

My name is Ty Gardiner I am from Southeastern Utah.

I want to talk about a fair return to the public.

Some of the uninformed believe, taxpayers do not receive a fair return from the leasing of federal coal.

We all know that the ultimate goal of this administration is to Keep Coal in the ground, but keeping federal coal in the ground as coal project opponents suggest, would result in no return to the taxpayers. The federal coal program provides substantive revenues to federal and state governments, totaling \$13.8 Billion since 2003.

Is zero better than billions of dollars?

The Fact is: Regardless of current market conditions, according to the Energy Information Agency, coal will play a significant role in providing electricity for decades to come. In 2014, coal delivered nearly 40% of our Nation's electricity.

It makes no sense to sit here and complain that the taxpayer's are not getting a fair return on federal leasing of coal, but the government can take the taxpayers money and waist billions and billions of dollars on intermittent energy such as solar farms and wind mill farms that are not reliable not efficient and expensive. How about we spend some of the government's money on the already clean, cheap and reliable coal industry to make it even that much better.

Let's take a look at Solar produced energy.

Despite \$39 **billion** dollars in Annual Government subsidies, Solar produced, half a percent 0.5% of Electricity in the US in 2015.

The \$2.2 billion Ivanpah solar power project that was funded by taxpayer's money in California's Mojave Desert is supposed to be generating more than a million megawatt-hours of electricity each year. But 15 months after starting up, the plant is producing just 40% of that, according to data from the U.S. Energy Department.

Again we see more hypocrisy from the administration. This is about damaging an essential portion of America's energy portfolio.

One big miscalculation was that the power plant requires far more steam to run smoothly and efficiently than originally thought, according to a document filed with the California Energy Commission. Instead of ramping up the plant each day before sunrise by burning one hour's worth of natural gas to generate steam, Ivanpah needs more than four times that much help from **fossil fuels** to get the plant humming every morning. Another unexpected problem: not enough sun. Weather predictions for the area underestimated the amount of cloud cover that has blanketed Ivanpah since it went into service in 2013.

Ivanpah isn't the only new solar project struggling to energize the grid. According to green tech media.com 64 worldwide solar energy companies have either gone bankrupt or closed their doors. Even with over \$40 billion subsidized dollars they can't even make it or even compete with the coal powered energy.

Again, it does not make sense how we can sit here and be lied to and be deceived by the administration. Their agenda isn't about royalties and tax revenue, it is about crippling the backbone of Americas #1 source of Energy.