

Good afternoon. My name is Leland Christensen, and I serve in the Wyoming legislature in the senate, and I'm interested in this. Let me tell you why. When you're talking about coal, you have to understand we're talking about people. We're talking about lives, families, layoffs, foreclosures, not going to college, less food on the table, moving out of state. But, you know, we're also talking about America. We're talking about changing the affordable reliable energy source that has really separated and made this a different country than the rest of them in the world. It's that reliability that has allowed our manufacturing that's got us through so many difficult times in the past, and here we are talking about changing that, tampering with that. Now, this is personal for me. My family on my mother's side showed up in Wyoming in 1883 from the coal mines in England. They came over to Almy, Wyoming, and went to work in the coal mines. And they paid some high prices for that. But that was their trade. They came to America to the land of opportunity. And here we are talking about changing that, taking away that free-market advantage, that opportunity that we have that has blessed this country since, on our family's side, back in the 1880s. Now, my son and my son-in-law are both miners too. So it's not just old history. It's the future for our family that we think about like so many people in this room, their families and their children. But, again, remember, it's not just Wyoming. This really is about America. Personally, I know what it's like to have an industry wiped out by federal regulation. I was a logger back in the '70s and '80s, and I saw what happened when the federal government got in the middle of logging regulation, and all of a sudden crushed the industry. Now some of those forests that were logged are the healthiest forests we see compared to the land that was left. It wasn't work. I'd like to draw your attention to the document we picked up as we walked in this morning, the federal order, an order from the Secretary of Interior 3338, and "Subject" - I like that subject -- "Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program." Then down in the middle of that first paragraph it talks about this order and the ideas behind it. But it says: "Analyze potential leasing and management reforms to the current federal coal program in a manner that gives consideration to the impact of that development on important stewardship values while also

returning a fair return to the American public." It seems like we're missing a very important part of this. Imagine what's the impact on the American public? What's the impact on the America? We're talking about two prongs, but is there a commitment from the BLM to look at the impact on people and on our country itself? You're looking at two of them according to this, and I sure hope that that third part is considered. You know, we know that Wyoming, which relies on coal, a lot of our electricity and the nation's comes from Wyoming. Here we are with roughly half of the electrical rates that California has. You see other countries around the world are now starting to abandon the wind and solar because they had left coal, and they found out their electrical rates increasing from triple to doubling, doubling to tripling. Since when does America need to repeat the mistakes of other countries? We can do better than that.