

My name is Mark Kot. I'm the public lands planner for Sweetwater County. I'm here on behalf of the Sweetwater Board of County Commissioners. They have asked me to read a letter into the record. This letter is addressed to Mitchell Leverette, chief of the Division of Solid Mineral Resources BLM. "Sweetwater County would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit scoping comments regarding the Bureau of Land Management programmatic EIS to review federal coal, the federal coal program. "In the development of the coal PEIS, Sweetwater County strongly encourages the BLM to consider the following. Coal production provides approximately \$245 million to the annual assessed valuation of the county. This valuation helps support high quality public services including schools, roads, recreation, social services, and healthcare. "The Sweetwater County coal mines of Jim Bridger and Black Butte together employ approximately 710 workers. With the 310 employees who work at the coal-fired Jim Bridger power plant, the coal industry employs approximately 1,000 workers within Sweetwater County. "The National Mining Association estimates that for every coal mining job, an additional 3.5 jobs are created. This means the Sweetwater County coal creates approximately 350 additional jobs -- excuse me 3,500 additional jobs. "Employees directly or indirectly related to coal production, their families, communities depend upon the stable coal and energy markets backed by sound federal policies. Without these stable markets and sound policies, jobs could be lost, home values could fall, and the economy of our communities, county and state, will suffer." Thank you.