

MICROPHONE NUMBER TWO: Good afternoon. My name is Representative Tim Stubson. I am giving my comments this afternoon on behalf of the Wyoming Legislature's Select Committee on Federal Natural Resource Management. I appreciate the opportunity to come and visit with you today, but I do hope that this truly is a listening session because so many times from the state level, we feel like these speaking sessions, that we give our input and they are presented really to deaf ears. I want to really present a couple of issues that I hope everyone keeps its eyes on as it moves through this process. First, in the conduct of your programmatic EIS, you should move forward knowing that coal is an essential element to the economic health of our state and its people. Prior to the recent downturn, Wyoming coal produced 11 percent of Wyoming's gross state product. It employed about 7,000 people in good-paying jobs. In one year alone, 2012, coal paid \$1.3 billion to the State of Wyoming, and those funds were used to build schools, educate our kids, to provide basic state services to people all across the State. But it's important to remember it's not just an economic benefit to the State of Wyoming. It's an economic benefit to our nation. Our economy relies upon cheap and available energy, and coal is an important critical element of that energy mix. Our federal government endangers our nation and its future economic security by turning its back on that available resource. Secondly, I want you to keep in mind that, as you look at royalty rates, it's not just royalty rates. It's royalty rates combined with the bonus money, combined with the black lung excise tax, combined with AML, combined with severance, combined with county ad valorem. When you look at those together -- and you've heard this figure before -- 39 cents of every dollar of coal produced in the State of Wyoming goes to government. You cannot look at that figure and conclude that coal does not pay its fair share. And, finally, the impact of raising royalty rates at this time, really even the impact of discussing the raising of royalty rates at this critical time -- you see what's happening in the coal industry right now -- causes instability in the coal markets. And so this instability promises to have an enormous negative effect on the State of Wyoming and really on the energy security of the United States. Really, the bottom line is that in Wyoming coal is about people. And the BLM must and really has an

obligation, as it moves forward in this process, to recognize that single critical fact. Thank you.