

Good afternoon. My name is Jennifer Calvert, and I am a resident of Spokane Valley for the past ten years and a resident of the Spokane area since the early 1980's. A few years ago, I took part in a fun little board game at a League of Women Voters meeting, at which an Avista representative had us looking at the different sources of power available and the costs for providing them. It seemed pretty clear that moving away from coal as a significant source of electricity was going to be too costly for the ratepayers of Avista to consider. Fast forward a few years and the landscape has changed, on many levels: the costs of alternative sources of power, especially renewable sources like wind and solar, have fallen significantly, but even more important, the costs of continuing to use coal to produce electricity have risen, with especially when the cost of the cleanup when a facility is abandoned, not to mention the ancillary costs such as air and water pollution and accompanying health hazards.

It is ludicrous for Avista to make a two-decade long plan to continue to use coal to create power. Scientists tell us, and more and more people are beginning to agree with them, that every bit of coal in the ground needs to stay there if we have any real hope of keeping the earth's climate from becoming unlivable for all life on the planet. So for Avista to make a plan for the future that depends on using coal is so short-sighted as well as dangerous. I had to come here today to plead for a positive change in the direction towards our continued existence on this planet, because I don't want my teen-age grandson to have to say to me some day in the future, that I had the chance to speak up and stop the madness but instead decided to stay home and let the powers that be make the decision to ruin his future.

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