

Thank you all for staying so long. I appreciate it. My name is Paul Paad. I'm a resident here in Casper. For disclosure I'm also a candidate for our lone U.S. House seat. As a former business owner, I felt firsthand the brunt of the regulations that can come out of Washington, that they don't seem to see the faces of the people that are really affected sometimes. I want to talk about this coal moratorium or this coal leasing moratorium. The Department of Interior said off the bat, one of the things it said is it wanted to take into account both market prices and social costs of the coal, which basically means the climate change and public health issue of it. I have to question whether or not the market prices are a force that they're really interested in or not when you look at coal prices being down 50 percent of what they were five years ago or a third of what it was when this administration took office. I don't find this to be a legitimate reason to this overhaul of this leasing system. Just to hit a couple of points here. In 2014 Wyoming received more than \$555 million from coal. That funded a lot of things around here including our education system. In fact, without that, our public schools would stand to lose quite a bit of money. A couple issues -- I don't want to argue the climate change point too much, but Professor Pielke out of Colorado said that the EPA climate rates won't influence the future of extreme weather or its impact in any detectable way, and the so-called climate benefits and regulations are essentially, you know... Go on to former Obama administration secretary -- Assistant Secretary Charles McConnell said that at best a clean power plant will reduce the global temperature by one one-hundredth of a degree. Now at the same time, prices are going to go up. Now, this is going to affect our lowest of income people the most. Now, is this really just a pain-and-gain type of situation for political purposes? You know, states that rely on coal as their primary source of electricity enjoy the lowest cost of electricity in the nation. And states primarily with coal-based power and industrial electricity prices can be two to three times lower than prices in competing countries. This is something you need to take into consideration when looking at the overall economic situation in our country. The study by his Energy found that the current base load generation mix anchored by coal saves ratepayers roughly \$93 billion in annual electric bills while also reducing utility volatility

by 30 percent. That's what we need to look at, volatility. We don't need this jumping up and down or around. Real quick, talking about the royalties being paid, 12-and-a-half percent royalty paid on coal, on coal leased on federal lands are approximately 40 percent higher than rates paid by coal mined on private land in the Midwest and in the Appalachians. You know, companies also paid an additional fee on coal under these leases. Recent investigations by the Government Accountability Office and by the Department of the Interior and Inspector General found no reason to overhaul the program. How could we be looking at overhauling it when the Department of Interior, when their own Inspector General found no reason to? So in closing, I'd ask and make a direct plea to Secretary Jewell to remove this uncertainty from the coal industry and help put our working men and women back to work in this industry. Thank you.