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COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING DRAFT EIS
PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

RED LION HOTEL
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

00100

1 be it.

2 My god, Bin Laden's family can put a
3 bridge over the top of the Black Sea -- or
4 the Red Sea for ten billion dollars and we
5 are talking four billion to get just about
6 where I could throw a rock at a few years
7 ago? This is ridiculous.

8 Thank you.

9 HAL DINGERINK: Thank you. John.

10 JONATHAN SCHLUETER: Thank you.

11 For the record, my name is Jonathan
12 Schlueter. I'm the Executive Director of
13 West Side Economic Alliance based in
14 Tigard.

15 I thought until I heard one of your
16 previous witnesses say that he was from
17 Chehalis that I might claim the title for
18 the longest distance commute to testify at
19 tonight's meeting. So I thought it
20 appropriate to explain why somebody from
21 the west side of the Portland Metro Region
22 would want to appear here today.

23 It is because 105 companies in
24 Washington County ship containerized
25 freights over the Port of Portland and



00101

1 Vancouver. Freight mobility is very
2 essential to us. In fact, Washington
3 County is the ninth largest county in 41
4 states that ship containerized freights
5 over the Port of Portland and Vancouver
6 docks. That's important to the jobs of
7 both communities and in both states.
8 Together we are part of 2.7 billion
9 dollars in export trade to our largest
10 export destination from Oregon
11 manufacturers, and that is Canada.
12 Canada is the leading export
13 destination for manufactured goods from
14 Oregon, and that is larger than our second
15 and third largest destinations combined.
16 It is very essential to our economy.
17 Secondly, it's very vital to
18 sustaining a competitive regional economy.
19 We count 10,000 employees who reside here
20 in Clark County who commute south to jobs
21 in Washington County every day and I count
22 3000 of my neighbors who woke up this
23 morning to come north to find their
24 fortunes here in Clark County and pump
25 their own gas to get tonight.

00102

1 That accounts for five to eight
2 percent of just the private sector
3 employment in Washington County alone.
4 That is very important. We can't give up
5 five to eight percent of our work force.
6 No competitive economy can do that.
7 Thirdly, Washington County is the
8 economic engine of this Portland
9 Metropolitan statistical area. We count
10 250,000 jobs. Together we contribute 850
11 million dollars to our state economy.
12 Let's remind ourselves that in Oregon, we
13 have the nasty liability of a personal
14 income tax.
15 We are contributing one of six income
16 tax dollars used to run our state just
17 from Washington County payrolls. Again,
18 we have to have a full and competitive
19 work force. That means that if you value
20 public education and if you value health
21 care and if you worry about public safety
22 and if you worry about our workers getting
23 to jobs in the morning and our products to
24 the customers in the afternoon.
25 Fourth, Washington County residents

00103

1 get the connection between access and
2 mobility to a sustainable local economy.
3 The Portland Tribune last week reported
4 the results and findings of a public
5 opinion survey that was conducted of 400
6 residents in our three counties.

7 62 percent favored the replacement of
8 the Columbia Crossing. We get it on our
9 side. And only 13 percent -- a very vocal
10 13 percent -- oppose that project. I
11 think most of the them were represented
12 here tonight.

13 Fifth, and in conclusion, we
14 conclusion, we conclude that we must
15 have -- to have a sustainable viable
16 economy, we must increase freight
17 mobility, we must improve road capacity,
18 we must enable commuter access, we must
19 provide flexibility in choice -- in mobile
20 choice, we must improve and protect public
21 safety. Those elements are what we are
22 missing.

23 Thank you.

24 HAL Dengerink: At this point, if
25 you two guys want to stand down, Pauline

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
County of Clark)

I, Cathy S. Taylor, a notary public
for the State of Washington do hereby
certify that I transcribed to the best of
my ability said proceedings written by me
in machine shorthand and thereafter
reduced to typewriting; and that the
foregoing transcript constitutes a full,
true and accurate record of said
proceedings and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and notarial seal
this 16th day of June, 2008.

Cathy S. Taylor, RPR, CSR
Notary Public for the State of Washington
My Commission expires April 15, 2009