

Hello, my name is Michael Madden, a former economics professor, now a Wyoming legislator and current Chairman of the House Revenue Committee.

As a state, over the last 9 years we have invested over \$45 million dollars toward research for clean coal technology. We have invested these dollars in:

- An Integrated Test Facility to research and develop carbon capture technology and,
- the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources as they pursue research on carbon capture and sequestration processes. And these are just two examples !

I assure you, the state of Wyoming stands committed to coal and developing more efficient, dependable and lower cost coal energy for the citizens of the united states. We do this also, because 24,000 of Wyoming's jobs and its basic prosperity depends on it.

Before the BLM contemplates raising coal taxes this should be considered: In the Powder River basin, Federal, state and local taxes *right now* absorb about 40% of the market value of coal. This industry is already the highest taxed and highest regulated industry in the state of Wyoming - an industry that is already losing hundreds of millions annually and incurring bankruptcies.

Even the GAO and Interior Inspector general have separately found that the current coal lease program is sound and generates billions to the United State taxpayers.

This discussion of further raising mineral royalties and Federal lease rates, is and would be further devastating to country. As an economist, I submit that raising taxes and leases will *not* increase revenue to the Federal government - it will decrease, it will *not* increase the viability of low cost energy - it will reduce it, it will *not* increase the stability and dependability of the nations power grid - it will reduce both. It will not increase economic growth, but rather drastically reduce it. **Nobody benefits.** Most important, it will not contribute any measurable impact on the climate, *whatsoever*.

Lets be up-front and open about this. Political and special interest efforts to undermine the BLM Coal Program in order to *further* burden the coal industry in order to eliminate the resource are simply unacceptable and they are completely contrary to the tenants of a free society.

I thank everybody for listening.