

My name is Jeremy Murphy. I'm a Wyoming coal miner. I don't come here just as a coal miner. I come here, depending on who you talk to in my family, as a sixth-generation coal miner. I don't know how many people can say their family has been in the industry for five or six generations. Probably very few. Simply, I am very proud of who I am and what I do, and I think I'm pretty dang good at it. But I'm here to oppose any higher taxes on these federal coal leases just for the simple fact that it's going to kill jobs. You may ask, "How is it going to kill jobs by, you know, giving the government a little more money?" Well, I'll tell you how. You're going to raise the taxes on the coal leases, which in turn, the coal producer has to raise its prices, which creates the utility prices to go up. And then it gets to where we're almost that nonprofit company. So if the coal mines aren't making money, we're not going to be making money. And as far as this "keep it in the ground" campaign, okay, most of the environmentalists have left, and, you know, I'm glad somebody wants to take care of the environment, and I'm one of them because we coal miners are conservationists. How many of you coal miners hunt or fish? (Applause.) Okay. We don't go out and butcher anything or just rail in fish and chuck them on the bank. We don't do that. We buy our license. We do the right thing. We eat our animals, and yeah, we -- I'm a trophy hunter. And I'll tell you why I'm a trophy hunter. Because if I shoot the biggest deer I can find, he's an old deer. You're letting those younger guys grow up. So this comes down to the reclamation. I personally have been working in the reclamation myself the last few weeks, and if you look at it, you have the drag lines. For the ones who don't know, you have drag lines that are stripping. The final layer is overburden off the coal, and just behind that, you have your truck lines from -- to ship, you know, the trucks are hauling it from the top of the ground on the other side of the pit. And so beyond that, you have your final grade or your post-mining topography. And then just behind that, you have topsoil laid out. Behind that, you have your seed. And I don't know, there's a lot of people here from Gillette, but as you're driving south -- (Timer bell.) Can I have your time? But anyway, as you're driving south, you look to the coal mines on the side of the highway, you look off to the east where the mine's been -- where the mine's already been reclaimed, that grass is a heck of a lot greener than it

is over on the native side. I was driving down there the other day, and there must have been 50 head of antelope on the reclaim. So to say that we're destroying the environment, killing the wildlife, it's completely ludicrous. DAVID BATTS: Okay. MICROPHONE NUMBER ONE: So just one last thing. This "keep it in the ground" campaign, okay, I'm going to challenge you. Keep it in the ground? Yeah, okay, put it back in the ground. Take your cell phones, dig a hole with a shovel and put it in the ground. Take your shovel and dig and drive your car in it and bury it. Put it back in the ground because coal made that. DAVID BATTS: Okay. MICROPHONE NUMBER ONE: And one last thing. We're Americans. We're Wyomingites. We're coal miners. We're proud of what we do, and we are coal.