold space for dialog that explores river

1 management solutions that work for everyone. In the
2 process of doing so, we've heard numerous tribal
3 leaders share how their communities' livelihood and
4 culture have been profoundly and adversely affected
5 by the loss of Columbia and Snake River salmon.

6 Treaty rights should not be treated as an
7 afterthought. Sovereign nations are not just
8 another stakeholder. The first peoples of this land
9 have the inherent and treaty-protected right to fish
10 in their usual and accustomed places.

11 It is unacceptable that five plans over 30
12 years have failed to meet salmon recovery goals,
13 thereby violating this important treaty right. We
14 must do better. And I'm sad to say the
15 preferred alternative offered in this DEIS fails to
16 do so.

17 Flexible spill is not sufficient. We need
18 a free-flowing lower Snake River. Pitting clean
19 energy versus salmon recovery is a false choice. We
20 can have both.

21 Overall economic benefits vastly outweigh
22 the cost of restoring the river, which is still less
23 than what taxpayers currently subsidize.

24 People across the Northwest are calling
25 for you to go beyond the status quo to manage the

1 river so that all may thrive. We can work together,
2 can craft inclusive solutions, and can meet the
3 needs of both fish and people.

4 At a recent tribal-wide event, a native
5 speaker reminded us that each U.S. citizen has a
6 responsibility to hold our government accountable
7 for the treaties we have signed.

8 This management plan is an opportunity for
9 the United States to uphold our treaties and
10 reconcile with native neighbors. Speaking for my
11 own Christian tradition, we must, in good
12 conscience, do the work of reconciling with
13 Northwest tribes.

14 I ask that you honor the commitment that
15 the U.S. Government has made to the Nez Perce,
16 Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes by
17 restoring a free-flowing lower Snake River to help
18 recover salmon and steelhead. Doing so is not only
19 the law, but the right thing to do.

20 Thank you. And I yield the rest of my
21 time.

22 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
23 move to the next caller, please.

24 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
25 line of Cindy Hansen. Cindy Hansen, your line now

1 is open for comment; go ahead, please.

2 **CINDY HANSEN:** Thank you. My name is
3 Cindy Hansen, and I'm representing the nonprofit
4 Orca Network.

5 We would like to express our
6 disappointment that the draft EIS does not
7 adequately represent the importance of Columbia
8 basin salmon to the endangered Southern Resident
9 orcas and it fails to recognize the biological need
10 of Southern Residents to have continuous access to
11 salmon from a variety of river systems throughout
12 their range.

13 The report states that Puget Sound Chinook
14 salmon stocks are more important than Snake River
15 stocks due to their availability for greater periods
16 of the year. However, we know from a variety of
17 research and data sources that Southern Resident
18 orcas spend over half the year in coastal waters and
19 that Columbia basin salmon make up over half of
20 their outer coastal diet.

21 We also know, as evidenced in 2018 and
22 2019, that Southern Residents will shift their
23 patterns and feed off the coast during the summer
24 when there is little to no salmon available in the
25 Salish Sea, underscoring the importance of these

1 coastal runs as Puget Sound and Fraser River stocks
2 continue to decline or fail to improve.

3 Of the alternatives presented in the draft
4 EIS, MO-3, Snake River dam breaching plus increased
5 spill over the Columbia River dams, represents the
6 best chance of recovery for Snake River salmon and
7 for Southern Resident orcas.

8 The benefits of dam breaching were
9 demonstrated in a recent whitepaper entitled
10 Southern Resident Killer Whales and Columbia Snake
11 River Chinook, A Review of the Available Scientific
12 Evidence, which was written by five PhDs. We urge
13 you to read it in its entirety.

14 Our concern is that the preferred
15 alternative is going to simply repeat the status quo
16 and do little more than incorporate the interim
17 agreement for increased spill. While this agreement
18 is certainly a positive step for salmon, it is not
19 enough to result in the salmon recovery needed for
20 the survival of Southern Resident orcas and to
21 restore salmon and cultural resources that were lost
22 to local tribes.

23 In 2018, Governor Inslee, Southern
24 Resident Orca Task Force recommended a stakeholder
25 process to discuss potential breaching or removal of

1 the lower Snake River dams. This process was just
2 completed. And while the final report is not
3 perfect, we do not want to see this time and effort
4 wasted. We would like to see some of this
5 information incorporated into a dam removal plan and
6 use to support stakeholders and make them whole as
7 they transition to a free-flowing Snake River that
8 can continue to meet their needs.

9 Finally, we would like to request that you
10 extend the current comment period. There was not
11 enough time initially to read and understand a
12 document of this magnitude. And given current
13 events we feel that --

14 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
15 remaining.

16 **CINDY HANSEN:** -- the public needs more
17 time to read and digest this information and give it
18 the attention it deserves so they can prepare
19 educated and thoughtful comments.

20 Thank you. And I yield any further time.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
22 to the next caller, I'd like to take a moment to
23 welcome anyone who's joined us. This is your
24 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. This is a public
25 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO draft

1 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
2 press one then zero to add your name to the queue.

3 Currently there are 46 callers in queue.

4 Agency officials from U.S. Army Corps of
5 Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville
6 Power Administration remain on the line to hear your
7 comments. Though we are not responding to questions
8 or comments during this meeting or providing
9 additional presentation, the agencies do welcome and
10 will consider your comments in developing the final
11 EIS, which will be released this summer.

12 If you provide comments, you're welcome to
13 remain on the line to hear from others.

14 Operator, you may move to the next caller,
15 please.

16 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
17 line of Asa Menlove. Asa Menlove, your line is now
18 open for comment; please go ahead.

19 **ASA MENLOVE:** Thank you. My name is Asa
20 Menlove, and I'm an 18-year-old high school student
21 from Boise, Idaho, and I care about salmon and
22 steelhead.

23 Just an hour ago, we felt a 6.5 magnitude
24 earthquake in Boise, and I'm hoping that we got
25 lucky and the four lower Snake River dams felt it,

1 too. But unfortunately, I think it'll take more
2 than that to knock them down.

3 I am neither impressed nor surprised by
4 the quality of work displayed in this DEIS. As many
5 could have predicted this document accomplishes
6 nothing more than its predecessors and is, once
7 again, the same, chew it up and spit out
8 information, repackaged.

9 The preferred alternative suggested by
10 authors is entirely inadequate if we, as a country,
11 are to accomplish our goals of ensuring that salmon
12 and steelhead return to healthy and sustainable
13 populations.

14 As I'm sure that most of you are aware,
15 the best available science tells us that if we do
16 not breach the four lower Snake River dams, these
17 fish will go extinct. The dams must come down and
18 they must come down now. While increased flow
19 capacity through the dams during peak runs is a step
20 in the right direction, it will, at best, only
21 slightly loosen the stranglehold that we placed on
22 these fish.

23 In the long term, this plan is meaningless
24 and it's the same exact one that's been deemed
25 illegal five different times. This plan fails to

1 meet ecological standards and it also fails to
2 ensure that the livelihood of the Pacific Northwest
3 tribes and the thousands of small businesses all
4 throughout the Pacific Northwest that rely on these
5 fish.

6 Since their construction, citizens of the
7 Pacific Northwest have been calling for the removal
8 of the four lower Snake River dams and we've been
9 shut down year after year. Everything I love about
10 the West rides on the backs of salmon: our cold,
11 clean rivers; vast green forests; diverse
12 ecosystems; and rich cultural heritage.

13 I've been fortunate enough to grow up
14 rafting and fishing our rivers, skiing our mountains
15 and recreating in our beautiful forests. These
16 activities have become structurally integral to my
17 well-being as a person, both mentally and
18 physically. Idaho's wild things and places are the
19 reasons that I'll always call this state my home,
20 and defending them means defending salmon and
21 steelhead.

22 As a young person, nothing frustrates me
23 more than when out-of-touch adults tell me that
24 slightly more affordable power for an extreme
25 minority is worth more than the ecological future of

1 my home.

2 Are these acts of environmental and social
3 injustice worth protecting a failing system?

4 Absolutely not.

5 Each industry that these dams benefit
6 could make adjustments to accommodate their
7 breaching. It will take effort and it will take new
8 ideas, but I know that we are capable.

9 You have the opportunity here to be
10 leaders for the entire country. By breaching the
11 four lower Snake River dams, you would be defending
12 the West's ecosystems --

13 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
14 remaining.

15 **ASA MENLOVE:** Thank you. -- you'd be
16 defending the West's ecosystems, history, culture,
17 and citizens. And I ask that you include dam
18 breaching as the preferred alternative in the final
19 EIS.

20 I cede the rest of my time. Thank you.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
22 move to the next caller, please.

23 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
24 line of Brad Tuftly. Brad Tuftly, your line is now
25 open for comment; please go ahead.

1 Brad Tuftly, your line is now open. Are
2 you in mute?

3 Once again, Brad Tuftly, your line is
4 open.

5 Getting no response, I will release the
6 line.

7 Our next comment comes from the line of
8 Mark Hayden. Mark Hayden, your line is now open for
9 comment; please go ahead.

10 One moment, please.

11 **MARK HAYDEN:** (In progress) -- in Western
12 Montana and Eastern Idaho. Thank you for the
13 opportunity to provide comment on the draft EIS.

14 My electric co-op members rely on the
15 clean, renewable, and carbon-free generation of the
16 entire federal Columbia River power system. And we
17 recognize that protecting salmon while at the same
18 time maintaining a clean, affordable power system is
19 a serious challenge that we cannot ignore.

20 However, it's clear to us that the salmon
21 issue is far bigger than the future of the lower
22 Snake River dams. Narrowly framing the challenge as
23 a hydropower problem ignores key issues associated
24 with harvest, hatcheries, habitat, ocean conditions,
25 and predation.

1 We must also maintain a dependable power
2 system. Can you imagine navigating the current
3 public health crisis without reliable electric
4 power?

5 The draft EIS also confirms the importance
6 of the lower Snake River dams to the regions clean
7 energy goals and demonstrates that without the lower
8 Snake River dams in place, the threat of region-wide
9 blackouts would double.

10 For these reasons and more, dam breaching
11 must be rejected as an option to assist salmon
12 recovery.

13 The draft EIS also indicates that the cost
14 of replacing clean energy benefits provided by the
15 lower Snake River dams would add \$1 billion annually
16 to electricity costs. For millions of people across
17 the Northwest, this would result in a 25 percent
18 increase in their monthly energy bills.

19 At Missoula Electric Co-op, we believe
20 that salmon do need our help. But we also believe
21 strongly that the lower Snake River dams are
22 absolutely critical to my members and to our entire
23 region.

24 I will be submitting detailed written
25 comments as well, and I thank you again for the

1 opportunity to comment tonight. I yield my
2 remaining time.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
4 move to the next line, please.

5 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. One moment. Our
6 next comment comes from the line of Colleen Whiter
7 (sic). Colleen Whiter, your line is now open for
8 comment; please go ahead.

9 **COLLEEN WEILER:** Thank you. My name is
10 Colleen Weiler. I'm the Jessica Rekos Fellow for
11 Orca Conservation with Whale and Dolphin
12 Conservation, and I live in Newport, Oregon.

13 I would first like to say that the short
14 time allowed for this comment period, particularly
15 in the midst of a global crisis is insufficient for
16 the public to review and provide much-needed input.
17 The timeline adopted by the agencies also limits
18 their ability to fully consider the extensive
19 ecosystem impacts of the CRSO and the DEIS is
20 lacking information in several key areas, especially
21 for the Southern Resident orcas.

22 The primary threat to the survival of this
23 unique population is a lack of their main food,
24 Chinook salmon, throughout their range. Data
25 increasingly shows that salmon from various river

1 systems in the Pacific Northwest and California are
2 important to Southern Resident orcas at different
3 times of the year, and the movement of the orcas
4 through their habitat is tied to the return of
5 Chinook to these major river systems, including the
6 Columbia.

7 Research from the National Marine Fishery
8 Service shows the Columbia River is a hotspot for
9 the orcas and that more than half of the time they
10 spend in coastal waters is in the area between the
11 Columbia and Grays Harbor.

12 Chinook salmon from the Columbia basin
13 specifically comprise more than half of the Chinook
14 consumed by the orcas when they are in coastal
15 waters. However, the DEIS does not include any of
16 this information in its review and, therefore,
17 grossly under represents the importance of Columbia
18 and Snake River salmon, the survival of the Southern
19 Resident orcas.

20 We support breaching the four lower Snake
21 River dams and maximizing spill at other dams to
22 improve salmon survival and increase prey
23 availability for Southern Resident orcas.

24 The preferred alternative is only a minor
25 adjustment to status quo conditions which has not

1 been sufficient to support the recovery of Columbia
2 basin Chinook or of Southern Resident orcas.

3 The DEIS does not offer the region-wide
4 discussions or solutions that will be necessary to
5 support this transition and will not be enough to
6 support Northwest tribes and communities. A
7 restored Snake River provides ecosystem-wide
8 benefits that support a healthy river, habitat, and
9 the communities. But the DEIS and federal agencies
10 alone cannot accomplish this.

11 This is a time for Northwest policymakers,
12 stakeholders, leaders, and communities to work
13 together to create inclusive, science-based, and
14 supportive solutions for these region-wide issues.

15 Southern Resident orcas need more salmon
16 and salmon need healthy rivers. Pacific Northwest
17 communities need certainty. This process is a
18 stepping stone in moving towards a solution to work
19 for all parties, but it alone will not support
20 endangered species recovery or transitions for a
21 free-flowing river.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
23 And I yield the remainder of my time.

24 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
25 move to the next caller, please.

1 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. One moment. And
2 our next comment comes from the line of Dan (sic)
3 Thayne. Dan Thayne, your line is now open for
4 comment; please go ahead.

5 **STAN THAYNE:** Hello. My name is Stan
6 Thayne, and I'm a visiting assistant professor in
7 environmental studies and politics at Whitman
8 College in Walla Walla, Washington, though I am
9 speaking tonight -- or today as a private citizen.

10 I want to speak in favor of alternative
11 three in the DEIS, to breach the four lower Snake
12 River dams. From a historical perspective, it is
13 clear these four dams are controversial from the
14 very beginning before they were authorized,
15 precisely because of the negative impacts it would
16 have on salmon and particularly in migrating
17 juvenile salmon. And these concerns outweighed for
18 many the potential benefits.

19 There was intense opposition in the 1940s
20 and '50s, and many agency directors and politicians
21 were reluctant to repeat the errors and calamities
22 that had already been perpetuated upon salmon in
23 Europe, the East Coast, California, and the Columbia
24 main Salmon tributaries.

25 And even after Congress authorized these

1 dams, actual construction was stalled for years
2 because it was clear these dams would devastate
3 salmon runs.

4 Among the strategies that finally were
5 pivotal in pushing through the opposition, one was
6 an appeal to national beauty, an argument was made
7 that Hanford would need more power. That's a moot
8 point today, but I'd point out that we're still
9 trying to clean up the mess that that effort has
10 left us and these dams are not unlinked to that.

11 The second was basically congressional
12 maneuvering as this slid into a Civil Works
13 Appropriation bill. And ironically, then it was two
14 Democrats acting against Republican opposition to
15 the dams.

16 My point here is that these four dams went
17 in against the better judgment and opposition of
18 many agencies, citizens, scientists, and
19 politicians, but they are not the status quo.

20 And one point that's often made,
21 currently, in defense of that status quo is the
22 argument that power rates may increase for local
23 users. I would like to suggest that there are other
24 ways that agency heads could work to flatten out
25 increases by distributing that burden more broadly

1 in the region among the power users. And as a power
2 user, I would willingly pay more if that would help
3 others pay less to shoulder this burden. I think we
4 all throughout the region should do so.

5 Another defense that is often raising the
6 spectra of new coal plants to compensate for loss of
7 power generation. I suggest that there are
8 alternative routes we should pursue, including
9 responsible energy conservation practices.

