

MR. FRAGOSA: My name is William Fragosa. I am speaking for myself and for my family. I speak for the generations that I come from, and I stand here and I see someone right over here with a name called the wolf mocking us. He has his own view on things.

1... Well, I am here to speak for those that can't speak, and I am here to speak for the water, for the plants, for all the creatures in the ocean and the rivers and all the life in all places that don't have the voice that we have. But they have life; they have feelings; and they have a right to all of that. Because without all of that life, we wouldn't be here. It's all connected.

I feel shame standing here. I feel shame that we have to submit ourselves once again to this kind of harassment, once again, you know, by these people that know what's better for us. Once again, you know, we stand here, and we are asking that life go on. There's a lot of money sitting in this room. Many of us got up real early this morning; we drove hundreds of miles to be here. We don't have budgets other than what we have of our own. We don't have, you know, the -- we don't have somebody flying us in, you know, renting a car for us, bringing us here, putting us up in luxury. But we are here because it's important, because we are taught that the generations that are yet to come depend on us. Just as seven generations before, I know that my people saw what was going on, and they started to pray harder than ever, and this generation today has the same responsibility to the life.

And whether I agree with this person or any other person here, they still have life within them, and I respect that. But I have to still stand here and feel shame all around me. I was sent to Viet Nam by this government back in '67. I saw things that were horrible; and yet I look around and I see people that, you know, feel that they can just say -- or you know, be so shameful. And you know, is that what I suffered and others suffered for? So that we could come back and have this kind of treatment? It's shameful. Very shameful.

I hope that -- I pray -- we say prayers a lot. And you are all within our prayers.

For me, I see all the signs, I see all that other stuff. I am intelligent enough to make sense of it. And what makes -- what it tells me is that, you know, this is all wrong.

...1 I just want to leave you with the thought that whatever we do today affects the life right now and onward. And my ancestors are looking out at you through my eyes, and there's such a thing as Karma, and we will see where that goes. I thank you.

[APPLAUSE.]

FACILITATOR HOLMES: John, John Hadder. And John Stevens will follow John Hadder.