

Good afternoon. My name is David Kline, and unlike a lot of people here, I'm really not going to say much because most of it's already been covered. So a lot of the stuff has been said, and I won't go ahead and go through it. I'm an environmental engineer at the Black Thunder Mine with the Thunder Basin Coal Company, and I, like most of them, are very proud to be member of the team producing affordable coal for our nation, which supplies us with reliable resources of affordable electricity. The need to increase the coal royalties under the pretense that the American public is not receiving a fair market value for the sale of the coal is unfounded. The coal companies are currently paying, as everybody knows here, upwards of 40 percent on the sale price for the federal and state taxes and fees while other energy sources such as renewable sources rely heavily on subsidized - - subsidies. They're unreliable and more expensive. The American public deserves an affordable and reliable source of electricity. Like everybody said, in 2014, coal companies paid approximately \$1.1 billion to the revenue of state and local governments. The construction benefit is there were over a hundred schools that have been built, have been built with this money. It has favored everybody in the State of Wyoming. It has favored me. I have raised my family in the state of Wyoming, and I have taken advantage of the situation. It has helped out great. The coal royalties currently provide sufficient value and should continue to provide values for the American public as long as the coal is allowed to be mined. Further restrictions on coal production will severely impact the local and state economies. Coal jobs are some of the highest-paying jobs, as everybody's been saying earlier. For every coal job lost, there's three to seven additional jobs, service jobs that are also lost throughout the community and the country. We are not just talking about coal mine jobs here. We are talking about the livelihood of our nation. As Bill said earlier, you know, we talked about a few issues with the BLM and the permitting issues, you know. We need to get rid of the redundancy. It took ten years is what it will take to roughly get a permit before you turn the first shovel of dirt. Okay. That's a big commitment on those corporations and these companies to put out there. But they have put their name on the line that they're willing to take that long extension. I've been in the mining business now for 36 years. I've

personally seen what this industry has done for our community and our country. We cannot afford to leave this resource in the ground and overlook the revenue it brings to our local, community, state, and federal governments. One little story I have is we have a neighbor -- I live in Newcastle -- they came into town and they fought the railroads. They were in the paper all the time. One day they called me up and asked me if they could come out for a tour. They came out for the tour, and this is a rancher. When he left that, he was so amazed with the reclamation that everybody is saying we don't have that he said that, if he had coal under his land, he would allow any mine in the basin to come out and mine his coal land, they'd done that good of a job.