

Hi, my name is Russ Cranen. I work for Cloud Peak Energy. I'm here representing all the coal miners, their wives and their children, husbands also and extended families. At the beginning today, I had something I'd like to say, but after watching the PowerPoint presentation, I decided to go with what you brought up -- the how, when, where, and also why. The how, the Secretary is trying to raise the taxes at the same time there's a moratorium on the new coal leases at the same time the President is trying to push through a bill that will take money and give it to West Virginia and other coal mining states that have already lost their jobs in their industry. To me, that's a Ponzi scheme that's worthy of Bernie Madoff. The when. The when is at a time when the natural cyclical response to market conditions affecting the coal mining industry are the normal consequence of a free-market economy have been exacerbated by policy, regulation, and the determined destruction of the industry. I have spoken to and listened to those that would continue down this path, and countless times I hear, "Well, you go look at the big picture, got to look at the big picture." Every time I hear that, it's coming from the mouths of people who are intellectually unable to mentally study, analyze, and proffer a sound, low-impact and executable plan -- a sound, low-impact, and executable plan. This would address all parties' concerns instead of proffering regurgitated opinions based on unverifiable facts, not all but most. Said plan would most likely not address all concerns but most, and let's speak frankly. Alternative energy is coal's competition. Alternative energy is supporting the end of coal. The efficiencies they are working with cannot compete. So they are subsidized and support Secretary Jewell to make money. Climate change activists speak as though there is empirical evidence to the fact. There isn't. We have a very short climate record -- a hundred, 150 years. Ice core samples done by USGS have proven a 1,500-year and 200-year cycle. NASA is also in the process of spending billions of dollars to study our solar system as it moves through our galaxy. And they say we are moving through our galaxy in the higher energy area of our galaxy, which is a leading cause, in their opinion, to the warmer temperatures. You can hit their website NASA or USGS to verify these facts. Now the where. The where is the great State of Wyoming. "Wyoming's economy differs significantly, significantly from that of other states with most activity in

tourism, agriculture, and energy extraction and little in anything else." This is a quote referenced in Wikipedia, and you can look that up. That being said, let's talk economics. Raising higher taxes equals decreased revenue, equals less corporate spending, equals less jobs, which equals less taxes. Now the why. We all know the political agenda let's them pull. Sorry. I've got one more thing. What wasn't mentioned in your presentation is the who. And I haven't given you really any numbers, but I'll give you two numbers -- eight and three. My eight-year-old son Brian and my three-year-old daughter Gabriella. That's who this affects. It doesn't affect fish. It doesn't affect the reclaimed land. We do a great job at it. It affects my two children. AUDIENCE: Yes, sir. MICROPHONE NUMBER TWO: Thank you.