

Thank you, Mary Jo. Thank you all for the opportunity to have a few comments. Just hearing a few of the speakers before me, Mary Jo, I just want to thank you and your team. I think -- I hope you're going to get some donut breaks, but we thank you for your work, and we appreciate you listening to us. I would give a special thanks to all the miners that are here, to the coal companies, and the supporters of miners. I appreciate that I happened to be Casper and have a few moments for comments. I do wish that some of these listening sessions would be in areas that are impacted, for example, Campbell County or Sweetwater County. And we've made that request and hopefully that can come about. In addition to my remarks today, I will be submitting written comments before the deadline. And last year on August 13th, I appeared in Gillette for a public listening session, and my comments are a matter of public record. I commented on the federal coal lease moratorium announced in January. Then, I said this moratorium will hurt miners. It will hurt all businesses that support coal mining. It will take away the competitive advantage coal provides for every U.S. citizen. And if there was a serious attempt to address the President's climate change concern, the Obama Administration should be investing, as Wyoming has invested, to make real improvements in carbon capture, sequestration, and utilization technology. Last month on April 27th, I spoke at a groundbreaking ceremony at the Integrated Test Center at Dry Fork Station in Gillette, Wyoming. That center is an investment by Wyoming and great private partners to advance coal technologies. It will benefit not only the industry but a great many people everywhere who rely on coal for their energy needs. What we see now is federal regulators through one action after another, including this proposed programmatic EIS, dragging down the whole industry. States like Wyoming, on the other hand, are striving to keep coal as part of America's energy mix, find new processes, uses, and markets for coal and capture and create products with CO2 and keep an important American industry alive. The coal we mine in Wyoming is a valuable resource. The electricity produced from this coal is made right here in America, used in America, and benefits America. We can say that about very few things today. Wyoming is number one in coal production in the U.S. and has been for years. Wyoming coal provides one third of all electricity that's generated in the nation. A whole range of

some of the mined federal coal comes from Wyoming, and the Powder River Basin has estimated 162 billion tons of recoverable coal, most of it on federal land. Wyoming has the biggest stake in the federal coal program and any changes made to it, but we also know that everyone benefits from Wyoming-mined coal. When added up, coal companies pay federal mineral royalties, Wyoming severance tax, abandoned mine lands, black lung tax, ad valorem property, ad valorem production, and lease bonus application. This industry has an effective tax rate of 40 percent. All of these revenue streams go to the public in various ways. Progress should be made for the future of coal, and a three-year programmatic EIS process is not forward progress. The fact is coal has helped build our country and made it what it is today. In the 19th century, Wyoming coal contributed to the settlement of the West. It was used in steam locomotives. Wyoming coal contributed to American manufacturing. It contributed to the war effort, fuelling factories that provided armaments and supplies for our troops in World War II. In May of 2003, Wyoming mined its ten-billionth ton of coal. In 2015, 328-plus million tons of coal was produced in Campbell County from 11 mines. In 2014 almost 88 percent of the net electricity generation in Wyoming came from coal. So it's no coincidence that Wyoming had the third lowest average electricity price of any state in 2014. It is estimated that each coal industry job traced the need for three other jobs. The coal industry helps strengthen our communities and our economy. It benefits not only energy consumers but all those touched by the revenues generated for towns, the state and federal government. Coal has supported our schools, community colleges, the University of Wyoming, roads, and many other services at every level. We in Wyoming appreciate the great resource and those who work to mine and produce it, and today again we say thank you to all of them. I recognize that, just hearing from the previous speakers and certainly following the debate for many years now about the issue of climate change, that President Obama believes, as do many others, that climate change is a threat and, in fact, may be, according to the Administration, a national security threat and maybe the greatest national security threat. Let us assume today that the President and those who believe that it is the national security threat or the greatest national security we face. Let us assume that, that that is fact. The

question is, if that is true, if it's the greatest national security threat, why are we not treating it as such? Where is the investment? Why are we not investing dollars in coal? We're investing in renewables. What do you think about World War II and the national security threat? Think about ISIS as the national security threat. Think about the money. Think about the effort of that. If you believe that climate change is the biggest global threat and a national security, why are we not seeing improvements? In the past when this country was facing national security issues, we put all hands on deck. We make it a national priority. If this is true with climate change, why aren't we having the same sort of response? Instead of having the response, we are saying let's put our heads in the sand and ignore the fact that you can cut out all coal in this country, shut it completely down, and coal is still going to be the biggest player or certainly at the top of the biggest player in providing electricity across the planet. If it's a national security threat, let's put resources behind it. If it's a national security threat, rather than leaving the responsibility to the rest of the world to figure out the solutions, let's have the solutions here. That is my belief, and that is what we're trying to do in Wyoming. We are putting our money, our dollars into making coal as best as it can be. This administration is chasing an unrealistic vision of a world without coal. Instead, they should pursue a realistic vision that recognizes coal's place in the world and should invest to make it better. In Wyoming, we recognize coal's place. We're investing to make it better at the Dry Fork Station, at the University of Wyoming and beyond. We continue to invite the federal government to join us in this effort. A three-year, and I think probably longer, programmatic EIS is unreasonable. It looks just like another way to stop coal mining in this country. I have trouble, as I'm sure many of you do, explaining this to all the workers who will lose their jobs directly and indirectly. Try to explain that to them. Try to explain that to the impacted communities and to the millions of people around America who rely on coal energy for their daily needs of this attempt to shut coal mining down. Try to explain that to the millions of Americans interested in energy security, also the homeland security that comes from coal. Try to explain it to the environmentalists who think climate change is the biggest

threat facing our country and the planet. Why are we not taking a lead role in solving this problem in a realistic world? These things cannot be explained. It's not justifiable. If the BLM attempts to continue the lengthy, nebulous PEIS process, it should continue to lease federal coal and allow coal mining operations on federal land to proceed. To do otherwise only exposes further the political motivation behind the process and other anti-coal measures. Coal supports Wyoming. Wyoming supports coal. Coal supports the United States. The United States should too also support coal. Mary Jo, thank you for the time.