

My name is Michael O'Leary. I'm from Portland, Oregon. I'd like to thank the BLM for this process. I was at the listening session in Billings last year. I feel like to move forward on any issue at the federal level there's so many different interests at stake here. It represents a lot of effort on your part. So I appreciate you kind of digging in on stuff that's not easy. And I'd also like to thank everybody here as the host in Wyoming. I've learned a lot today. I've been here since 8:00 like a lot of you, and I look forward to hearing the last few speakers. I encourage you all to come on out to my neighborhood. There's going to be a Seattle hearing June 21st, and invite you all to hear all the concerns and questions that we have about federal coal policy because there's more than just my opinion out in my neighborhood, but I think you'd get a better sense of it than just listening to me. And, again, I'm here because I do consider this a national policy debate. It's not about one permit or one project or one piece. This is a big picture question. It's actually a question I've been asking for years since I've been paying attention to this. When I started Googling this, I realized that my governor, Governor Kitzhaber asked for a programmatic environmental impact statement on coal in 2012. So this is not a new idea, but we're getting to it. Hopefully, we'll get to it in time, and my point is we are running out of time. If I have anything more to say to you that you can remember, it's urgency. In 2013, the Columbia River lost a fishery for the sturgeon. This is a prehistoric fish, a fish of the age of the dinosaurs that survived the Ice Ages. This fish can grow to be a hundred years old. It's unfortunately a bottom-feeder which makes it very susceptible to any sort of pollutants. It also makes it very susceptible to sucking up dead fish as a part of that feed. And its reproductive system has been compromised, no longer reproducing. We have not been able to have a fishery on that for three years. It's not recovered yet. There's no harvest, zero harvest. Population not rebounded for three years. That's bad. Then, of course, there's last summer. Some of you may remember my remarks then because we'd just experienced it. We had an unprecedented temperature shock in the State of Oregon. Rainy Oregon, we lost 90 percent of our sockeye salmon, 50 percent of the coho run that was expected to return. This year we've had unprecedented temperatures again. April was a record high April for Oregon. Days were six

degrees above the record temperature. That's ridiculous. We are experiencing climate change now. We are at the front end of it. We get atmospheric deposition from China that falls on our coastal waters. Because of our Cascades and how the rain-shed drops everything down after it crosses the Pacific, we get acidification first. We get the mercury. We are asking you to consider the climate impacts, the water pollution impacts with those coal trains, the temperature impacts of climate change, economic impacts to our fisheries and communities that depend on it. They're small towns that used to be the commercial center of fishing that are just sport-fishing now. We're going to lose it in a very comparable way to what I'm hearing here about coal jobs and what I know has already happened in our state on timber jobs. Think of us as you think about yourselves in a very parallel way. These are not easy answers. These are not cheap answers. These are expensive, difficult answers, and please don't forget the West Coast when you think about your local mines because we're all connected.