

a retired RN

I am Diane Winn from ~~Portland, Oregon~~. Early in my career, I worked as a nurse at a large hospital in southern California. I always hoped that I would not be assigned to care for patients with emphysema and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,— not because I didn't like the patient but because I hated the illness and what it did to them. Nothing was more frightening and distressing than a person struggling for every breath and desperately gasping for air.

Symptoms for these chronic respiratory and cardiac diseases can be treated but there is no cure! Medical complications often arise that require extensive and costly treatments. It is not something that you would not want to wish on your worst enemy. Prevention is critical!

Coal, the most polluting of the fossil fuels, and fine particulate diesel matter are linked to a number of debilitating and chronic diseases. If we allow coal companies to have their way, we can expect further degradation of the public's health and sky rocketing health care costs. It's immoral for coal companies to continue to pollute our air and heat our planet and value profits over the health of people.

I urge you to conduct a very robust and comprehensive review of this proposed project that will also include an examination of the health and safety impacts.

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