

1 Good morning ladies and gentlemen and members
2 of the House committee on Natural Resources,
3 subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

4 My name is Jeremiah O'Brien, and I am the vice
5 president of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's
6 Organization and a member of the Morro Bay Harbor
01:35 7 Advisory Board.

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01:36 9 As many of you know, those of us in the fishing
01:36 10 industry have been in discussion with various energy
01:36 11 developers for the past seven years now and have met
01:36 12 with various degrees of success in some cases, less in
01:36 13 others.

01:36 14 We do not want people to think that mitigation
01:36 15 means acceptance of the harm that this will do to our
01:36 16 industry and our community. It does not. Mitigation is
01:36 17 a desperate tool for existence and survival in the near
01:36 18 future, and continued build-out of these facilities will
01:36 19 cause permanent damage to the commercial fishing
01:36 20 industry and those industries shorebased that support
01:36 21 us.

01:36 22 There is no amount of money this will save the
01:36 23 eventual destruction or solve any of the related
01:36 24 problems. As we lose more areas over time, coupled with
01:36 25 the areas we have lost to environmental and government

01:37 1 restriction, we will be moving fishermen further and
01:37 2 further into a shrinking ocean, meaning that will cause
01:37 3 a loss of income and loss of harvestable fish stocks as
01:37 4 more and more boats converge on an ever shrinking area.

01:37 5 The fishing industry is comprised of hardy,
01:37 6 strong and brave men and women, but the industry itself
01:37 7 and what holds it together is a very delicate system of
01:37 8 suppliers, parts, facilities, processing, community
01:37 9 workers, and trucking, and it goes on. We ship our
01:37 10 harvest worldwide, and its contribution to help our
01:37 11 trade imbalance is very important to our economy.

01:37 12 This all constitutes a very delicate balance,
01:37 13 and if one area is affected adversely it will
01:37 14 reverberate throughout the system and its facilities.

01:37 15 When one link in this chain is broken it can be
01:38 16 devastating to many other segments of the community near
01:38 17 and far from the sea, and the echoing effect on the
01:38 18 taking of these areas must be comprehensively addressed
01:38 19 and analyzed so you will know exactly what this trade
01:38 20 for ocean resources is really worth.

01:38 21 A complete and total economic report should be
01:38 22 the first thing we do in order to explain and help
01:38 23 understand what this trade off of power for food
01:38 24 resource is actually costing the American people.

01:38 25 We need to analyze the losses of accessibility

01:38 1 to these areas, the impacts to the communities in these
01:38 2 areas, and all related shorebased economic impacts.

01:38 3 I say this because never before have we had to
01:38 4 trade valuable resources such as food security and
01:38 5 economic loss to gain other resources such as power.

01:38 6 In the past we used things like steam, coal,
01:38 7 fossil fuels, solar, wind, and nuclear power, but we've
01:39 8 never had to trade a valuable resource such as food to
01:39 9 make gains on our power grid. These others have come at
01:39 10 a relatively cheap price where we are not losing other
01:39 11 resources.

01:39 12 Also in this regard we will need to come up
01:39 13 with a figure, a number, or a cost to the final consumer
01:39 14 for this product. Mom and Dad who put a piece of toast
01:39 15 in the toaster in the morning should need to know what
01:39 16 this type of electricity will cost them.

01:39 17 It is our contention that this cost will burden
01:39 18 the American people at a time when housing, food, and
01:39 19 transportation costs are soaring. This will add much
01:39 20 pain and suffering to those already feeling oppressed
01:39 21 and lead to further homelessness in America.

01:39 22 Wind energy industries speak of gains and
01:39 23 claims of employment. We need an economic impact report
01:39 24 so we can see the true losses and gains and how the
01:39 25 American consumer will fair at the end of these