10 And some economists have argued that
11 taking out just these four dams, and my comments are
12 specifically about these four dams, off the grid,
13 would have negligible overall effects.

14 And the DEIS is structured in such a way
15 that it obscures the very context that brought it
16 about. In 2016 and 2018, two court decisions
17 ordered an outdated biop and EIS would take into
18 account effects of climate change in considering the
19 impacts of the Columbia and Snake River system
20 operation on 13 species of --

21 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
22 remaining.

23 **STAN THAYNE:** -- population of threatened
24 and endangered steelhead and salmon. And I would
25 add also lamprey and freshwater mussels and all

1 other aspects of the threatened submerged and
2 strangled native ecology.

3 The DEIS itself makes clear that
4 alternative three, breaching the four lower Snake
5 River dams is the best choice for salmon, steelhead,
6 lamprey, and all other native life in the Snake and
7 Salmon River and tributaries.

8 And if I have a few seconds left, I'd just
9 like to second and affirm the comments made earlier
10 by Dan Drase and Jacob Schmidt about the Endangered
11 Species Act which does not allow simply balancing
12 out all these different interests as equal --

13 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

14 **STAN THAYNE:** -- issues. Thank you.

15 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
16 move to the next caller, please.

17 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. One moment. And
18 our next comment comes from the line of Jason
19 Williams. Jason Williams, your line is now open for
20 comment; please go ahead.

21 **JASON WILLIAMS:** Thank you. And thank you
22 for this opportunity. My name is Jason Williams,
23 and I'm the Assistant General Manager of Flathead
24 Electric Cooperative. Flathead Electric is a
25 nonprofit member-owned electric cooperative in

1 Northwest Montana.

2 I'd like to take this opportunity to voice
3 my support for the federal Columbia River power
4 system and, more specifically, express my opposition
5 to any consideration of breaching or removing the
6 four lower Snake River dams.

7 In this time of carbon consideration, the
8 last thing we should be thinking about is
9 diminishing the greatest carbon-free and renewable
10 generation system in the world. Carbon-emitting
11 base load generation is being removed all over the
12 region and can't be replaced with intermittent
13 generation such as wind and solar. Wind and solar
14 power cannot be compared to hydro when you look at
15 the intermittency of wind and solar and the
16 consistency of hydro.

17 Eliminating the large amount of base load
18 generation provided by the four lower Snake River
19 dams will exacerbate the problem we are headed to,
20 which is resource adequacy.

21 We cannot ignore the fact that we need a
22 dependable electric grid. Our members live in a
23 region that can have below zero temperatures for
24 days on end. In the I-5 corridor, a blackout would
25 be a serious and bothersome nuisance. But in our

1 service territory with the below zero temperatures,
2 people can die.

3 It is very important to recognize that the
4 CRSO draft EIS shows that losing the lower Snake
5 River dams would double the risk of region-wide
6 blackouts.

7 All of us at Flathead Electric support
8 strong and viable salmon population in the
9 Northwest. But salmon alone cannot be the sole
10 decision criteria when considering the fate of the
11 lower Snake River dams, nor can these dams be the
12 sole blame for changing salmon populations.

13 More emphasis needs to be put on ocean
14 conditions, predator control, and other factors
15 impacting salmon numbers and a comprehensive shared
16 solution be developed that recognizes the important
17 need for clean and reliable power service in this
18 modern world.

19 We ask you, the federal action agencies,
20 as you finalize the EIS and record of decision, that
21 you support the draft findings that are rooted in
22 sound science and provide a long-term meaningful
23 solution to the region's energy and environmental
24 challenges.

25 Thank you. I yield my remaining time.

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we go on
2 to the next caller, I'd like to take a moment to
3 welcome anyone who has joined us. This is your
4 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. This is a public
5 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO draft
6 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
7 press one then zero to add your name to the queue.

8 Agency officials remain on the line to
9 hear your comments. Though we're not responding to
10 questions or comments during this meeting or
11 providing additional presentation, the agencies
12 welcome and will consider your comments in
13 developing the final EIS, which will be released
14 this summer.

15 If you do provide comments, you are
16 welcome to remain on the line to hear from others.

17 Operator, you may move to the next caller.

18 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
19 line of Scott Simms. Scott Simms, your line is now
20 open for comment; please go ahead.

21 **SCOTT SIMMS:** Good evening. My name is
22 Scott Simms. I'm the Executive Director of the
23 Public Power Council, or PPC. We're the largest
24 regional association of nonprofit, consumer-owned
25 utilities in communities large and small about the

1 Pacific Northwest states whose electricity needs are
2 served in whole or in part by the Bonneville Power
3 Administration.

4 As suppliers of predominantly clean,
5 renewable hydropower to millions of Northwest
6 citizens, power member utilities work to balance
7 environmental stewardship and economic objectives so
8 we can continue safely and reliably delivering power
9 to communities 24/7.

10 The current COVID-19 pandemic only serves
11 to reinforce the reliable and accessible electricity
12 is a basic human service in our modern economy.

13 Today, I'd like to focus on the matters of
14 continued monitoring and adaptive management, with
15 are aspects of the preferred alternative that commit
16 federal co-agency resources to the review of action,
17 some of which remain untested in this preferred
18 alternative.

19 First and foremost, Public Power's
20 committed to mitigation efforts for impacts of
21 federal projects operations. Our approach is that
22 mitigation must scientific, cost-effective, and have
23 a nexus with these operations.

24 Improving survival, habitat, and
25 conditions for these fish is important to the

1 Northwest ecosystem, economy, and tribal way of
2 life. PPC members pay substantial fish and wildlife
3 costs through their wholesale power rate, on the
4 order of 25 percent or more. These funds pay for
5 fisheries that feed the ocean's food chain and feed
6 people.

7 The preferred alternative calls for an
8 unprecedented level of spill and resultant TDZ in
9 the Columbia River System. Specifically 125 percent
10 TDZ is untested and creates significant biological
11 uncertainty for the threatened endangered species
12 the operation is, in fact, intended to benefit.

13 We at PPC maintain that effective
14 monitoring for unintended consequences from TDZ is
15 essential, including ongoing transparency and public
16 availability of information. This is in
17 consideration that, first, the levels of TDZ in the
18 preferred alternative exceed those recommended by
19 the EPA and represent unchartered territory in
20 Columbia River basin operation. In trying to help
21 juvenile salmon, spill may result in compromising
22 resident fish, other river organisms, and salmon via
23 gas bubble trauma. And last, monitoring for gas
24 level trauma and other side effects would be
25 important to the adaptive management plan.

1 And speaking of adaptive management, the
2 federal co-lead agencies should consider the
3 following in the final EIS: given the different
4 predicted outcomes of the NOAA and CSS models are
5 directly conflicting, the federal agencies need to
6 establish a clear methodology to monitor and address
7 the impacts of the final EIS on basin fish and
8 wildlife and determine whether the measures help
9 meet the defined objective. The co-lead agencies
10 need --

11 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
12 remaining.

13 **SCOTT SIMMS:** Thank you. The co-lead
14 agencies need to be given the flexibility under the
15 final EIS to execute the adapted management plan.
16 Governance and decision making for these management
17 plans need to reflect the broad range of
18 stakeholders in the basin.

19 Thank you for your opportunity to comment
20 today. And I yield the rest of my time.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
22 move to the next caller, please.

23 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
24 line of Julie (sic) Todd. Judy Todd, your line is
25 now open for comment; please go ahead.

1 Judy Todd, your line is now open. Thank
2 you.

3 **JUDY TODD:** Yes, thank you. I wasn't sure
4 if you said Julie or Judy. So this is Judy Todd,
5 Portland, Oregon.

6 I'm calling today to oppose the plan as it
7 is currently in existence on this DEIS. I do
8 support the breaching of the lower Snake River dams.
9 And I know that today, in particular, being on this
10 call is an important part of the conversation, given
11 that we're in the middle of the coronavirus and all
12 the changes it's bringing us, all of the unknowns in
13 front of us that come with it.

14 It seems to me that what it's teaching us
15 is working together because everyone and everything
16 that is alive on the planet is affected by this
17 virus, although, we're the only ones who actually
18 are carrying it, yet, what future is unfolding in
19 front of us?

20 And what's that got to do with salmon,
21 orca, rivers, and dams? Well, I would suggest that
22 it has a lot to do with it, that learning to work
23 together in such a heated issue for over so many,
24 many decades as this one is, looking to the future
25 that is a bit uncertain in terms of how we're going

1 to navigate it in the coming days. We can't really
2 go back.

3 And yet, that's what this DEIS is having
4 us consider, is a kind of retrenchment to how we've
5 been doing things, living as if it's going to -- the
6 Earth's going to hold still somehow if we just do
7 enough mitigation. It isn't going to work that way.
8 It's not likely ever to work that way.

9 And so part of this is the coronavirus is
10 showing us so many blind spots right now. I suggest
11 that all the players get back to the table together
12 and try to work out what are the differentials that
13 are going to have the greatest impact on the coming
14 generations?

15 The young man who spoke earlier today, the
16 sixth grader, he's going to be affected for at least
17 50, 60, maybe 70 more years. Some of us on this
18 call are at the other end of that spectrum. We may
19 seem to have less investment, but we've seen this
20 change. We've seen what's happened on these rivers
21 and to these fish and to these orca and to many
22 other places in our world whose habitats over the
23 last 50 years have been degraded --

24 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
25 remaining.

1 **JUDY TODD:** -- (indiscernible) and
2 continue to be confronted day after day. We really
3 do have to do better, as the young man said. We
4 must do better and we must do it now. Get everybody
5 back to the table. Let's begin again. Let's take
6 this recess and make something new that saves lives
7 and has us working together as one. Thank you.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
9 move to the next caller, please.

10 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. And our next
11 comment comes from the line of Eloise Getton
12 (phonetic). Eloise Getton, your line is now open
13 for comment; please go ahead.

14 **ELOISE GETTON:** Thank you to consider my
15 comments. With my respect, the EIS from 2014 has
16 failed. You were already talking about immediate
17 need action in your alternative with involvement
18 (indiscernible) dragging at four location in the
19 lower Snake River and lower Clearwater River in
20 Washington and Idaho consist with the
21 (indiscernible) long-term PSMP in concurrence with
22 the PMSP's implementation. So we are now in 2020.
23 Salmon population are further decline. For example,
24 Snake River sockeye salmon were less endangered in
25 November 1991, and their listing was reaffirmed in

1 June 2005. So this list from 2005 includes five
2 anadromous salmon population and three anadromous
3 steelhead (indiscernible) population present in the
4 LSRP. And nothing in your actual past EIS indicate
5 the repercussion on the greater environment of the
6 ocean, including orcas from the -- sorry --
7 including the resident killer whale who are directly
8 impacted by. And they are already on the list since
9 2005 for the endangered species.

10 The federal agencies have spent nearly
11 three decades fighting in court to (indiscernible).
12 Five federal (indiscernible) have been declared
13 illegal by three federal judge.

14 The corps and Bonneville Power spend money
15 on (indiscernible) and on repeated plans with no
16 tangible results. The spending of this money could
17 have been avoided.

18 EPA documents show the four lower Snake
19 River dams have been a problem since the beginning,
20 by (indiscernible) Indentured Physicist Act, the
21 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 and the
22 Water Resource Development Act of 1976.

23 How long this complaint can continue
24 before you take the immediate and radical solution
25 that is breaching the obsolete salmon-killing dams.

1 How can it be true, the investigation led
2 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when all the EIS
3 documents don't match with your actual Environmental
4 Act?

5 Shipping distance means increase
6 maintenance cost year after year.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
8 remaining.

9 **ELOISE GATTON:** And the extinction of two
10 (indiscernible) species that is not a solution.
11 Please, stop wasting time and money and take action
12 to protect the environment and the endangered
13 species. There is no recovery for an extension. A
14 child talks about his future, and you should be
15 listening to what he said, because you are stealing
16 a future from generations to come.

17 So please, breach the dams.

18 Thank you for listening.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
20 move to the next caller, please.

21 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. And our next call
22 comes from the line of Tim Stearns. Tim Stearns,
23 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

24 **TIM STEARNS:** Hello. I've worked on
25 salmon recovery since the Endangered Species Act

1 filings in 1991. And this is yet a new
2 disappointing document and this is a very
3 disappointing process. Neither have moved the
4 region toward a resolution that restores salmon,
5 creates (indiscernible) stability for the power
6 system, or addresses the needs of affected
7 communities.

8 The analysis demonstrates that removal of
9 the four lower Snake dams has the highest likelihood
10 to restore viable salmon and steelhead populations.
11 Instead, the agencies crafted a preferred
12 alternative with yet a new laundry list of techno-
13 fixes and operational changes. They've had five
14 previous attempts of techno-fixes and operational
15 changes that have failed to restore the resource or
16 pass legal mustard. If they continue with that,
17 it's going to fail yet again in court, and the
18 region will not have the kind of stability that it
19 needs.

20 The document instead should have analyzed
21 what investments could have been made to mitigate
22 the impacts of dam removal. The region has 281
23 hydropower dams and 200 dams built for other
24 purposes in the Columbia River basin, according to
25 the Northwest Power Planning Council.

1 We're not talking about removing the
2 Columbia River hydro system, but we're talking about
3 rebalancing it so that it works for the broad range
4 of interests.

5 I'm empathetic for anybody in the basin
6 who's affected. My family, their farm, their
7 ranches, they got power from the hydropower system.
8 It lit their lights. It was a God send. But it was
9 a mistake when they were built and the region is
10 never going to move forward until we move beyond
11 that mistake.

12 I would really like to see the elected
13 leaders of the region pick up this process and move
14 it forward. Frankly, this document is a big
15 disappointment and didn't bring the region forward.
16 Thank you.

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, before
18 we move to the next call, I'd like to take a moment
19 to welcome anyone who has joined us. This is your
20 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. And this is a public
21 meeting for providing comments on the CRSO draft
22 EIS. If you would like to provide a comment, please
23 press one then zero to add your name to the queue.

24 Agency officials remain on the line to
25 hear your comments. We'll hear from Roland Springer

1 now.

2 **MR. SPRINGER:** Yeah. Thank you, Maryam.
3 Yeah, this is Roland Springer from the Bureau of
4 Reclamation. I just wanted to reiterate that I as
5 well as my colleagues at the Corps of Engineers and
6 Bonneville Power Administration continue to listen
7 to your calls. We thank you for all the comments we
8 received. I know there are many people still in the
9 queue and I thank you for your patience as we all
10 listen to each others comments.

11 And again, thank you for spending your
12 time with us. And I will hand it back to Maryam to
13 continue.

14 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. As a reminder,
15 although we are not responding to questions or
16 comments during this meeting or providing additional
17 presentation, the agencies do welcome and will
18 consider your comments as we develop the final EIS,
19 which will be released this summer.

20 Operator, you can move to the next line,
21 please.

22 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
23 line of Kate Murphy. Kate Murphy, your line is now
24 open for comment; please go ahead.

25 **KATE MURPHY:** Thank you. My name is Kate

1 Murphy, and I am a community organizer with Columbia
2 Riverkeeper. Representing over 16,000 members,
3 Columbia Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and
4 restore the Columbia River and all life connected to
5 it. We focus on issues including water quality so
6 people can swim safely and eat the fish they catch
7 without contamination, water temperature so salmon
8 can have the opportunity to survive and recover, and
9 stopping pollution so the river is a healthy
10 resource for all. We support a regional solution to
11 lower Snake River dam removal that brings
12 stakeholders together rather than pitting them
13 against each other.

14 Water temperature is a major problem for
15 salmon and steelhead. Between 1960 and 2015, water
16 temperature in the Columbia and Snake River have
17 increased by an average of 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
18 Salmon are sensitive to water temperature at many
19 stages of their lives. Warmer water can negatively
20 affect fish, making it more difficult for them to
21 swim upstream and making fish more susceptible to
22 disease.

