

My name is Joan Kresich. I live in Livingston, Montana, and I'm part of Yellowstone Bend Citizens Council. I want to thank the Department of Interior for your commitment to making coal leasing more fair. The leasing program needs to serve the public's interest in this, our 21st Century, not the bottom line of just one industry selling U.S. coal for export. Others have talked about closing various loopholes. So I won't go over that. The costs to taxpayers for the broken leasing program are \$1 billion a year in lost revenues. What could that one billion do? Many of us feel that it should fund a strong program for coal communities to identify what will help them thrive as the coal markets continue to decline. We also feel that one billion needs to fully fund reclamation which is currently way behind and the good dependable jobs that go with reclamation. That one billion can help mitigate the growing effects of climate change that we're all suffering. I want to just point out one of those many effects, and that's our Montana fire season. It has expanded year by year. What used to be a several-month fire season has grown to by several months beyond that. We used to be saved because the fires didn't start until late in the year in the summer and would be put out by the first snows. Now fires that start earlier due to the warming of climate change don't get put out. So we're losing many, many more acres of forest. And I want to mention our own land, my husband has the remnants of a ranch in the Bridger Mountains. We're seeing the loss of forest through another mechanism of climate change in that the spruce budworm, which is not getting the weeks of 20-below that it needs to be killed. So we're losing our trees there. For fairness to American citizens and taxpayers for creating revenue for coal communities to make the transition for reclamation for addressing climate change, I hope you'll consider making coal companies pay fair market value for our public coal. Thank you.