

Thanks for the opportunity to speak to today. My name Robert G. Short. I reside in Converse County, Wyoming, where I sit as a county commissioner and business owner. I am an investor for my family, friends, energy workers, and I made this my county, my state, my countrymen, and my country. One common thread binds all sectors of our great country -- reliable, affordable, stable electrical power. The economic prosperity of our great country is directly attributable to American ingenuity, the limitless Wyoming work ethic, and electrical power. Indeed, our national security is inextricably bound to the state of electrical power. Every facet of our lives is coupled to the availability of reliable, cost-effective electrical power. CO2 associated with the generation of electrical power has been a focal point used against coal. Apparently, very little effort has been made to evaluate the positive aspect of mining lands that are reclaimed to an improved state, which provides outstanding wildlife habitat, recreation activities, and agricultural benefit. We understand that oil is as critical to our country as is coal, and we allow OPEC to dictate to us what oil we will produce on our own and that which we will purchase from them. Now it seems our own government is to going to dictate which coal we will have available and that which we will not. Would this EIS be comprehensive enough to take into account the critical nature of electric power in our country, national security, energy production of every sort, even green energy? Economic stability and national prosperity are rooted in stable, affordable electrical power. Expect the cost of everything in our everyday lives to increase dramatically if you arbitrarily assign punitive costs to coal in an effort to justify more costly electric power which will be economically damaging and have a negative effect on the entirety of our country. Socioeconomic impacts associated with higher electric costs will ripple throughout our country while we focus on the impacts of using coal for electrical power. We completely disregard the impact of not using coal. We cannot allow a cleverly disguised, artificial inflation to mandate more costly, lower reliability, less-stable electrical power supply for our country. Anything that results in higher cost to all citizens of the U.S. is not a fair return. To date, very little has been done on a national level to utilize CO2. Instead, it's used to look for the next silver bullet to cure

all of our environment woes, and we continue to attack the source of our perceived problem, coal. The problem is that coal is not the problem. Greenhouse gas concerns associated with coal can be virtually negated through a flue-stream capture, value-add reuse in the extraction of oil, to name but one methodology. The mining companies must be able to predict extraction timing, logistics a decade in advance or more if they're able to be viable. Any change to current leasing rules which will result in longer permitting processes will all but sanction the eradication of an entire industry, resulting in the ultimate demise of our national security and well-being, the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs, and an exponential increase in the cost of being American. The coal miner helps build a prosperous nation for rest of the generations and helps feeds the nation with enhanced environmental restoration. Thank you very much for your time.