23 In the lower Snake River, temperatures in
24 the reservoirs exceed 68 degrees Fahrenheit for
25 weeks or months at a time during the summer when

1 many salmon migrate to or from the ocean.

2 Temperatures above 68 degrees are very harmful to
3 salmon.

4 Salmon populations in the Snake River
5 basin are increasingly threatened by warmer rivers,
6 including significant warming from the reservoirs
7 behind the four dams on the lower Snake River.

8 The DEIS analysis is insufficient on
9 several levels. In the analysis of climate change,
10 the EIS should model water temperatures in the
11 Columbia and Snake rivers under the climate
12 conditions we expect to see in the next 20 to 50
13 years.

14 In addressing the challenges that salmon
15 face in the Columbia River and estuary, existing
16 dams and worsening climate change are making the
17 lower Columbia and estuaries too hot for fish. The
18 DEIS does not explain this or provide any solution.

19 The DEIS implies that lower Snake River
20 dam removal would not significantly change water
21 temperatures or improve conditions for salmon. This
22 is not true. Summer and fall water temperature
23 conditions in the lower Snake would be significantly
24 better for salmon and steelhead with the dams gone.

25 The science is clear; removing the lower

1 four Snake River dams is the single best action that
2 can be taken to help recover endangered salmon and
3 Southern Resident orca. Snake River sockeye and
4 steelhead are close to extinction. The incremental
5 approach taken by the preferred alternative is
6 legally and morally untenable. Restoring the lower
7 Snake River by returning it to its free-flowing
8 state is likely the only action that could bring
9 back million-strong salmon runs benefiting sport,
10 commercial, and tribal fishing communities and help
11 --

12 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
13 remaining.

14 **KATE MURPHY:** -- feed starving -- thank
15 you. -- and helping starving Southern Resident
16 orcas.

17 Thank you. I yield the remainder of my
18 time.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
20 move to the next caller, please.

21 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
22 line of Les Wigen. Les Wigen, your line is open for
23 comment now; please go ahead.

24 **LES WIGEN:** This is Les Wigen, a former
25 Whitman County commissioner. And I'm speaking on

1 behalf of the Eastern Washington citizens of
2 Whitman, of Sultan, Garfield, Columbia, Walla Walla,
3 and Nez Perce County.

4 Breaching the four Snake River dams in
5 Eastern Washington is ridiculous. Governor Andrus
6 in 1992 took a jet boat to Lower Granite Dam in the
7 60-foot drawdown. He said, I'm here to save the
8 salmon. Breach the Granite dam he said in the
9 Lewiston Tribune. It's ridiculous. That would be
10 140 miles of mud banks all the way to the Tri-
11 Cities. Call his office.

12 George Bush said in 2000 in Spokane and
13 2005 at the Ice Harbor Dam, we can have salmon and
14 dams at the same time.

15 Tom Foley, Speaker of the House in '94,
16 said in Colfax that the Snake River dams would never
17 be breached. Congress has to appropriate the money
18 to breach them.

19 Idaho Rivers United said breach the Snake
20 River dams. This is ridiculous.

21 I've been working on this since '92.
22 Maybe Idaho should take out Hell's Canyon Dam and
23 Dworshak Dam. If you're going to take out our four
24 Snake River dams, start on -- go to Boise and tell
25 Governor Little to take out Hell's Canyon and

1 Dworshak Dam.

2 Idaho Fish and Game poisoned the Stanley
3 Basin Lake in the '50s and '60s to bring back
4 rainbow trout to Petit Lake, Yellow Belly Lake and
5 Redfish Lake. Call Idaho Fish and Game. I
6 challenge you to call them at (208) 334-3791, and
7 talk to the Fish and Game there. I did last week.

8 Seattle City Council voted to breach out
9 Snake River dams. This is ridiculous. Maybe
10 Governor Inslee should take out the Ballard Locks
11 and drain Lake Washington. This is also ridiculous.

12 I challenge you to go over and -- all the
13 environmentalists to call Governor Inslee and tell
14 him to breach the Ballard Locks.

15 Governor Kitzhaber and Governor Brown want
16 our Snake River dams breached. Maybe Bonneville Dam
17 should be breached, too. Is this ridiculous?

18 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
19 remaining.

20 **LES WIGEN:** Take out the sea lions. Take
21 out the Caspian. Take out the dams. Take out the
22 gill nets. Don't blame the dams on the orcas and
23 salmon. Clean up Puget Sound. The Snake River dams
24 are the greatest asset west of the Mississippi. We
25 can save the Snake River dams and the salmon at the

1 same time.

2 Thank you. And I yield my time.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, you can move to the
4 next caller, please.

5 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
6 line of Sandra Markuson. Sandra Markuson, your line
7 is open now; please go ahead.

8 **SANDRA MARKUSON:** Thank you. This is
9 Sandra Markuson. I'm a citizen of Eastern
10 Washington. And I've heard my whole life that
11 salmon are going extinct. And so I don't think that
12 we need to listen to the scare mongering of all this
13 extinction. There are solutions that don't
14 including breaching the dams.

15 And I'll just leave it with that, other
16 than one little point. I'm appalled that children
17 have been allowed to parrot their mentor's opinion
18 on this call when time is precious.

19 Anyway, I'm against breaching the dams.
20 Thank you.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
22 move to the next caller, please.

23 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
24 line of Jim Waddell. Jim Waddell, your line is now
25 open for comment; please go ahead.

1 **JIM WADDELL:** Thank you. My name is Jim
2 Waddell. I'm a civil engineer. I spent 35 years
3 with the Army Corps of Engineers and was a deputy
4 district engineer in Walla Walla. I'm also a public
5 utility commissioner here in the state of
6 Washington. And I'm speaking as a citizen today,
7 'cause I'm just covering a lot of waterfront here.

8 But I feel like I'm in a deja vu all over
9 again, because I sat down in Walla Walla district
10 when I was there and went over the feasibility EIS
11 study at that point that we did 20 years ago on all
12 this, and I'm seeing a lot of the same things but in
13 a worse state, actually.

14 What we saw back then or what happened
15 back then was the cost of breaching was grossly over
16 estimated in various means, and we've seen how to
17 correct that and reduce that cost significantly.

18 The other thing is the cost of the
19 mitigation features, a couple hundred million
20 dollars here and there to improve fish passage and
21 so forth were grossly under estimated. And so
22 what's happened in the last 20 years is those
23 instead of \$200 million price tag, we've got a
24 billion dollar price tag on mitigational measures
25 just on the dams. Now, that's ratepayer money

1 that's paying for that.

2 And my concern here is largely -- well,
3 what I'm telling you right now is for the
4 ratepayers, because we're going to do this all over
5 again. Even though the preferred alternative has
6 stripped out most of the measures that you find on
7 all the other multiple objectives, which doesn't
8 make any sense, it's just basically then whitewashed
9 to be a low-cost alternative to make it financially
10 attractive versus the other alternatives, especially
11 the breach alternative.

12 And so my concern is, we're going to see
13 these increases in cost on these measures go up and
14 up and up.

15 At the same time, another outlay just kind
16 of feature of this thing is this claim that a
17 billion dollars worth of value is attributed to the
18 Snake River hydropower. Most of that value is
19 attributed to the flexibility offered by ramping and
20 sustained peaking power and reserve capability, none
21 of which was identified 20 years ago. So somehow
22 the dams have generated new value out of nowhere.
23 So that again is just another exaggeration.

24 And so I believe that we basically got a
25 total of seriously flawed set of alternative

1 formulations here, and they really need to be
2 corrected right away.

3 Ultimately, I think the best bet for all
4 concerned is that we take MO-3 and we remove the
5 spill requirements on the lower Columbia and all the
6 expensive upgrades on those dams down there and go
7 with MO-3 in a very simplified form, the breaching.
8 And that is really the best bet for ratepayers,
9 farmers, and fishermen.

10 Now, people would say, well, we can't do
11 any --

12 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
13 remaining.

14 **JIM WADDELL:** Okay. -- we can't do it
15 because we're not authorized. Well, these are old
16 arguments that have been perpetuated here in the
17 Northwest for 20 years, and that's not consistent
18 with Corps of Engineer policy nor the intent of
19 Congress in how they authorize and appropriate
20 projects. And so the dams can be breached without
21 an authorization and they can be paid for --
22 they're, by law, are supposed to be paid for
23 largely, 90 percent at least, by Bonneville Power
24 Administration.

25 So that's my comments. Thank you.

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
2 move to the next caller, please.

3 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
4 the line of Hilda Peraga (phonetic). Hilda Peraga,
5 your line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

6 **HILDA PERAGA:** Good evening. My name is
7 Hilda Peraga. And I am calling on the governor of
8 Washington to please authorize the breach of the
9 lower four Snake River dams. I follow and listen to
10 several environment protection groups, and they all
11 agree that this is needed in order to protect the
12 endangered salmon and the starving killer whales in
13 the sea.

14 I have visited the San Juan Island in the
15 past and I have admired these majestic animals. And
16 I just can't believe that we are not listening to
17 the science, the facts in order to save our
18 environment.

19 If what's going on right now, the
20 coronavirus situation can teach us anything is that
21 we are all inter-dependent and that we need to take
22 care of each other.

23 And I'm just calling as a private citizen.
24 I'm not an expert. It's a little bit intimidating
25 to be speaking to all these engineers and people

1 that are in charge of this. I just ask you to
2 please listen to the science and the experts and
3 please do what is right.

4 And that's all I have to say. Thank you
5 very much.

6 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
7 move to the next caller, please.

8 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
9 the line of Cathy Kinnard (sic). Cathy Kinnard,
10 your line is now open; please go ahead.

11 **CASSIE PAUMARD:** Hello. My name is Cassie
12 Paumard, and I am a marine biologist and CEO of
13 Ocean Conservation Non-Profit Project Kolika.

14 I support the breaching of the lower four
15 Snake River dams in 2020. First, I'd like to state
16 that the BPA is violating the Endangered Species Act
17 by failing to protect wild Chinook salmon as well as
18 the Southern Resident orcas. The only way to save
19 both species is to breach those lower Snake River
20 dams.

21 These dams kill eight million smolt per
22 year and we lost \$100 million in 2019 because of
23 them. I know there has been talk of supplementation
24 from hatcheries. But artificial hatcheries will not
25 help restore wild population.

1 I want to bring light to a case study on
2 captive salmon that I learned as a marine biology
3 student at the time, and one that really stuck with
4 me. In this study, the hatchery reared smaller egg
5 sizes from 1996 to the year 2000. The scientific
6 reason for this study is simply that hatcheries
7 provide conditions that select for increased
8 (indiscernible) at the cost of decreased egg size.
9 This further caused wild populations once
10 supplemented from hatcheries to decrease in egg
11 size. This put wild populations of salmon at a
12 deficit against predators.

13 If we choose hatcheries, we choose less
14 viable salmon for us and our starving Southern
15 Resident orcas. So the only real option is to
16 breach the dams.

17 Lastly, I think we need to stop debating
18 over this as so much research has been done over the
19 years with irrefutable evidence to support breaching
20 the lower four Snake River dams. The longer we
21 continue to stall, the sooner we will run these
22 orcas and salmon into extinction.

23 I believe we need to coexist and learn how
24 to do so quickly. I think this COVID-19 pandemic
25 has shown us what happens when we choose to

1 disrespect the environment and constantly exploit
2 it.

3 I cannot stress enough how detrimental it
4 would be to lose such a keystone species. For those
5 not familiar with the term, a keystone species is
6 one in which if removed, the entire ecosystem
7 collapses.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to speak,
9 and I yield the rest of my time.

10 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, you may move to the
11 next caller.

12 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
13 line of Steven Griffith. Steven Griffith, your line
14 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

15 **STEVEN GRIFFITH:** Thank you. My name is
16 Steven Griffith. I live on the Central Oregon coast
17 and I am a member of the Audubon Society of Lincoln
18 City.

19 After 25 years and five previous attempts,
20 the latest U.S. Army Corps Columbia Snake River
21 salmon plan still doesn't get it right. In the
22 meantime, wild salmon runs on the Columbia and Snake
23 rivers continue to decline.

24 The best and only way to recover these
25 salmon runs is to remove the four dams on the lower

1 Snake River. These dams block salmon access to
2 thousands of miles of pristine farming habitat.

3 The dams are obsolete; so many of us have
4 spoken to that issue today. A small percentage of
5 Northwest electricity they provide can be replaced
6 with renewable energy sources.

7 Rail shipping of freight and grains is
8 already replacing barge shipping. Small investments
9 in rail would further speed this process up.

10 Restoring salmon runs on the Columbia and
11 Snake rivers will have positive economic results,
12 boosting sport, commercial, and tribal fishing
13 economies. Replacing Snake River hydropower with
14 wind and solar power will create many new jobs.

15 The salmon is an icon of the Pacific
16 Northwest. Salmon fed tribal people for thousands
17 of years. Salmon provided nutrients that nourished
18 our great (indiscernible). Salmon helped create
19 this place we call home.

20 Now it's payback time. We must remove the
21 four dams of the lower Snake River. Removing the
22 dams will help ensure the survival of salmon and the
23 survival of our natural and cultural heritage.

24 Thank you. And I yield the rest of my
25 time.

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
2 move to the next caller, please.

3 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
4 the line of Mark Johnson. Mark Johnson, your line
5 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

6 **MARK JOHNSON:** Thank you. My name is Mark
7 Johnson. I reside in Northwest Montana and I am
8 speaking as a private citizen.

9 I continue to hear that groups want to
10 work together to come to a consensus solution.
11 Unfortunately, these groups will only support a
12 consensus solution that includes breaching the Snake
13 River dams. All other issues do not matter as long
14 as the dams get breached.

15 I want the record to note that I support
16 clean renewable hydropower and do not support any
17 alternative or objective that requires breaching of
18 the Snake River dams.

19 I also do not agree with the 125 percent
20 dissolved gas caps in the preferred alternative.
21 The scientific study after scientific study has
22 shown that this level of spill-related gas kills
23 fish.

24 I also want to address and clarify a few
25 statements, facts, and figures that are being

1 misinterpreted during this public comment period.

2 I have heard multiple times that the dams
3 have already been or could simply be replaced by
4 clean green energy. The truth is that without these
5 dams clean green energy would be much less viable
6 and much more expensive and not be able to meet the
7 energy needs of the people, because power is needed
8 by all of us when the sun doesn't shine and the wind
9 doesn't blow.

10 Wind only produces power 30 to 40 percent
11 of the time and solar generates only 25 percent of
12 the time. Where do you think the rest of the power
13 comes from? For us in the Northwest, primarily from
14 hydro.

15 The first statement that needs
16 clarification is that the power produced by the
17 Snake River dams does not have any value. The fact
18 is that the Snake River dams provide more than 2,000
19 megawatts of sustained peaking capability during the
20 winter and a quarter of the federal power system's
21 current reserves keeping the electric grid reliable
22 and flexible. This is important because the
23 Northwest is still a region that peaks in the
24 winter, not in the summer. Hitting the regions
25 highest consumption of electricity is during the

1 winter when the Snake River dams produce the
2 majority of their power.

3 The second statement that needs
4 clarification is that BPA sells power at a loss or
5 BPA sells power for less than it costs to produce.
6 The fact is that BPA sells a large majority of its
7 power to consumer-owned electric utilities like
8 cooperatives, PUDs, and municipals at a set
9 wholesale price. BPA almost never sells power for
10 less than it cost to produce that power.

11 I also want to address the statement that
12 the Snake River dams are expensive and near the end
13 of their life. I have reviewed BPA's long-range
14 asset plan. Major power train replacement for the
15 Snake River dam hydroelectric assets are now
16 currently forecasted to occur within their 20-year
17 plan. Long-term planning analyses that have been
18 done by BPA point to the late 2030s as the earliest
19 replacement dates for power train replacements. In
20 fact, most of the optimal replacement dates are
21 spread between the 2040s and the 2060s for Snake
22 River dams and their turbine generator replacements.

