

My name is Jim Long, and I work for Cloud Peak Energy. My great-grandmother, a widow brought her four young children Wyoming to homestead. My daughter is here is a fifth-generation Wyoming citizen. My family has historically worked in agriculture. Farming and ranching in Wyoming require many thousands of acres. As a young man, it was obvious to me that the ranch would not support all the members of my family. I worked in the -- so I went to mining, and I worked in coal mines for 26 years. Mineral extraction is what supports the Wyoming economy. Additional taxes will probably put the final nail in the coffin of an already struggling industry. I have two children attending the University of Wyoming. Wyoming has paid for some of the best schools and state highways with mineral extraction. The United States become the greatest economy in the world with the help of abundant affordable energy. Coal is already one of the most highly taxed commodities in the world. Please focus on the facts and numbers and not the opinions. My family and I represent the working class of middle America, and we do not want any more taxes. We want to keep our jobs. Please don't destroy Wyoming's economy and my children's future by using taxes as a weapon to satisfy political agendas. Thanks.