

Before I start, I want to say that, as someone who will have spent over 12 hours today away from my family and my job, I appreciate you listening to everyone that came today. My name is Michelle Butler, and I'm here to ask that, when you leave here today, you take away two things. First, that this programmatic environmental impact statement only demonstrates the administration's desire to keep coal in the ground. It's bad for our economy. It's bad for jobs, and it's bad for millions of Americans who struggle to pay their power bill every month. Second, finish this PEIS in a timely manner, and if anything, only simplify the leasing process and let us go back to work providing affordable, reliable electricity for millions of families across the country. I'm a second-generation coal miner. My dad worked for 25 years in the Powder River Basin, providing his family a stable income and numerous opportunities. He met my mom, the first female millwright in the PRB, and they made northeast Wyoming their home. Now I am lucky enough to have had the opportunity to return to the place I grew up and start family of my own, thanks to the coal industry. My two daughters will grow up knowing what energy powers the country. That's if you listen to us here today and let us get back to work and leave the federal coal program alone.