23 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.
24 I yield my remaining time.

25 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may

1 go to the next caller, please.

2 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
3 line of David Dane (phonetic). David Dane, your
4 line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

5 **DAVID DANE:** I would like to request an
6 extension (indiscernible) written comment. The EIS
7 is thousands of pages long and restrictions on
8 activity due to COVID-19 limit opportunity to meet
9 with colleagues efficiently and access older and
10 other written materials in libraries that are not
11 readily available online. More time is needed to
12 provide well-reasoned comment.

13 Significant weakness in the DEIS is its
14 consideration of impacts from endangered Southern
15 Resident killer whale, Salish Sea's critical
16 habitat, and part in migration of the Columbia River
17 System Chinook salmon.

18 Further, an instance proposed expanding
19 critical habitat to include a much larger portion of
20 the CRS Chinook salmon range along the Pacific
21 Coast.

22 The DEIS relies on an incomplete report on
23 the importance of different river systems and
24 providing food for SRKW. The authors noted many
25 sources of bias; they do not have time for drafts.

1 These biases lead to an underestimation of the
2 importance of Columbia River Chinook.

3 The DEIS relies on an inaccurate
4 description of the distribution of SRKW. In fact,
5 the majority of SRKW spend the majority of the year
6 within the range of Columbia River Chinook. This
7 portion of the range increases the Snake River
8 Chinook rather than decline, indicating river runs
9 are likely to be more important in the coming years
10 than they were in the first 40 years of our study on
11 resident killer --

12 The report failed to consider the effects
13 of inbreeding on jeopardy to the DPS survival.
14 Maintaining constant numbers will result in loss of
15 genetic diversity and increased inbreeding, both of
16 which reduce the likelihood of recovery. That is, a
17 climate does not contribute or significantly
18 increase in the Southern Resident killer whale
19 numbers results in jeopardy.

20 As early on, on the Maury Island Gravel
21 Mine case, Judge Martinez noted that even small
22 trucks to an already endangered population are
23 likely to result in jeopardy.

24 Thus, the DEIS should have concluded the
25 preferred alternative is likely to adversely affect

1 Southern Resident killer whales and results in
2 jeopardy to the DPS survival.

3 Alternative three, which calls for removal
4 of the Snake River dams was for recovery of SRKWs,
5 but was not seriously considered, to be combined
6 with spill up to 125 percent total dissolved gas.

7 I would consider replacing power
8 generation. It's not considered conservation as a
9 means to offset the loss of power generation.

10 Failed to consider expanding rail capacity
11 to replace barges. Failed to consider alternative
12 means for (indiscernible) flows providing irrigation
13 and water to farmers, ensuring the farms would
14 remain viable without irrigation. Failed to
15 consider continued hatchery operations as a
16 conservation measure rather than as a mitigation
17 measure.

18 I'm rooting that congressional action may
19 be required to reprioritize purposes of the lower
20 Snake River dams --

21 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
22 remaining.

23 **DAVID DANE:** -- (indiscernible) elected
24 offices to do just that.

25 Identifying lower Snake River dam removal

1 and other measures to maximize salmon production and
2 the likelihood of Southern Resident killer whale
3 recovery, the third alternative to prioritize
4 consideration of the legislative executive actions
5 necessary to implement it.

6 Serious consideration of the importance of
7 this level of action to recover endangered species -
8 -

9 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

10 **DAVID DANE:** -- rather than
11 (indiscernible) -- just let me finish the sentence.
12 -- placing greater weight on the impact of the
13 (indiscernible) --

14 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, we need to move to
15 the next caller, please.

16 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
17 the line of Mike Myrick. Mike Myrick, your line is
18 now open; please go ahead.

19 **(No audio - 3:16:30 to 3:16:51)**

20 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment will come
21 from the line of Nora Sherwood. Nora Sherwood, your
22 line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

23 **NORA SHERWOOD:** Thank you very much. My
24 name is Nora Sherwood, and I'm a member of the
25 Lincoln City Audubon Society in Lincoln City on the

1 Central Oregon coast.

2 I am speaking in support of breaching the
3 four lower Snake River dams. The Columbia Snake
4 River runs are some of the most important in the
5 Pacific Northwest, but they have been devastated by
6 the dams.

7 The corps has lost five times in 20 years
8 in federal court over its insufficient plans to
9 protect salmon. But they have once again produced
10 another insufficient plan. The science shows
11 clearly that the only way to recover salmon on the
12 Columbia Snake River system is to breach the four
13 obsolete dams on the Snake and increase flows at
14 appropriate times on the Columbia.

15 The issue is a particular concern of those
16 associated with the Audubon Society because the
17 corps has scapegoated wild bird such as cormorant
18 and terns for the declines rather than addressing
19 the real causes.

20 I yield the balance of my time.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
22 move to the next caller, please.

23 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
24 line of Tim Colton. Tim Colton, your line is now
25 open for comment; please go ahead. Just one moment.

1 **(No audio - 3:18:22 to 3:18:33)**

2 **OPERATOR:** Sorry. Your line is now open,
3 Mr. Colton; please go ahead.

4 **TIM COLTON:** You can hear me now? All
5 right. Great. Yes. I'm a resident in Skagit
6 County, Washington, but grew up in Iowa, and have
7 traveled to all the states in the continental U.S.

8 Having this perspective, I can say with
9 confidence that the natural resources of Washington
10 state are the most unique and valuable asset of the
11 state. Unfortunately, the pass country of
12 industrialization have taken their toll on these
13 valuable resources. One of those most significant
14 being wild salmon.

15 As a farmer and civil engineering
16 graduate, I can have compassion on those whose lives
17 will be disrupted by a change in operation of the
18 Snake River dams. But humans can change and adapt;
19 these salmon cannot. The land of this region can be
20 irrigated by other means or put to different use.
21 Electricity can be generated through different means
22 or demand decreased through energy efficiencies.
23 Rail can replace barge transportation.

24 What other options do salmon have? They
25 must navigate this river and the dams increase their

1 travel time, provide better habitat for their
2 predators, and increase the water temperatures to
3 dangerous levels.

4 I implore the federal agencies to revise
5 their recommendation for the final draft of the EIS
6 to support alternative three, to remove the lower
7 four Snake River dams. The one alternative that the
8 agencies acknowledge will be most affected in
9 recovering wild salmon and the natural resources
10 that rely on these salmon.

11 Thank you. I yield the rest of my time.

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
13 move to the next caller, please.

14 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
15 line of Jack Stewart. Jack Stewart, your line is
16 open for comment; please go ahead.

17 **JACK STEWART:** Thank you. Good evening,
18 everyone. My name is Jack Stewart. I live on and
19 work on Vashon Island in Puget Sound.

20 Not everyone agrees that the EIS
21 conclusion that the taking out of the Snake River
22 dams gives the salmon the best option, but that is
23 what they say. Some defend the option three by
24 saying that the electricity dams generate and other
25 services to farmers are more valuable and important

1 than the salmon, apparently. And all the creatures,
2 marine and terrestrial, including humans who live
3 upon them, many people praise the ingenuity of the
4 dams and argue that they're indispensable.

5 But to defend human construction and value
6 them above the astounding complexity, beauty, and
7 (indiscernible) of the anadromous life of salmon is
8 the kind of hubris to be willing to sacrifice this
9 natural wonder to a mere human construction is a
10 modern ideology. This is a perennial and very
11 ancient human tendency.

12 The prophet Isaiah admonished his own
13 society 2500 years ago. He said, You are in love
14 with the works of your own hands and have no regard
15 for the works of God.

16 From the history of human technology,
17 agriculture, and industry, we should have learned by
18 now that human survival and flourishing in the long
19 run is not independent of the survival and
20 flourishing of our own fellow creatures. Human
21 intelligence and ingenuity that is not merely clever
22 but is also wise will devote itself to figuring out
23 how to live in the world without driving other
24 species to extinction.

25 This I'm confident we can do with salmon.

1 There's no insurmountable conflict between fishermen
2 and farmers or other stakeholders. And the burdens,
3 cost, and consequences of change should be shared
4 equally. This is a Northwest problem and Northwest
5 people can solve it if we all sit down together with
6 regional leaders, follow the science --

7 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
8 remaining.

9 **JACK STEWART:** -- and agree that it is --
10 that the survival and restoration of salmon is in
11 everyone's interest, human and animal. Let us begin
12 with the solution that the draft environmental, in
13 part, impact statement itself says give salmon and
14 steelhead their best chance, the removal of the
15 lower Snake River dams.

16 Thank you very much.

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
18 move to the next caller, please.

19 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
20 line of Julie Weichel (phonetic). Julie Weichel,
21 your line is now open for comment; please to ahead.

22 **JULIE WEICHEL:** Thank you. Thank you very
23 much. And I appreciate the agencies making this
24 comment time available. I resided in Lewiston,
25 Idaho, in the late '60s and '70s, attending hearings

1 about these very dams that we're discussing
2 breaching here today, and they were a bad idea then.
3 And the justification for them then was flawed and
4 scientifically inaccurate. Fish weren't even
5 considered.

6 And so we're still here some 40 years
7 later. I was there to see Lewiston, Idaho painted
8 as extremely productive area, if only we could make
9 it a seaport. And it's quite clear that that didn't
10 help. Today, barging out of the Lewiston Port is
11 down 70 percent and we are subsidizing every barge
12 that leaves that port to the tune of \$25 million.
13 It didn't work and it's time to admit a failure.

14 With respect to the power generated by the
15 four lower Snake River dams, we keep hearing numbers
16 somewhere between 2,000 and 4,000 megawatts. The
17 reality is that for the past 17 years, the power
18 production by the four lower Snake River dams has
19 averaged 761 megawatts. And unfortunately, almost
20 all of that is generated in the spring at a time
21 when the Northwest is awash in power.

22 When California needed a lot more power
23 and we could sell power to California at \$55 a
24 megawatt, it still made a little bit of economic
25 sense. Today, wholesale power to California is more

1 like \$22 per megawatt hour and some years they don't
2 even want any.

3 With respect to the real cost of time to
4 mitigate the damage that the dams do to our salmon
5 populations, BPA has spent between \$15 and \$17
6 billion in mitigation efforts. That's with a B.
7 The ratepayers pay that.

8 When we hear testimony on these calls --

9 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
10 remaining.

11 **JULIE WEICHEL:** -- there are numerous
12 other flaws in the preferred alternative 04. 03,
13 breaching the lower Snake River dams is clearly the
14 only option that even has a chance to address
15 recovery versus just maintaining the status quo
16 which clearly is inadequate to keep from
17 exterminating important --

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

19 **JULIE WEICHEL:** -- resources.

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
21 move to the next caller, please.

22 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
23 line of Mavah Aza (phonetic). Mavah Aza, your line
24 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

25 **MAVAH CURIE:** Hello, everyone. My name is

1 Mavah Curie (phonetic). Please Governor Jay Inslee
2 and the Governor Kate Brown came out in favor of
3 breaching the four lower Snake River dams in
4 February, declaring that it's the best solution to
5 breach these dams.

6 Moreover, the U.S. Army Corps is utilizing
7 the Endangered Species Act and the National
8 Environmental Policy Act. Our Southern Resident
9 orcas, (indiscernible), salmon, and steelhead will
10 not survive this EIS process. The federal agency
11 can and need to start breaching for the four lower
12 Snake River dams this year.

13 At the same time, the agency can use this
14 new EIS process to undertake future action.
15 Further, agency can no longer afford to drag the
16 process along with another EIS that will take years
17 while the salmon and our orca disappear.

18 Over 15 billion spent, we have tried
19 extensive bypass systems and more steel, and still
20 2019 was another year of costly efforts to recover
21 Snake River salmon with no results.

22 Today, things have changed. The renewable
23 energy source have made unnecessary the production
24 of electricity by the four dams of the Snake River.
25 They are useless only let life die in the Salish

1 Sea. Further, the agencies need to begin breaching
2 of the four Snake River dams this year. We love, we
3 need our orca, salmon, love Salish Sea, and we need
4 to breach these dams. Thank you.

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, please
6 move to the next caller, please.

7 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
8 the line of Shanna Kelly. Shanna Kelly, your line
9 is now open; please go ahead with your comment.

10 **SHANNA KELLY:** Can you hear me?

11 **OPERATOR:** Yes.

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, we can hear you.

13 **SHANNA KELLY:** Can you hear me now?

14 **MS. HABIBI:** No, we could not hear that
15 very well.

16 **SHANNA KELLY:** Okay. Can you hear me now?

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes.

18 **SHANNA KELLY:** Okay. Sorry about that. I
19 feel like it's a commercial. My name is Shanna
20 Kelly and I am an extremely concerned citizen of
21 Washington. I have lived in Idaho and I've lived in
22 Montana, so I am understanding the concerns across
23 the Northwest.

24 I'm calling to support the breach of the
25 four lower Snake River dams within the year 2020.

1 Here we are in the midst of a virus and it comes
2 from animal exploitation and environmental
3 destruction, and the irony is not lost on me that
4 we're on this call.

5 We've been spinning our wheels for over 20
6 years, yet, here we are. I'm concerned that at the
7 current rate we're going to continue to discuss the
8 issue. We're closer and closer to the extinction of
9 our Snake River dam ecosystem in addition to the
10 extinction of our Southern Resident killer whale
11 population and, of course, our salmon.

12 We have tried bypassing systems, increased
13 spills over 20 years and nearly half of one billion
14 dollars spent in Washington, and, yet, we're nowhere
15 near. Our salmon are still in a functional
16 extinction.

17 People are talking about economic support
18 in keeping the dams. In what other industry would
19 you continue to spend this money and have no
20 progress?

21 Scientists agree that the most efficient
22 and effective way to increase the wild salmon and
23 steelhead populations is to restore the damaged
24 ecosystem, and that is to breach the dams.

25 The economic benefits of the dams and the

1 regions have continued to decline and will continue
2 to decline. The federal agencies have a
3 responsibility to comply with the endangered species
4 act and take the necessary actions to recover
5 salmon, steelhead, and out Southern Resident killer
6 whales.

7 In addition, we need to comply with the
8 tribal treaty.

9 Breaching the dam can be paid for by PBA
10 (sic), and they'll at least cover the cost a way to
11 accomplish fish mitigation under the 1980 Northwest
12 Power and Conservation Act. And this means
13 transferring savings from lower Snake River dams to
14 the Columbia River Dam.

15 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
16 speak. And I yield the remainder of my time. Thank
17 you.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
19 to the next caller, I'd like to take a moment to
20 acknowledge that we're now past 7:30, and this call
21 is scheduled to end at 8 p.m. Our agency officials
22 have agreed that they will remain on the line to
23 hear all comments that are in queue, and we have
24 time to do that on this call.

25 For anyone who cannot stay past 8 p.m. and

1 has not called before that time, I would like to
2 remind you there are other opportunities to submit
3 comments, and you can do that through one of the
4 methods that are outlined on CRSO.info.

5 In the meantime, I'd like to remind you
6 that we do have the agency officials remaining on
7 the line to hear your comments. At this time, we
8 have 24 callers in queue.

9 Operator, you may move to the next caller.

10 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
11 line of Deborah Giles. Deborah Giles, your line is
12 now open for comment; please go ahead.

13 **DEBORAH GILES:** Hi. My name is Deborah
14 Giles. I'm a killer whale biologist with the
15 University of Washington, Center for Conservation
16 Biology, and the science and research director for a
17 non-profit called Wild Orca. My research focuses on
18 the endangered Southern Resident fish-eating killer
19 whales, a distinct population of whales that number
20 a mere 72 animals, down from 99 in 1995.

