

Good afternoon. My name is Phil Dinsmoor, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. I think I'm going to speak on my own behalf, but let me tell you what that behalf constitutes or is constituted by. I've been involved in environmental impact statements and environmental studies for 45 years beginning back in the mid 1970s. I've been involved in the Wyoming coal industry for one year short of 40 years as either a regulator or a part of the regulating community. I've permitted. I've reclaimed. I've designed reclamation. I've assured compliance. I currently serve on the Governor's Advisory Board for Land Quality Division. I formally served on the Governor's Advisory Board for the Air Quality Division. I'm serving -- I've lost count -- my 12th or 13th term as chairman of the Regulatory Affairs Committee for the Wyoming Mine Association. I'm hoping that I have enough wherewithal to bring something from all that experience that you can use. I think I've got two points I'd like to make today. The first is that the leasing process is but one step in a multi-step process, a multi-year process, and a multi-million dollar process. When Secretary Jewell wrote her memo in early 2016 saying that she was going evaluate the coal leasing process, she very specifically exempted the exploration process administered by both the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Wyoming, the permitting process administered by the State of Wyoming, and SMCRA-related approval process administered by the Secretary of Interior. She focused her activities on the coal leasing process. Now, with all the years I've been involved, it occurs to me that the leasing process gives me no authority as a mine operator to move an ounce of dirt, to remove a ton of coal, to sell a ton of coal, to ship a ton of coal, or to burn a ton of coal. The leasing process merely gives me the right to mine that coal once all the other authorizations, permits, certifications, and approvals are granted. So it seems to me we're out of alignment when we talk about impacts associated with mining, burning, shipping, selling coal when all they're talking about here today is the leasing process. So I encourage the BLM, in the course of reviewing the valuation that should have been charged, to try and focus their activities or to focus on the leasing process and not all those other extraneous processes. All of that said, the leasing process, as I mentioned earlier, is but an early step in a multi-stage process. We explore, we

lease, we permit. We get mine plan approvals, and we add on other state and federal approvals, certifications, and improvements as appropriate to make that, to help that get done. All of those processes involve many activities which are similar, which leads me to my second point, duplication. If you really want to increase the return to the American taxpayer, one of the things you can focus on in this programmatic review is how to eliminate the duplication between all of the various programs, both state and federal, to an irreducible minimum because all those programs will be returned to the taxpayer. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today.