

Thank you. My name is Scott Clem. I'm a representative for Campbell County and Gillette. Like my colleague Norine Kasperik, I'm right in the middle of coal country, right in the heart. This morning, I woke up. I'm within ten miles of three different coal mines and six different power plants. I woke up this morning to clean air. It was pristine. I woke up, and I could see one of the power plants, and I could see the steam stack. That's not smoke coming out of those stacks. That is steam. I didn't see dust or coal ash or anything flying around in the air because we don't have that in Wyoming. Wildlife flourishes in Wyoming. Even though it's interesting, we talk about reclamation. You know, why is it that Wyoming is the gold standard for reclamation? And it is. And it isn't because the feds tell us that we have to have it that way. It's not. It's because we the people of Wyoming live, breathe and work here. We ensure clean air and clean water for us and our children. For those who slam our reclamation and claim that coal mining hurts wildlife and pollutes our environment, you're relying upon environmental propaganda. Come and experience it yourself. Come to Gillette, Wyoming. I'll gladly give you a tour. The thing is you're relying upon faulty information. You know, I'm offering an alternative here in regards to the issue at stake. We would not be having this meeting if our state owned and managed our lands. We've got a live feed here, and I'm going to put this up on the live feed so the rest of America can see. (Raises paper to the camera.) If you can see this map, this is a map of the U.S., and what it is is you can see there's a red line. All that red in the western part of the U.S. is land that's controlled or owned or claimed ownership by the federal government. Here in Wyoming, 48 percent of our land and 67 percent of our minerals are controlled by the federal government. So who is calling the shots? Who is making the decisions about land, our minerals, our coal? Is it Wyomingites? No. At least not on state -- or on this federal claim land. No. It's Washington, D.C. bureaucrats in an office building somewhere. You know, we talk about a fair return to the taxpayer. What about a fair return to the Wyoming taxpayer? We're mining Wyoming coal. A billion dollars in royalties doesn't go to our coffers. It goes to the federal government, and then we get a kickback of about half that back. You know, I have reason to want to mitigate externalities, but that doesn't mean that we leave coal in the

ground or punish the industry at exorbitant cost. We need to be economically efficient. When the cost to companies and the benefits to the environment intersect somewhere, that's where we have economic efficiency. When costs are increased without the increase of the marginal benefit, we miss the mark, and we're hurting companies for nothing. We're spending for nothing, and we're hurting businesses. Let me ask you this. Don't Wyoming children deserve the same rights as every state east of Wyoming to use their natural resources to fund education? In North Dakota they own over 95 percent of the public land. Here in Wyoming we don't. We don't get the full benefit of our resources. So I would encourage if anything give us back our land and let us manage our lands. Let us manage our coal companies. (Applause.) We don't need Washington bureaucrats telling us what to do. We're fully capable just like every state that's east of Wyoming. Thank you.