21 This population of whales eats only fish,
22 with as much as 90 percent of their diet being
23 Chinook salmon. The Southern Residents co-evolved
24 eating the once massive Chinook that historically
25 spawned the Snake River watershed. Recovering the

1 Snake River Salmonids to more historic numbers would
2 significantly help the struggling Southern
3 Residents.

4 People in Puget Sound, Salish Sea like to
5 claim the Southern Residents as their own. But even
6 in the best salmon years, the whales only spend at
7 most six months of the year in this part of the
8 state. The rest of the year, fall through spring,
9 the whales are utilizing the rest of their range,
10 from northern Vancouver Island to Monterrey,
11 California. And they spend a disproportionate
12 amount of time in the early spring at the mouth of
13 the Columbia River looking for returning lipid-rich
14 Snake River Chinook salmon.

15 In 2009, I started working for Dr. Sam
16 Wasser, who pioneered the use of scat detection dogs
17 to non-invasively sniff out killer whale floating
18 feces on the water. Our first paper based on these
19 samples was published in 2012, and it became evident
20 that vessels are a problem, most significantly when
21 the whales are not getting enough to eat.

22 This realization was important because it
23 turned my attention from being mostly focused on
24 vessel effects to looking at the interactions
25 between food-deprived whales and stress hormones.

1 Our most recent paper was published in
2 2017, and that one showed that 69 percent of females
3 are getting pregnant. Those that are getting
4 pregnant are spontaneously miscarrying their calves.
5 And these miscarriages are directly related to lack
6 of nutrition in the would-be moms.

7 Breaching the dams would provide much-
8 needed pray during the late winter and early
9 springtime when the Snake River salmon are returning
10 to spawn.

11 Besides those comments, I would also like
12 to respectfully request that he comment period be
13 extended in light of this really amazing period of
14 time that we're in, giving the public an opportunity
15 to review the document with more time --

16 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
17 remaining.

18 **DEBORAH GILES:** -- to consider -- more
19 consideration would be much appreciated.

20 Thank you very much for holding these
21 webinars. I think that they've gone really well.
22 And thank you for collating all of our comments.

23 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
24 move to the next caller, please.

25 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the

1 line of Lori Dulgitz (phonetic). Lori Dulgitz, your
2 line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

3 **LORI GOGITSCH:** Thank you. Can you hear
4 me? Can you hear me?

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, we can hear you.

6 **LORI GOGITSCH:** Okay. My name is Lori
7 Gogitsch (phonetic), and I'm from Kirkland,
8 Washington.

9 And the DEIS on the table proposes to
10 maintain the costly status quo for declining
11 Columbia River basin salmon. This DEIS will again
12 fail to protect Columbia Snake River salmon and
13 perpetuate high costs that previously have done
14 absolutely nothing to restore salmon stock.

15 Columbia River basin salmon have continued
16 to drastically decline, even though \$17 billion have
17 been spent on salmon recovery. Bold, proactive new
18 actions need to be implemented to ensure an
19 effective solution to declining salmon population.
20 These actions need to address the following issues:

21 One, restore abundant fishable salmon and
22 steelhead populations in the Columbia River basin,
23 which, in turn, will provide more food for the
24 critically endangered Southern Resident killer
25 whale;

1 And two, honor our nation's treaty
2 commitments to Native American tribes and culture.

3 I believe that the best, most impactful
4 action to save salmon and to satisfy the above-
5 mentioned issues is to remove the four lower Snake
6 River dams. Dam removal would free up over 5,000
7 miles of pristine salmon habitat. With mitigation
8 and compensation for local communities whose
9 livelihood depends on the dams, dam removal can be a
10 win-win for everyone.

11 The current DEIS does not support bold
12 action that will increase salmon population and help
13 the Southern Resident killer whales, but dam removal
14 will. Salmon need free-flowing rivers. Dams block
15 rivers and impede salmon passage.

16 And I was kayaking on the Snake River in
17 between two of the dams a couple summers ago, and
18 this is not a free-flowing river. It is more like a
19 lake. It hardly moves at all.

20 So I would recommend please move forward
21 with plans to remove the four lower Snake River
22 dams. The salmon and the Southern Resident --

23 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
24 remaining.

25 **LORI GOGITSCH:** Okay. The salmon and the

1 Southern Resident killer whales don't have a place
2 at the table, and we need to give them a voice. We
3 need to stand up for them and think about their
4 needs. So removing the Snake River dams would
5 really help mitigate the problem and to help both
6 salmon and the Southern Resident killer whale.
7 Thank you.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
9 move to the next caller, please.

10 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next comment
11 comes from the line of Ann Vileisis. Ann Vileisis,
12 your line is now open; please go ahead.

13 **ANN VILEISIS:** Thank you. Can you hear
14 me? My name is --

15 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, we can hear you.

16 **ANN VILEISIS:** -- Ann Vileisis. I'm
17 president of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society with 400
18 members on Oregon's south coast.

19 We are disappointed that the agencies'
20 preferred alternative perpetuates the same approach
21 that has for decades pushed salmon, orca, and other
22 fish and wildlife populations to the edge of
23 extinction and led to the unnecessary scapegoating
24 of native birds such as double-crested cormorants
25 and Caspian terns.

1 The agencies' preferred alternative is
2 similar to the approach that has already failed and
3 has already been rejected five times by a federal
4 court over the last 25 years. It also, we think,
5 violates the Endangered Species Act by neglecting to
6 take seriously enough the risk of extinction to
7 salmon, steelhead, and orcas, and it fails to give
8 sufficient attention to the effects of climate
9 change.

10 The salmon and orcas are some of the most
11 invaluable and extraordinary resources of our
12 Pacific Northwest region. As humans, we can change
13 our ways. But these magnificent animals cannot.

14 Please let's be clear. Time is running out to
15 get meaningful restoration for the Columbia River
16 salmon and steelhead and all the benefits they would
17 bring to foodwebs, communities, and tribes in our
18 region. Rather than kick the can down the road
19 wasting more time and millions of dollars more on
20 continuing legal conflicts, I urge the agencies to
21 focus on the three things that will have a chance at
22 working: removal of the four obsolete Snake River
23 dams, increased flows over Columbia River dams, and
24 habitat restoration. In addition, please remove
25 persecution of native predator species from this

1 plan.

2 We want to leave our children and
3 grandchildren a future with salmon, steelhead, and
4 orcas. And don't buy the argument that we need to
5 give them up for cheap, affordable power.

6 There have been so many important comments
7 tonight. I urge you to consider them all very
8 carefully and to develop real forward-looking
9 solutions that would restore both ecosystems and
10 local economies. We should be able to do better.
11 Thank you.

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
13 move to the next caller, please.

14 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
15 line of Ted Case. Ted Case, your line is now open
16 for comment; please go ahead.

17 **TED CASE:** Good evening. I'm Ted Case.
18 I'm the Executive Director of the Oregon Rural
19 Electric Cooperative Association. ORECA represents
20 18 electric co-ops in the state, serving a half
21 million Oregonians. My comments tonight are going
22 to focus on MO-3 and MO-4, because these
23 alternatives would have the most severe adverse
24 impact on electric co-op consumers, the reliability
25 of the Northwest energy grid, and the global

1 environment.

2 The Snake River dams are an integral part
3 of the electricity supply in the Pacific Northwest,
4 serving over 800,000 households annually. We are
5 pleased that the DEIS rejected the dam breaching
6 option in MO-3 based on the conclusion that, and I
7 quote, has the highest adverse impacts to other
8 resources, especially social and economic effects.

9 We're also pleased the DEIS rejected
10 Multiple Objective 4 which significantly increases
11 spill and dramatically decreases power production.

12 The DEIS concluded that breaching of Snake
13 River dams would have, quote, long-term major
14 adverse effects on power cost and rates and that the
15 rate pressure could be up to 50 percent on wholesale
16 power rates. A 50 percent increase in BPA's rate
17 could lead to an increase of several hundred dollars
18 a year. The most impacted by these rate increases
19 will be our most vulnerable population, senior
20 citizens, those on fixed incomes, who shouldn't have
21 to choose between medicine, food, or paying their
22 electric bill.

23 The DEIS also concluded that dam breaching
24 would more than double the region's risk of power
25 shortages. MO-4 creates an even higher risk of

1 brownouts and blackouts in Pacific Northwest. Can
2 you imagine in the time of a global pandemic a
3 brownout or blackout? It's unthinkable.

4 According to DEIS, breach of the dams
5 would also create an additional 3.3 million metric
6 tonnes of CO2. That's a staggering 10 percent
7 increase in power-related emissions across the
8 Northwest. MO-4 shows similar carbon impacts.

9 Let me just put quickly what 3.3 million
10 metric tonnes of CO2 means for our environment.
11 According to the EPA -- These are not my numbers.
12 These are EPA numbers. It is the equivalent
13 greenhouse gas emissions of 18,147 railcars worth of
14 coal burned or 43,686 tanker trucks of gasoline.
15 Think about that.

16 The DEIS clearly demonstrates that
17 breaching the Snake River dams or spilling excessive
18 amounts of water would be a devastating step
19 backward from the decarbonization efforts put
20 forward by both Governor Inslee and Governor Kate
21 Brown of Oregon.

22 The DEIS also noted that the co-lead
23 agencies have made substantial improvements for fish
24 passage at the lower Snake and lower Columbia River
25 dams. Our cooperatives have helped fund this multi-

1 billion effort to improve fish passage at the dams,
2 which is meeting targets of 96 percent survival
3 rates for migrating juvenile fish.

4 We believe that it is important to --

5 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
6 remaining.

7 **TED CASE:** -- build upon this success
8 instead of taking drastic measures and visions in
9 MO-3 and MO-4.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
11 I'll yield back.

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
13 move to the next caller, please.

14 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
15 line of Lori Ody. Lori Ody, your line is now open
16 for comment; please go ahead.

17 **LORI ODY:** Hello. My name is Lori Ody.
18 Mr. Kurt Miller, who has testified multiple times
19 during these hearings, said earlier on this call
20 that there's no proof that dam removal will work to
21 save Idaho's wild salmon. This is not true.

22 If we want to see how the lower Snake
23 River would perform if the dams were removed, we
24 need only look at the Yakama River basin. Before
25 the lower Snake River dams were built, the journey

1 of smolt to the seas took about one week. Now it
2 takes one month or more, if they survive at all.
3 Smolts that survive may suffer from the journey only
4 to die later. This is called delayed mortality.

5 By contrast, in the Yakama River basin,
6 fish have only four dams on the lower Columbia to
7 pass. Yakama basin salmon are not impacted in the
8 way that Idaho's wild fisheries have been impacted.
9 The Yakama River populations demonstrate that the
10 four lower Snake River dams are the problem,
11 because, by comparison, Yakama River basin salmon
12 populations remain viable while Snake River salmon
13 are nearing extinction.

14 Our salmon populations began their slide
15 toward extinction after the lower Snake River dams
16 were built. When both rivers populations only had
17 four dams to navigate, both were healthy and viable.

18 This point is further proven by the fact
19 that historically the Snake River populations were
20 much more viable and productive than the Yakama
21 River populations. Today, the reverse is true.

22 We need real solutions to bring back our
23 fish. We tried the same things over decades with no
24 hope of success. There's no question about it,
25 Idaho's wild salmon are on the path toward

1 extinction. As there is cause for hope, this path
2 toward extinction can be reversed with the extensive
3 ecosystem that supports salmon can be restored.
4 How? By retiring the four dams on the lower Snake
5 River and restoring it to the free-flowing river it
6 was meant to be.

7 Other dam removal projects undertaken in this
8 country demonstrate how river restoration will
9 restore salmon runs and many other benefits of free-
10 flowing rivers: the Elwha, Kennebec, Rogue,
11 (indiscernible) Salmon, and (indiscernible) rivers
12 are prime examples.

13 I urge the decision makers to reject this
14 so-called preferred solution and instead offer up
15 MO-3 and breach the lower Snake River dams. It's a
16 very important decision.

17 Thank you for listening.

18 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
19 move to the next caller, please.

20 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
21 the line of Paula Parvin. Paula Parvin, your line
22 is open for the next comment; please go ahead.

23 **PAULA PARVIN:** Thank you. Can you hear
24 me?

25 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, we can hear you.

1 **PAULA PARVIN:** I'm Paula Parvin from
2 Seattle, and I'm concerned about the ecological
3 impacts of the lower four Snake River dams. I
4 support the breaching of the four lower Snake River
5 dams in 2020.

6 The Snake River salmon populations
7 declined over 90 percent since the construction of
8 the lower four dams in the 1970s. Our threatened
9 and endangered salmon and steelhead will be extinct
10 within the next 15 years if these dams are not
11 immediately breached.

12 The time for action is now and there's no
13 time to waste. Only 72 of our beloved Southern
14 Resident orcas remain. The orca diet consists over
15 50 percent -- excuse me -- The orca diet consists
16 over 80 percent of Chinook salmon, and they're being
17 starved to extinction because these dams impede the
18 natural salmon runs that provide food for orcas and
19 to humans.

20 The economic impacts will be incredible if
21 these fish go extinct and our orcas have starved to
22 death. For orcas, the situation is dire because
23 orcas reach sexual maturity around 25 years and they
24 are dying faster than there are births to replace
25 them. They're starving to death, that's the

1 reality.

2 The benefits of breaching exceeds the
3 costs. The dams produce a very small percentage of
4 power for the region; in fact, there's a surplus of
5 energy produced. The dams' breaching will have
6 little impact on power cost or energy availability
7 to consumer.

8 But I need to address the pink elephant in
9 the room. The federal government subsidizes a lock
10 system for the dams to allow barge transportation
11 where farmers can ship grains from as far away as
12 Idaho to the ocean for export.

13 Our ecosystem should not suffer
14 extinctions of countless species so that farmers
15 have a convenient way to transport grain and make
16 profit at the cost of the ecosystem and the
17 taxpayers' funding necessity.

18 Investing in rail transport is a better
19 way to move grain and other commodities currently
20 shipped by barges. And it goes without saying,
21 carbon emissions can be curbed by implementing clean
22 energy production sources that replaces
23 hydroelectric energy.

24 In response to what another caller was
25 saying, increasing the flow from the dams would not

1 cause a problem. It would only increase fish
2 mortality by passing through the dams.

3 Additionally, dam reservoirs increase
4 water temperature, therefore, adding to the gross
5 mortality of salmon and other fish.

6 And lastly, immediate action is required
7 to save our ecosystem. Conserving the ecosystem is
8 paramount and of greater importance than those who
9 profit from this dam. I'm calling on Washington
10 Governor Inslee to set an innovative --

11 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
12 remaining.

13 **PAULA PARVIN:** -- bold example for the
14 world to follow in saving our ecosystem, creating
15 better clean energy solutions and stopping the
16 extinction of countless lives in our ecosystem,
17 including our native predator species. Extinction
18 is forever. Removing the lower four river -- Snake
19 dams and returning the rivers to free-flowing is the
20 solution to these issues.

21 Thank you for listening. And I yield the
22 remainder of my time.

23 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
24 move to the next caller, please.

25 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the

1 line of Elizabeth Abbott. Elizabeth Abbott, your
2 line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

3 **ELIZABETH ABBOTT:** Hi. My name is
4 Elizabeth Abbott. I am a registered nurse at
5 Virginia Mason and calling as a concerned citizen,
6 taking my time out from fighting the COVID-19
7 outbreak, because I think that this situation is
8 equally important.

9 I became interested in these issues when I
10 learned about the Southern Resident killer whales
11 five or six years ago. I was immediately struck by
12 what a unique subpopulation they are in their social
13 habits and their biology, and became quite
14 fascinated. And I think that it would be a
15 tremendous loss, if we lost this species, which is
16 clearly struggling and hovering on the brink of
17 extinction with only 72 members left.

