

Good morning. My name is Dan Neal. I'm here as an observer and commenting for myself. I want to address the idea of ensuring a -- (Telephonic interruption.) Anyway, I'm sorry about that. Excuse me. Senator Enzi says coal supports families, and I agree. I want to make it clear that it's the resource that supports families. It's not always the companies. Companies have the fiduciary responsibility to their stockholders, and here in the past year or so, we've seen that sometimes the managers of those companies see the responsibility appears to be more to themselves. We've seen them take millions of dollars in bonuses as they have plotted the bankruptcy schemes that take away health benefits and pensions to the employees that worked loyally for them for so long. Mr. Fagan talked about protecting BLM employees. I'd like to see if the program can be modified in a way that leases could be set up to protect workers and the communities that they reside in. We need to cut deals and hold these companies to it. Historically, Wyoming, you know, imposed -- initially imposed a 10-and-a-half percent severance tax on the coal producers with the promise that, when a coal impact fund had reached \$250 million, that severance tax could be cut to 7 percent. The State followed through on its promises. When that impact fund was met, the severance tax was cut. I hope you'll consider some wise regulations as others have pointed out. Wise regulations have led to the development of the coal in the Powder River Basin in order to provide clean air for this country. I hope you'll consider regulations that will hold the lessees responsible for conducting full reclamation so these lands are restored to use for the state and its residents into the future and to do what you can to find ways to make certain that companies meet their obligations, pension and healthcare obligations to the people who worked for them so long.