

Good afternoon, my name is Kelli Cady, and I work for Cloud Peak Energy. I'm here to tell you today that the American taxpayer is receiving a fair return for federal coal. I encourage you to simplify the leasing process and do not increase taxes. If you leave the royalty rate alone, great jobs will still remain for thousands of people across the country just like me. I started working in the coal industry in 2015, and it has changed my life completely. As a full-time single mother to my two-and-a-half year old son, I now have the ability to provide for a stable home, healthcare coverage, and a mom who works hard in the industry that gives back to its communities. Although I, like many, would rather have had the scoping meeting in Campbell County, I understand the importance of being heard, which is why I devoted my day to travel here while missing out on picking up my child from school. My son is in a state-of-the-art preschool center in Gillette all because of the taxes and royalties coal companies pay to mine federal coal, and it does not stop there. These communities -- excuse me -- these companies go above and beyond to give back to their communities with countless contributions to nonprofits and thousands of hours of volunteer time. This industry allows single mothers like myself to provide an optimistic and hopeful life for my son. Please don't take that away from us. Leave the federal coal program alone. The American taxpayers are getting more than a fair return on federal. Let's leave it that way. Thank you. (Applause.)