18 In becoming interested in them, I quickly
19 became aware of their plights. And it was obvious
20 to me, even as a citizen and not a scientist that
21 their problems all stem basically from lack of food,
22 which then rapidly caused me to become interested in
23 issues regarding salmon and the Snake River dams.

24 It is clear to me from reading reports by
25 many scientists that have spent their entire careers

1 studying both the orca and the salmon that the most
2 effective measure is to remove the lower Snake River
3 dams.

4 There are a lot of scapegoats and other
5 issues pointed at from time to time such as toxins
6 being a problem for the orcas. And while toxins are
7 a problem for the orcas and all species living in
8 this environment, we can clearly see by comparing
9 them to the transient orcas who have the same
10 exposure to toxins and even have higher toxin
11 levels, that toxins are not the reason for this
12 find.

13 In the absence of adequate food supply,
14 yes, toxins become a huge problem. But with
15 adequate food supply the orca species can survive
16 and actually increase their numbers quite easily, in
17 spite of toxins.

18 So all of the research that I've read has
19 pointed to --

20 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
21 remaining.

22 **ELIZABETH ABBOTT:** -- recovering salmon as
23 being the single most beneficial way to recover the
24 Southern Resident killer whale population and all of
25 the environments and all of the species that rely on

1 salmon for their survival, including humans. Thank
2 you.

3 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
4 move to the next caller, please.

5 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
6 line of Kim (sic) Palmer. Kim Palmer, your line is
7 now open for comment; please go ahead.

8 **TIM PALMER:** Hi, there. This is Tim
9 Palmer in Port Orford, Oregon. And I am the author
10 of 28 books about natural resource issues. My
11 comments here are informed by three books that I've
12 written: Endangered Rivers and the Conservation
13 Movement by the University of California Press; The
14 Snake River, Window to the West; and The Columbia,
15 Sustaining a Modern Resource, and also my research
16 that continues.

17 Virtually all the research I did on these
18 books indicated that the benefits of the four Snake
19 River dams are grossly exceeded by the costs in
20 public subsidies, in the barging, hydropower, and
21 irrigation industries, and by the costs of allowing
22 those dams to drive our salmon and steelhead toward
23 extinction.

24 Any argument that dam removal does not
25 provide for, quote, certainty of salmon recovery is

1 logically flawed, because that, quote, proof, will
2 only be accepted as fact after it's occurred.

3 Except for reports of entities paying for
4 the reports that support keeping the dams intact and
5 by agencies deeply invested in sustaining the status
6 quo, the evidence of both biologists and economists
7 say that we need to remove these dams to sustain our
8 fish and to make our public agency solvent.

9 These dams provide less than four percent
10 of our regional power. That's power that's
11 available, mostly when it's in surplus, and it's
12 easily replaced by alternative sources without the
13 problems that these dams are causing.

14 Unlike what we've delivered in the past
15 five plans, I urge you to revise this DEIS to
16 provide a fair and accurate report this time. I
17 urge you to consider the full cost of these dams and
18 a full accounting of the benefits in restoring our
19 salmon and building a sustainable economy that is
20 not predicated on the extinction of our salmon.

21 Thank you for this time.

22 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
23 go to the next caller, please.

24 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. On our next line we
25 have Richard Putnam and we also have Madeleine

1 Wiley. Your line is now open.

2 **RICHARD PUTNAM:** Thank you. This is Rick
3 Putnam and my wife Madeleine Wiley sitting next to
4 me. We're going to do a tag-team thing here for a
5 few minutes. We're both from Washington state and
6 citizens, retired.

7 A lot of time this last weekend reading a
8 great deal about the EIS report, looking at the
9 various alternatives. Then I got to Chapter 7
10 titled Preferred Alternative. Wait a minute. I
11 thought, where is there some kind of analysis that
12 takes all the pros and cons of the alternatives and
13 evaluates them against the goals? How can you just
14 jump to a solution, which is in Chapter 7, the
15 preferred alternative, without considering the other
16 choices, especially something this complicated?
17 Where's the objective, numerical, quantitative,
18 repeatable analysis?

19 Well, there isn't one. There's no fair
20 objective analysis. It's all subjective and
21 intuitive.

22 Okay. Well, let's see what it says. So I
23 looked at Chapter 7.2. And I'm going to kind of
24 quote things here, but for sake of brevity, I'm
25 going to summarize a little bit, too. Chapter 7.2.

1 The co-lead agencies determine that the no-action
2 alternative and the other four alternatives that had
3 nothing to do with dam removal allow for the
4 operation of the projects, meaning dams, in
5 furtherance of all of the congressionally authorized
6 purposes, to varying degrees.

7 Okay. There are some magic words in
8 there. Alternative -- I'm still basically quoting.
9 Alternative 3, which is the dam removal alternative,
10 would not meet the congressionally authorized
11 purposes of operating and maintaining the four lower
12 Snake River dams. And again we see these magic
13 words, congressionally authorized.

14 So then it says, new congressional
15 authority through new laws and associated funding
16 would be required to implement dam breaching
17 measures.

18 So now I'm going to stop reading. And
19 basically to summarize, these three agencies do one
20 thing. They build and maintain dams - that's their
21 life. That is their congressional authorization.
22 Those are the magic words, congressional
23 authorization.

24 They say if you want to remove the dams,
25 go get Congress to authorize that and get some

1 money, because it will not happen with the local
2 Corps of Engineers or BPA or Bureau of Reclamation.

3 That's their story, but it's totally
4 wrong. Those magic words, congressional
5 authorization, are a smokescreen by the local lead
6 agencies to make us believe that they can't take out
7 the dams. In fact --

8 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
9 remaining.

10 **RICHARD PUTNAM:** -- they could do that.
11 They could do everything without additional
12 congressional authorization.

13 It doesn't take Congress to decommission a
14 Navy ship, like it didn't take congressional action
15 for the Portland Corps of Engineers to decommission
16 the Willamette lock and dam in Portland. It's part
17 of what they're responsible for.

18 Let me say this in simpler terms. The EIS
19 was a huge waste of time. Waste of our time reading
20 it and responding it and a waste of government time
21 and money to put the 4,000-page report together that
22 could have been written in one simple paragraph, I
23 believe.

24 And I'm going to turn this over to my
25 wife, and she can talk about what that report could

1 have said.

2 **MADELEINE WILEY:** Hi. This is Madeleine
3 Wiley. I'm going to continue. The report could
4 have said, We, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of
5 Reclamation, and the Bonneville Power Administration
6 are the three lead agencies in charge of a subset of
7 dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. We like
8 dams. They are what we do. We build them, maintain
9 them, and manage them.

10 We could decommission them and breach them
11 if we wanted to, but we don't want to. And we are
12 going to try to convince you that congressional
13 authorization is required to do that. In the
14 meantime, we're going to continue with the status
15 quo with a few modifications to the spill rates and
16 fish ladders and some other minor tweaks to make it
17 look like we are solving the salmon problem.

18 We only did this EIS because the court
19 ordered us to. And we included dam breaching as one
20 possible alternative because the court said we had
21 to, but we will never recommend that.

22 And P.S., sorry about your fish. Good
23 luck with that.

24 See, that was a lot simpler and has a much
25 more honest result. Could have been done four years

1 ago, saved a lot of time and money and it would have
2 given the rest of us a four-year head start on
3 trying to save the salmon and the orcas and the
4 birds.

5 I got angry when I realized the three
6 agencies have just been kicking the can down the
7 road again. But they actually did us a favor. They
8 stated as clearly as they could in just a few
9 sentences that they are not interested in really
10 solving the salmon recovery problem.

11 We've been talking to and expecting help
12 from the wrong people. Those three agencies are
13 people that are motivated to keep the dams, their
14 jobs, and control of the lower Snake River.

15 What we really need is some pressure put
16 on the court to work for the good of the country,
17 the birds, salmon, and the orcas. We need help from
18 people like Senators Murray and Cantwell and Rep
19 Simpson of Idaho and Governors Brown and Inslee to
20 put pressure on the court to breach the dams now,
21 using the corps' own authority, not additional
22 congressional authorization.

23 We are smart people. When President
24 Kennedy said that, We, the U.S.A., was going to the
25 moon, he meant it, and we did it. It was 1962 when

1 he said, quote, We choose to go to the moon. We
2 choose to go to the moon in this decade and do other
3 things, not because they are easy, but because they
4 are hard, because that goal will serve to organize
5 and measure the best of our energies and skills,
6 because that challenge is one that we are willing to
7 accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one
8 which we intend to win.

9 It wasn't something that took 25 years of
10 debate and obfuscation and lawsuits and \$100 million
11 of EIS reports. Neil Armstrong stepped onto the
12 moon less than eight years later.

13 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
14 remaining.

15 **MADELEINE WILEY:** In other words, we need
16 to find some people that like fish, not just dams.
17 This dam situation is not more complicated than
18 going to the moon, for Heaven sake. Thank you.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Before we move on
20 to the next caller, I'd like to take a moment.
21 We're now past 8 o'clock. And I just wanted to
22 remind folks that the agency representatives have
23 agreed to stay. We are able to stay until 8:50 so
24 that we can hear the remaining comments that are in
25 the queue. There are 20 callers who are currently

1 queued to provide comments. We're going to do our
2 best to get through everyone.

3 And operator, you may move to the next
4 call now.

5 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
6 line of Scott Levy. Scott Levy, your line is now
7 open for comment; please go ahead.

8 **SCOTT LEVY:** I guess you all hear me
9 there?

10 **MS. HABIBI:** Yes, we can hear you.

11 **SCOTT LEVY:** Okay. Great, yeah. Scott
12 Levy. Hi, everybody. There's probably not a lot of
13 people that are listening in. (Indiscernible)
14 directly involved in this about 25 years. Got
15 involved in Redfish Lake where I am calling from
16 right now. We had an earthquake about halfway
17 through this, so I had to drop off the line and just
18 got back on about 7:07.

19 Anyway, I got a big paper I'm working on;
20 thought I'd give you guys a couple highlights. And
21 I do appreciate you guys are staying on after the 9
22 o'clock. It's wonderful. I called back in at 7,
23 and there was 45 on the queue.

24 Okay. Finished the 8,000-page report
25 Saturday night about 1:30. It's pretty voluminous.

1 So anyway, directing your attention to Appendix H,
2 Figure 5.4, the electricity representatives have
3 been repeating the bullet points of the executive
4 summary. Obviously didn't see that. That's the
5 media people on the call should go right away to
6 Appendix H, 5.4.

7 I liked what Deborah Giles said just a
8 little while ago. She really showed what has got to
9 happen with this EPA document. So she's an expert
10 on the Salish Sea whales. Said, if I got the quote
11 right, about LSR dam breaching, and then she goes,
12 quote, could significantly help the recovery of
13 Salish Sea orcas.

14 Now, that rung counter to what the EIS
15 says, has negligible effect. Let's see, page --
16 Chapter 3, dash, 759, effects of MO-3, conclusion
17 was minor effect for the orca with MO-3. The food
18 available to Southern Resident killer whales and the
19 lower Snake River population is only a smaller
20 percentage of their overall diet. Change of food
21 availability may change a whale's (indiscernible)
22 behaviors sadly, but will not change their overall
23 condition. The population dynamics in rep 3 is not
24 likely to adversely affect the Southern Resident...

25 So there you go right there. That's a

1 point you guys can all get to work on right away,
2 because you got no evidence that counters what
3 Deborah Giles was saying and Ken Balcomb. Whoever's
4 trying to say this, I suspect more fisheries, they
5 don't have any science to back it up.

6 Next let's go back to Appendix H, 'cause I
7 mentioned Figure 5.4 on page H, dash, 5, dot, 42,
8 Appendix H, in 5.4. Very interesting. Show that --

9 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
10 remaining.

11 **SCOTT LEVY:** -- (indiscernible). And then
12 the last point, Scott Armentrout, if you're on the
13 phone, we chatted about this last Monday. The flex
14 spill that's going to start here next month, or
15 maybe tomorrow, I guess, it's April, got to re-read
16 the objective one of the flexible agreement. You
17 guys embedded in the previous year in objective one.
18 And as we pointed out in that meeting last Monday,
19 the (indiscernible) from Sable to Grave shows it --

20 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

21 **SCOTT LEVY:** -- (indiscernible). So we
22 got some big problems and --

23 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, we'll need to move
24 to the next caller, please.

25 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from

1 the line of Diane Nauert. Diane Nauert, your line
2 is now open; please go ahead.

3 **DIANE NAUERT:** Yes. Hello. My name is
4 Diane Nauert, and I'd just like to make a short
5 simple statement. I will not be using my entire
6 three minutes.

7 This pandemic crisis that the entire
8 planet is currently trying to cope with stems from
9 human interference into the natural world, wild
10 animals removed from their homes exploited by human
11 greed. And that same human greed was behind the
12 erecting of the dams on the Snake. That same human
13 greed is the reason they are still standing today.

14 We are manipulating the planet's natural
15 processes to serve our own selfish needs. We are
16 destroying ecosystems so that we can irrigate fields
17 and barge grain. We are losing critically
18 endangered species in the process, iconic Northwest
19 species that this planet literally cannot live
20 without.

21 Perhaps you've heard the phrase, As go the
22 oceans, so goes the planet. Too many interference
23 with the planet's natural processes will ultimately
24 cause the death of this planet.

25 History is fraught with examples of human

1 greed taking its toll. Let history be your guide
2 here. The Snake was never meant to be exploited in
3 this way. We can help change the course of history
4 by allowing the natural worlds to be natural.

5 I encourage you all to visit damsense.org
6 for an education on the lower Snake. And I am
7 counting on you to do the right thing. Thank you.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
9 move to the next caller, please.

10 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
11 line of Julian Matthews. Julian Matthews, your line
12 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

13 **JULIAN MATTHEWS:** All right. Thank you.
14 Thanks for staying longer, too. My name is Julian
15 Matthews. I'm Nez Perce. Lived in Pullman,
16 Washington, for 25 years, Nez Perce tribal member.

17 And I'd like to say -- make a -- there's
18 some Whitman County commissioner came on there
19 earlier and I heard him say he represents all
20 Whitman County residents and Columbia County.
21 That's not true. He doesn't represent my
22 viewpoints.

23 And I'd just like to say that I mentioned
24 this before, that I'm in favor of including the
25 breaching of the Snake River dams, because, as many

1 people have said, we have treaty rights to fish, to
2 take salmon, and our ability to take salmon along
3 the Columbia and the Snake were in place long before
4 the U.S. became a country and before the state of
5 Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. So I feel that's
6 really important for the American people to stick up
7 for that and ensure those treaty rights are
8 enforceable.

9 Right now -- and I will say also that the
10 Nez Perce Tribal Government doesn't necessarily
11 speak on my behalf. I don't support, necessarily,
12 their plan. And I believe the spills are a part of
13 -- I don't think -- I don't know for sure if the
14 spills that they're talking about are part of our
15 SRBA water, which I don't agree with at all, and I
16 need to clarify that. When they talk about these
17 spills off these two dams, I believe they're talking
18 about taking that water from our settlement. That's
19 the Snake River Basin Adjudication Settlement, which
20 I don't agree with, and I need to clarify that.

21 And one thing that I would like to say is
22 that with this whole issue, I know, as I mentioned
23 before, we have these people from Montana. I've
24 lived here 25 years. I lived in Kamiah. My mother
25 lived there. My grandmother lived there. My great

1 grandmother lived there. My great, great
2 grandfather lived there. And all my relatives live
3 there. The only reason I didn't know past that,
4 because that was prior to written recordings of my
5 ancestry down in Nez Perce, Niimiipuu, in those
6 areas. And there's many other tribal members that
7 their families have lived there, fished there their
8 whole lives for generations.

9 And those salmon are dwindling. Those
10 hatcheries are not working. I know BPA throws that
11 money around because they get that funding. And to
12 me, they use it as a way to manipulate tribes or
13 tribal governments. And so I don't agree with that
14 whole mentality of using that funding for that
15 purpose. And I feel it's not working.

