

My name is Rex Rammell. I'm a congressional candidate from Gillette, and I'm a friend of coal. And let's call this what this really is today, a formality. I believe that with 40 or 50 years of data, you probably have enough material to assess the value of coal. Really what this is all about, isn't it, is destroying confidence in the industry so nobody will invest in the coal companies? Yeah, there might be 20 years' worth of coal to be mined some existing leases, but if nobody invests in the coal companies, they're not going to be any companies to mine it. I think the truth is that the BLM, the Forest Service, the EPA, US Fish & Wildlife, all the environmental agencies, I'd bet a thousand dollars you already know what you're going to do. This is an effort to put an end to the coal industry, but you do it in the name of having to reevaluate it, take three years to do it, destroy confidence in the industry. I think the only solution to this whole problem is to the transfer of public lands from the federal government back to the state. (Applause.) And with it, the abolition of the Department of Interior. We will no longer need you people. And your agenda will be destroyed, and we can go ahead, and we can mine coal, and we can have control over our future. That's what I think this is all about. And I know my comments will go no further than a stack of paper somewhere. Thank you.