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Submission Text

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Greetings carbon-based lifeforms! My name is Archie the Coal Nugget. For the last three years, I've been the official mascot for the Arch Coal Company. I'm sure after this public appearance I will lose my endorsement and will probably end up in a power plant furnace.

I am here to testify for the no action alternative. I speak not just for myself, but for the coalition of nuggets in situ, a very large unmined constituency petitioning to simply be left in the ground. We did not ask for our fate, which included being stripped mined, dumped into rail cars, hauled miles from home, and incinerated.

I don't know any members of the Surface Transportation Board, but I've heard there are very nice people in Washington, DC. I appeal to their humanity and conscience when I ask respectfully to just leave us alone.

As an official mascot, I've been accused of being a corporate shill, a sell-out, a gimmick, and worse. I stand here today a reformed nugget, black on the outside and green on the inside. It was never my intention to go rogue, but I rebuke my sponsors who have aggressively promoted the delusion of clean coal. I was not prepared for the backlash from an educated public who knows better. Now I'm left with no choice but to go public.

Coal has been vilified and made a scapegoat in the rapidly increasing degradation of the atmosphere. We've been mined against our will and conscripted into the armies of evil. I can now say with certainty, there is no such thing as clean coal when it is loosed upon humanity.

We nuggets were formed 350 million years ago, even before the dinosaurs, and we want to stay in the ground that we've come to know as home. I'm currently seeking whistleblower status with a new identity and a modest stipend. I understand there are generous fossil fuel subsidies provided annually to the petro conglomerates, so this should not be a hardship.

I say to you the Surface Transportation Board: no mining, no shipping, no burning. Thank you.