16 The hatcheries are not working. We have
17 hatcheries at our tribe three or four -- we have now
18 are assumed or co-managed, and they're not working.
19 And so I feel that dam breaching is the only real
20 solution that's going to bring back those salmon.

21 Someone else mentioned people say there's
22 no guarantee, like that one woman said that. But
23 you see these other places, lower Elwha, where they
24 remove the dams and those fish runs and everything
25 turned back to almost similar to the way it was

1 before the fish spawned up the river. And so that's
2 a fallacy when people say, we don't know or it's not
3 going to happen.

4 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
5 remaining.

6 **JULIAN MATTHEWS:** I believe it can happen.
7 But people need to move and our elected official
8 need to make these decisions, because someone was
9 mentioning about these agencies, they work for these
10 elected officials, whether it's Donald Trump or
11 Senator Murray, whoever is calling the shots. So we
12 need those people to take action to remove these
13 dams. Thanks.

14 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
15 move to the next caller, please.

16 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next comment
17 comes from the line of Rachel Carr. Rachel Carr,
18 your line is now open; please go ahead.

19 Rachel, your line is open. The line just
20 dropped. I'm sorry.

21 Our next comment comes from the line of
22 Stevie Parsons. Stevie Parsons, your line is now
23 open for comment; please go ahead.

24 **STEVIE PARSONS:** Thank you. My name is
25 Stevie Parsons. I'm a board member of the National

1 Wildlife Federation, one of the largest conservation
2 organizations in the U.S. I live in Oregon and I am
3 a native Hawaiian and Native American angler.

4 Warm water blobs, poor ocean conditions,
5 pinnepedes, and climate change have had effects on
6 salmon, steelhead, and orca populations. But there
7 is little doubt that breaching the lower Snake River
8 will help these populations.

9 More than two decades and numerous federal
10 lawsuits later, this DEIS still does nothing to aid
11 our current salmon, steelhead, and orca crises. It
12 is simply more of the same failed science, outdated
13 data, and status quo laziness.

14 Governments role is to bring people
15 together to solve problems. We need and can find
16 solutions that will work for all communities. To do
17 nothing would be to allow these fish to go extinct
18 as well as to failed rural communities in Idaho,
19 Oregon, and Washington, who depend on these fish not
20 only as food, but also as a major income source.

21 It's become very popular to argue for easy
22 solutions, saying to use alternative ones would
23 require us to make choices between power, medicine,
24 or food. As a senior citizen myself, I say this is
25 a false, unproven argument being used to stir up our

1 emotions.

2 Public sentiment is in favor of dam
3 removal, yet, government refuses to listen. Native
4 communities support dam removal; government refuses
5 to listen. Conservation organizations support dam
6 removal; government still refuses to listen.
7 Salmon, steelhead, and orca are going extinct;
8 government still refuses to hear their voices.

9 What do we need to do to get your
10 attention and be heard? Are we going to tell our
11 children and grandchildren that we allowed these
12 fish and cultural icons to go extinct because we
13 value cheap electricity more or we were afraid or
14 too lazy or not creative enough to find alternative
15 solutions?

16 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
17 remaining.

18 **STEVIE PARSONS:** Please, please remove the
19 lower Snake River dams before it's too late. Thank
20 you. I yield my time.

21 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
22 move to the next caller, please.

23 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
24 line of Nina Sarmiento. Nina Sarmiento, your line
25 is now open; please go ahead.

1 **NINA SARMIENTO:** Thank you so much. I
2 have made several comments last week with specific
3 critiques about the EIS, and I have two more
4 tonight.

5 I want to start off by saying I've heard a
6 lot of power groups, PUD groups listening in who
7 have a lot of fear in their hearts about what would
8 happen to our power if the dams were breached. This
9 fear has been instilled in them by misinformation
10 from hydropower sales groups such as Northwest
11 RiverPartners and the Public Power Council and the
12 federal agencies I am speaking to right now.

13 These fear tactics similar to the ones our
14 current administration uses, is why people believe
15 there will be blackouts and our rates will spike and
16 they won't be able to pay their bills anymore. And
17 propaganda by these federal agencies I'm speaking to
18 are why people believe there's still 97 percent
19 survival for fish through the dam.

20 So this really has to stop. I don't blame
21 these people. Until now, these have been the only
22 groups giving them information about breaching. But
23 that's changing because they cannot be counted on to
24 tell the truth about these dams, the endangered
25 salmon, or the endangered orca.

1 I just looked up Appendix H, Figure 5.4,
2 that one of the callers previous told us to look at.
3 And MO-3 shows that rate -- there's a big map. It
4 shows that rates in five counties will increase less
5 than one percent with breaching, but in the
6 preferred alternative, all of the counties in
7 Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho, will see an
8 increase in utility rates upwards of one percent.

9 So that is amazing, Appendix H, Figure
10 5.6, 5.4, just to show you that these fear tactics
11 are making people believe their rates are going to
12 increase by breaching, and that is false.

13 So another propaganda thing that's been
14 showing up everywhere and it's in the DEIS, is the
15 peaking power capability of the dams, which is
16 impossible based on the run of river configurations.
17 The claim has no citations. It's not found in the
18 appendices. It has never occurred in the history of
19 --

20 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
21 remaining.

22 **NINA SARMIENTO:** -- the basin. So that
23 needs to be addressed in the final.

24 The next critique I had was that Appendix
25 M, page 1353, regional economic effects are

1 forecasted with big numbers, large percentages of
2 deficits. There's no analysis done to forecast
3 benefits to regional economy.

4 So in order to be able to make a clear
5 decision on --

6 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

7 **NINA SARMIENTO:** -- rate alternatives,
8 that needs to happen. I don't think it will.
9 Breach the dams. Thank you.

10 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, you may move to the
11 next caller, please.

12 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
13 line of Brian Jones. Brian Jones, your line is now
14 open for comment; please go ahead.

15 **BRIAN JONES:** Yes. This is Brian Jones.
16 I'm a fourth generation wheat farmer in Eastern
17 Washington.

18 I support removing the dams, but only if
19 it keeps farmers intact. We can't afford the
20 excessive prices that might be involved if we were
21 to have to bear the burden of losing our method of
22 shipping our grains.

23 I agree with many callers that the power
24 generated from the four lower Snake River dams are
25 insignificant. We can readily replace that power.

1 They are not -- The power that we use from those
2 dams comes at a time when we don't really need that
3 power, and we often ship that power off to other
4 states.

5 I really believe that many farmers can --
6 us farmers can come together and find solutions to
7 the problem when we sit down together and don't
8 listen to the rhetoric that has gone on for 20 or 30
9 years that is just not really accurate. We need to
10 look to the future and look to the possibilities.
11 This is a golden opportunity for the farmers in that
12 we can come together and find solutions shipping our
13 grain via rail, and build ourselves new
14 infrastructure much like the infrastructure that was
15 once put in by the four dams. We can build new
16 infrastructure, have a new system, have great
17 recreation for 140 miles, because we will have
18 access to that water. And we will be able to ship
19 our grain. We will find that the power that we
20 think we will lose is insignificant. And we'll move
21 forward and, as a byproduct, we will save salmon,
22 and that is a critical thing.

23 And when we sit down together, we can
24 solve these issues. And I know for a fact, and I've
25 heard it said by a member of the Corps of Engineers,

1 that they can no longer afford to maintain these
2 high-cost, low-production dams. Across this country
3 the Corps of Engineers maintains and cares for many,
4 many dams.

5 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
6 remaining.

7 **BRIAN JONES:** In doing so, they realize
8 that these are insignificant dams. I do support
9 saving salmon. I do support keeping farmers whole.
10 I believe we need to come together finally and once
11 and for all sit down and find these solutions, find
12 the solutions that we need.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
15 go to the next caller, please.

16 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
17 line of Gloria Pancrazi. Gloria Pancrazi, your line
18 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

19 **GLORIA PANCRAZI:** Hi. So what I want to
20 say is that your draft Environmental Impact
21 Statement and the Environmental Impact Statement
22 that will be done in September will drive the orcas
23 and the salmon to extinction, unless you change it.

24 The Southern Resident killer whales are
25 starving; they are going extinct and the salmon are

1 too.

2 And ratepayers are losing money every
3 year. And what are you doing? You're violating the
4 Endangered Species Act and the National
5 Environmental Policy Act.

6 To save the endangered Snake River salmon,
7 the Southern Resident orcas, and ratepayers money,
8 the federal agencies need to address the Columbia
9 River System in a two-tiered process. Tier 1 is an
10 emergency response action for the immediate drawdown
11 and breach of the Lower Granite and Little Goose Dam
12 followed by the remaining two dams in subsequent
13 years.

14 Tier 2 is addressing system operations and
15 further mitigation activities in the rest of the
16 Columbia River basin using the new EIS, assuming
17 that the four lower Snake River dams are breached.

18 I marched for 14 days with about 100
19 people from France, Canada, and the states, as well
20 as two people that used to work for the U.S. Army
21 Corps of Engineers. Now, why do you think they were
22 marching with us to get those dams breached this
23 year? It's because they know that you are lying.
24 And we couldn't finish this walk because of the
25 COVID-19. But we will finish it as soon as we can.

1 We're not going anywhere. We're going to
2 continue protesting and marching until the whole
3 world tunes in and knows that you are lying and
4 you're spreading lies and corruption and it is so
5 messed up. And until the world knows that you are
6 violating the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, and
7 until finally the four lower Snake River dams are
8 breached, you have 72 lives in your hands and you
9 need to act that way.

10 You have to do the right thing. And I
11 would have just said that believing that you would
12 do the right thing, but after everything I've worked
13 on, I know that you won't and that we have to fight
14 for it. So this is a word for BPA and the U.S. Army
15 Corps when you're listening to this, we're not going
16 anywhere and you better do the right thing - breach
17 the four lower Snake River dams this year.

18 I yield the rest of my time.

19 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
20 move to the next caller, please.

21 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
22 line of Emmett Palmer. Emmett Palmer, your line is
23 now open for comment; please go ahead.

24 **EMMETT PALMER:** Hi. My name's Emmett
25 Palmer, and I'm in eighth grade at North Junior High

1 in Boise, Idaho. I appreciate the opportunity to
2 testify today.

3 We know that clean solar and wind energy
4 are good for the planet. But it is also true that
5 it is more affordable to be clean and green than to
6 rely on hydropower. Wind and solar are long-term
7 solutions.

8 Currently in the Northwest, we have 2.5
9 times more energy in clean energy, wind and solar,
10 than that produced by the four dams on the lower
11 Snake River. We can adjust to live without the
12 electricity from these dams; they produce only two
13 to four percent of electricity used in the Pacific
14 Northwest. Only six percent of the power they
15 generate goes to Idaho. In 2016, the Pacific
16 Northwest had a surplus of 16 percent in energy.

17 California used to be a large purchaser of
18 power from BPA, but because the state has invested
19 substantially in solar energy, California no longer
20 needs or buys as much as energy from BPA.

21 Also, we have to acknowledge that these
22 dams are part of a hydro system designed for a
23 climate that no longer exists. Snow is melting
24 earlier, meaning peak water in the dams no longer
25 corresponds with peak electrical load. In other

1 words, the value of summer electricity produced by
2 these dams is not as high as it once was. Today, we
3 are officially paying solar farms to go offline.
4 That is completely foolhardy. Solar power is clean,
5 renewable, and dependable, and it doesn't cause
6 extinctions of our fabulous wild fish populations.

7 It's beyond time that we move into the
8 21st century. Let's reject the unneeded hydropower
9 from these lower Snake River dams and save our wild
10 salmon in the process. Please reject the current
11 draft EIS. Thank you.

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
13 go to the next caller, please.

14 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
15 line of Valerie Yates. Valerie Yates, your line is
16 now open for comment; please go ahead.

17 **VALERIE YATES:** Thank you. Hello. My
18 name is Valerie Yates. I am a management consultant
19 who has worked with Fortune 500 executives for the
20 last 25 years to make the best strategic short- and
21 long-term decisions and actions that deliver value
22 for their shareholders.

23 So with regard to my comment, I share that
24 with you because I'd like to get right to a
25 recommendation. And like prior commenters, I'd like

1 to share that I'm recommending a two-tiered approach
2 to save our endangered Snake River salmon, Southern
3 Resident orca, and our ratepayers lots of money.

4 The first tier being an emergency response
5 action for the immediate drawdown and breach of the
6 Lower Granite and Little Goose Dam, followed by the
7 remaining two dams in subsequent years.

8 Tier 2 is addressing system operations and
9 further mitigation activities in the rest of the
10 Columbia River basin using the new EIS, assuming
11 that the four lower Snake River dams have been
12 breached.

13 I'd like to share with you why that's
14 important. As we've heard on this call and I'm sure
15 all the written comments, there are many reasons to
16 breach the lower Snake River dams. Here, there are
17 biological and economic reasons that I think are
18 really important.

19 The first is, endangered Snake River
20 salmon and steelhead have not recovered since the
21 2002 EIS was implemented, and actually have gotten
22 much worse over the last four years. We believe
23 that wild stocks may not survive further studies
24 foreseen in the CRSO process.

25 Secondly, the economic benefits of the

1 dams to the region have declined and operational
2 costs have risen.

3 Third, the Army Corps of Engineers already
4 spent seven years and \$33 million of ratepayer and
5 taxpayer money on the 2002 EIS, with a breach
6 recommendation.

7 Let me just pause and say, if the dams
8 were owned and managed by corporations rather than
9 the federal government, they would have been
10 breached back in 2002. There's no way that my
11 Fortune 500 executives would have gone this many
12 years with this kind of financial situation or with
13 this cost benefit analysis that really reflects the
14 costs are so high relative to the benefits.

15 Now lastly, how do we do this? The two-
16 tiered approach can be accomplished --

17 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
18 remaining.

19 **VALERIE YATES:** -- following existing
20 guidelines.

21 Thank you. -- following existing
22 guidelines. The Army Corps of Engineer has the
23 fiduciary responsibility to cease operations and
24 place a project into non-operational status when
25 projects are losing money economically or causing

1 unresolvable biological harm. Thus, the Corps of
2 Engineers does not need specific authorization from
3 Congress or anyone else to secure the project and
4 breach the four lower Snake River dams. The federal
5 agencies have a responsibility to comply to the
6 Endangered Species Act and to take the necessary
7 action.

8 I call out to Governor Inslee to be the
9 environmental leader that we know --

10 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

11 **VALERIE YATES:** -- he is, and please step
12 up, have the --

13 **MS. HABIBI:** Operator, we need to move to
14 the next caller, please.

15 **VALERIE YATES:** Thank you.

16 **OPERATOR:** And our next comment comes from
17 the line of Delton Jenkins. Delton Jenkins, your
18 line is now open for comment; please go ahead.

19 Delton Jenkins, your line is now open.
20 Are you in mute?

21 We'll go to the next caller. The next
22 comment comes from the line of Laura Heff (sic).
23 Laura Heff, your line is now open for comment;
24 please go ahead.

25 **ZORAH HESCH:** My name is Zorah Hesch

1 (phonetic). I'm a concerned citizen from Oregon.
2 Thank you for staying late and taking my comments.

3 I want to acknowledge that the Columbia
4 River plateau is the home of many tribes. And I
5 want to thank them for being the stewards of the
6 lands and the rivers for centuries.

7 Based on information available to me
8 today, I conclude that the four lower Snake River
9 dams are obsolete and need to be removed. The
10 agencies' preferred alternative perpetuates an
11 approach that has pushed salmon, orca, and other
12 wildlife population to the edge of extinction. No
13 species should go extinct under our watch. There
14 are option that allow us to co-exist.

15 Policymakers, tribes, stakeholders, and
16 communities need to work together on these complex
17 problems to craft creative and sustainable solution
18 that support the entire ecosystem.

