

BLM COAL MEETING
June 23, 2016
Avalon Theater, Grand Junction CO

“The coal industry should be proud of what it’s done for this state...but it’s time to move on”. I was stunned by this quote in the Daily Sentinel on June 20, 2016.

53% of Colorado’s energy comes from coal.

24% of Colorado’s energy from natural gas – maybe going to 31% in the future.

What are we supposed to use for energy?

Besides the job loss, the devastation to families, the loss of hundred of millions of dollars to coal companies by volumes of regulation, decades of stalling – we are now faced with unreliable and expensive energy. As the Interior Department recently stated, the biggest revenue to their department is from minerals. Parks, recreation, public lands will all suffer.

I am a real estate broker. Our market is suffering from loss of well paid jobs in the energy sector. Buyers wishing to buy a home will find they cannot qualify when the cost of energy to heat, cool and light their home is more than their mortgage. How will tenants pay their rent when energy costs are as much or more than their monthly rent?

Re-train those miners! Sure, for what? Minimum wage jobs, part time besides, due to healthcare regulation. These homes will soon be in foreclosure.

The War on Coal is a War on us all. The West is most affected where we have the cleanest burning coal in the country. Ultimately all Americans will be affected with the cost of energy rising. Latest reports are, there is no reliable, sustainable source to replace coal for at least the next 50 years.

Please consider phasing to a New Energy – when there is something available that can replace coal. Natural gas is great – but the price will not remain at these low levels and there is a big cost to re-fit plants to only natural gas.

Very concerned citizen here,

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