19 To come up with such an inclusive plan,
20 the comment period must be extended. Here are some
21 of the reasons why: All stakeholders need to have
22 the opportunity to review the facts and scientist
23 data available as well as consider best practices
24 across the nation and the world. It is impossible
25 to read the full draft EIS and validate its content

1 in the given time period.

2 The CRSO website offers to view the draft
3 EIS electronically in various formats, including
4 public libraries. Many public libraries are closed
5 for weeks and will remain closed. Many people
6 currently have either no or limited access to
7 computers to read the draft EIS or to conduct
8 research of its validity.

9 There's a disconnect why native wildlife
10 like the double-crested cormorant is still used as a
11 scapegoat. Scientific data needs to be considered
12 and the persecution of native predator species must
13 be eliminated from this plan.

14 Communities are concerned about the
15 impacts of the removal of the dams to their
16 livelihood. Keeping the status quo out of fear of
17 change will result in all of us losing. This is a
18 huge opportunity to improve an outdated
19 infrastructure.

20 Policymakers, communities, and
21 stakeholders must come together to create forward-
22 thinking solutions that secure the existence of
23 communities and an intact ecosystem.

24 The economic impact of COVID-19 will force
25 us to be even more mindful of how we use our

1 resources. There's no room to waste any more of our
2 public resources.

3 Under the Endangered Species Act, it is
4 time now to breach the lower Snake River dams.

5 Thank you for your time, and I yield the
6 rest of my time.

7 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
8 take the next caller, please.

9 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
10 line of Elizabeth Dunne. Elizabeth Dunne, your line
11 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

12 **ELIZABETH DUNNE:** Hi. Thank you. My name
13 is Elizabeth Dunne. I'm an attorney in Port
14 Angeles, Washington. I have worked as an attorney
15 for 20 years. I've worked for large law firms.
16 I've worked as a clerk for federal judges. And now
17 I have my own practice.

18 And I want to speak to the congressional
19 authority issue. As an earlier commenter noted, the
20 congressional authority is a red herring. The Army
21 Corps clearly has congressional authority -- clearly
22 has authority without Congress to breach these dams
23 by putting them in non-operational status.

24 I've reviewed the applicable statutes and
25 regulations, and I have no doubt that that is the

1 case.

2 So that needs to stop. The perpetuation
3 of that falsehood is destructive and continues to
4 basically make the corps look like an agency that we
5 can't have faith in, and we can't believe anything
6 that the corps is saying. So that's my first point
7 on the congressional authority.

8 I also want to speak to the -- I guess I
9 will add, too, that I'm actually surprised that the
10 corps would even want to say that it doesn't have
11 authority to take such an action, given that the
12 corps obviously wants the flexibility as an
13 executive agency that it would actually cede power
14 to the congressional -- to Congress to act in such a
15 manner.

16 And I think that in this day and age what
17 we're seeing happening here with executive
18 authority, it's really absurd to even continue to
19 perpetuate that falsehood.

20 Secondly, as to the appropriations, no new
21 appropriations are required. The current
22 (indiscernible) mitigation money that's being used
23 can be reallocated to breaching the dams, which is a
24 much more cost-effective solution.

25 Also, as an alternative, the corps can use

1 the emergency provisions under NEPA because of the
2 emergency that we're in with the extinction of the
3 salmon and the orcas. And there are regulations
4 that recognize that in emergency situations, a loss
5 of a public resource, the dams can be breached, and
6 an environmental assessment document can be prepared
7 for NEPA coverage. So that's my second point.

8 Thank you very much.

9 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
10 remaining.

11 **ELIZABETH DUNNE:** I'm --

12 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
13 go to the next caller, please.

14 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
15 line of Errol Povah. Errol Povah, your line is now
16 open for comment; please go ahead.

17 **ERROL POVAH:** I haven't tracked the calls
18 as closely as Karen, I believe she was caller number
19 13, much, much earlier on. That said, it seems to
20 me that the vast majority of the pro-dam people are
21 presidents, CEOs, general managers, executive
22 directors, commissioners, trustees, et cetera, et
23 cetera, et cetera, of one power company or another.
24 Clearly, they have a vested interest in keeping the
25 dams.

1 Maybe ten percent or probably even less,
2 five percent, of the pro-dam people have been just
3 your average random citizen. I mean, there have
4 been a...

5 Having said that, too, I'm reluctant to
6 single out individuals for their amazing comments.
7 But I'd be remiss I think if I didn't mention the
8 sixth grader who called in. He was incredible. And
9 there was one pro-dam person who, I forget what the
10 word was, she claimed that he was being a puppet, or
11 something along those lines, which is absolutely
12 absurd, that the young fellow was incredibly
13 eloquent and powerful. Yes, he may have been
14 reading from a prepared statement, but anyway.

15 And quite frankly, too, how dare the pro-
16 dam people -- it seems they're grasping at straws
17 when they talk about suggesting that if the dams are
18 breached people will die. Like it's mind boggling.

19 And I'd also like to make note of Brian
20 Jones, the fourth generation wheat farmer. I
21 suspect he may get some slack from his fellow
22 farmers. But it took a lot of guts for him to say
23 he supports the breaching on the condition that the
24 farmers aren't negatively impacted. And I think he
25 deserves a great deal of credit for that. And if

1 more people could think the way he does, we wouldn't
2 be talking about this right now.

3 Yeah. And finally, I'd just like to say
4 it was clearly a mistake to build the four lower
5 Snake River dams in the first place and it's an even
6 bigger mistake to keep them or maintain the status
7 quo at any and all costs.

8 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
9 remaining.

10 **ERROL POVAH:** And finally, when I was on
11 the other day, I suggested that the decision makers
12 listening to these calls right now go to YouTube or
13 Google and watch the video of J35, who lost her calf
14 and swam with the calf on her head for 17 days. I'm
15 wondering if any of them actually did that. Thank
16 you.

17 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

18 Thank you. Operator, you may move to the
19 next caller, please.

20 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
21 line of Jonah Coffman (phonetic). Jonah Coffman,
22 your line now is open for comment; please go ahead.

23 **JONAH COFFMAN:** Hello. My name is Jonah
24 Coffman, and I'm a freshman at North Junior High in
25 Boise, Idaho.

1 Since the listing of sockeye salmon as
2 endangered in 1991 under the Endangered Species Act,
3 we, the taxpayers and utility payers, have spent 16
4 to 17 billion dollars on fish ladders, dam
5 modifications, hatcheries, barging smolts out to
6 see, researching and monitoring, captive rearing of
7 sockeye, and using irrigation water from the upper
8 Snake River to flush smolt out to sea.

9 Hatchery fish are not the solution. They
10 were created for people to catch and for mitigation
11 for destruction of habitats. But hatchery fish
12 cannot do what wild salmon do and have not replaced
13 wild fish.

14 Low and worsening salmon and steelhead
15 returns hurt commercial and tribal fishermen and
16 fishing guides and the hurt communities throughout
17 Idaho and the region.

18 The current draft EIS only gives us more
19 of the same failed solutions, which are not real
20 solutions at all.

21 Idaho was once one of the most productive
22 salmon and steelhead ecosystems of the world. Let's
23 make that happen again. Please reject this draft
24 EIS.

25 I yield my time.

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you can
2 go to the next caller, please.

3 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
4 line of Dawn Smallman. Dawn Smallman, your line now
5 is open; please go ahead for comment.

6 **DAWN SMALLMAN:** Thank you. I'm Dawn
7 Smallman. I'm a professional certified naturalist,
8 a documentary filmmaker who specializes in wildlife
9 films for federal agencies in my past career, and I
10 host a festival and am the director of one of the
11 largest environmental festivals in the Pacific
12 Northwest.

13 I'm calling to make a comment that I
14 support the breaching of the four lower Snake River
15 dams, and I support it as the only option that
16 should be considered for the official plan and that
17 the breach needs to happen in 2020. The four lower
18 Snake River dams are not renewable energy. Energy
19 sources that push multiple species towards
20 extinction can never be considered or counted as
21 renewable anything. Extinction is the opposite of
22 renewable. Extinction is forever, non-renewable.

23 The public has grown weary of another
24 study, another task force, another waste of hundreds
25 of millions of ratepayer and taxpayer dollars. The

1 agencies have lost five times in courtrooms
2 defending non-biologically sound plans that have not
3 increased the salmon populations.

4 Let's cease wasting people's money and the
5 salmon and the orca's precious fleeting time.

6 Tribal treaty rights to fish require
7 healthy fish populations. These tribal rights must
8 be honored. Hatcheries are negatively impacting and
9 weakening wild salmon populations. They aren't the
10 answer.

11 The public needs and wants the agencies to
12 all work together to work swiftly, to work in
13 conjunction with two true real renewable energy
14 providers to collaboratively develop a plan to
15 breach the dams while at the same time providing new
16 clean green, affordable energy sources to the people
17 whose energy will be impacted by the removal of the
18 dams and to help farmers who currently ship products
19 on the river, switch over to shipping their products
20 by rail.

21 The combination of these dams and climate
22 change is a deadly one because of the ever-
23 increasing water temperatures caused by both, which
24 will soon make horrible habitats, deadly habitats
25 for our salmon and steelhead if the dams remain. In

1 turn, that will mean death by starvation for our
2 endangered Southern Resident orcas.

3 Breaching the dams and renewable are, once
4 again, the answers. The new plan must focus on the
5 removal of four obsolete lower Snake River dams,
6 increase water flows over the Columbia River dams
7 and habitat restoration along both of the rivers.

8 The agencies need to cease the persecution
9 of native wildlife predator species, including
10 cormorants and sea lions. Shooting poisoning, and
11 causing the biological collapse of entire wildlife
12 counties as you all have done in the past, will
13 never fix the problem because they are not the
14 primary problem - the dams are.

15 We want and need the agencies to fix this
16 massive --

17 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
18 remaining.

19 **DAWN SMALLMAN:** -- (indiscernible) problem
20 while leaving no humans or wildlife behind. We are
21 counting on you to get it right before time runs
22 out. We know that dam removal works, because it's
23 worked in every single dam where the dams have been
24 removed, the ecosystems have become healthier.
25 Thank you.

1 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
2 move to the next caller, please.

3 **OPERATOR:** Thank you. Our next comment
4 comes from the line of Matthew Hoberg (phonetic).
5 Matthew Hoberg, your line is now open for comment;
6 please go ahead.

7 **MATTHEW HOBERG:** Hello, everyone. My name
8 is Matthew Hoberg. I am 13 years old and a middle
9 school student.

10 I am for 100 percent carbon-free power. I
11 have been listening to the testimony over these few
12 days, and I am alarmed and concerned at the idea of
13 taking out the lower Snake River dams. As a young
14 person looking towards the future, it is an atrocity
15 to undue all the hard work that hydropower has done
16 to make the Pacific Northwest what it is today.

17 And don't get me wrong; I also care about
18 the salmon. During field trips, me and my fellow
19 students saw firsthand the accommodations and
20 investments that have been made to support the
21 salmon on their journey through the Columbia River
22 System.

23 There is more we can do to help our
24 salmon. But getting rid of clean, renewable power
25 source that provides for millions of people is not a

1 proper way to do so.

2 Thank you for staying late and listening
3 to all of our testimonies. I yield the rest of my
4 time.

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. Operator, you may
6 go to the next caller, please.

7 **OPERATOR:** Our next comment comes from the
8 line of Keith Kutchins. Keith Kutchins, your line
9 is now open for comment; please go ahead.

10 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** Thank you. My name is
11 Keith Kutchins of Spokane, Washington.

12 This draft EIS fails because it doesn't
13 develop alternatives that meet the needs of
14 threatened and endangered fish protected by the
15 Endangered Species Act, but, instead, only at best,
16 it might improve fish, but no discernible level.

17 The draft fails because the preferred
18 alternative makes the needs of water supply,
19 navigation, and electricity production the priority.
20 Those needs are guaranteed to be met first and
21 foremost. Then, and only then, does the preferred
22 alternative work to, no, not meet, but, instead,
23 only, at best, simply improve fish.

24 Remember, the EIS -- the ESA is this EIS'
25 mandate, and it's the floor we cannot go below, not

1 a ceiling we can't exceed as this faulty draft is
2 written. The preferred alternative clearly loses
3 sight of the purpose of and need for this EIS; that
4 is, the 2016 judge signed a court order -- and boy,
5 I wish His Honor has been listening in over the last
6 six hearings.

7 This order comes after 25-plus years of
8 failed biops. Remember that first 1992 biop was
9 sued in 1994. And when the defendant NIMS embedded
10 with the operating agencies lost, Judge Marsh asked
11 the plaintiff, Idaho, do you want me to shut them
12 down, the dams down?

13 Imagine if Idaho had said yes.

14 Unfortunately, it was a gubernatorial
15 election year and politics prevailed over best
16 available science, and 25 years later, here we are.

17 This EIS needs to finally adopt a
18 preferred alternative that, first and foremost,
19 meets the needs of threatened and endangered fish.
20 And then, tries to meet the needs of water supply,
21 navigation, electricity production.

22 MO-3's the only alternative that might
23 restore fish. Chapter 2 of the 2019 Comparative
24 Smolt Survival Report (indiscernible), the
25 operations and configuration declared for the

1 Columbia River power system, and shouldn't be the
2 starting point for this draft.

3 Use caution when setting spill at 125
4 percent nitrogen saturation. It does definitely
5 lead to developed gas trauma and gas bubble disease.

6 Bypassing the four lower Snake River dams
7 provides the velocities required for successful
8 salmon migration and, and allows storage reservoir
9 elevations to remain relatively full and stable,
10 thus maximizing irrigation, flood risk management,
11 and electricity production objectives, along with
12 also --

13 **MS. HABIBI:** You have 30 seconds
14 remaining.

15 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** -- resident fishing
16 lamprey objectives. The EIS is fatally flawed,
17 unless alternative MO-3 includes this in its power.
18 The economics has been greatly stated. Thank you,
19 Tim Palmer. These dams cost more than they're
20 worth.

21 This last bit about the congressional
22 authorization, how can -- Congress, it seems to be
23 able -- sorry. The action agencies are able to --
24 my last sentence. Action agencies are able to
25 exceed congressional mandate of only operating five

1 to seven percent of the dams' --

2 **MS. HABIBI:** Your time has lapsed.

3 **KEITH KUTCHINS:** -- mandate. So how can
4 they have that authority when you --

5 **MS. HABIBI:** Thank you. This is your
6 facilitator, Maryam Habibi. It's now 8:52, and
7 there are no more callers in the queue.

8 We'll take this opportunity to thank
9 everyone for their interest, their time, and
10 flexibility as we listened to your input today. We
11 encourage you to share any additional comments you
12 have through one of the other methods described on
13 the project website, www.croso.info.

14 I'll turn it over Roland Springer to close
15 the meeting.

16 **MR. SPRINGER:** Yes. Thank you, Maryam. I
17 just want to thank all of you who have stayed on the
18 line with us for the five hours of this meeting. I
19 appreciate your patience, your willingness to share
20 your comments and ideas and thoughts with us.

21 As mentioned earlier, we will consider all
22 these and respond to them as part of our comment
23 response, moving towards the final Environmental
24 Impact Statement.

25 Thank you again for your time this

1 evening. I'll turn it back to the operator, I
2 believe.

3 **OPERATOR:** Ladies and gentlemen, that does
4 conclude our conference for today. Thank you for
5 your participation.

6 **(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded.)**
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1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, Debra Sprague, do hereby certify that I
4 reported all proceedings adduced in the foregoing matter
5 and that the foregoing transcript pages constitutes a
6 full, true and accurate record of said proceedings to the
7 best of my ability.

8
9 I further certify that I am neither related
10 to counsel or any party to the proceedings nor have any
11 interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

12
13 IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my
14 hand this 10th day of April, 2020.

15
16 

17
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19 _____
20 Debra Sprague
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