

Dewey Tanner

Husband, Father of 4, Conservationist, Coal Miner

1786 Roubideau St.

Delta CO. 81416

The US taxpayer gets tremendous benefit from the Federal coal lease program.

Coal in the ground has little value, it takes the vision and entrepreneurial spirit of a coal operator to realize its value. The value and success of the coal lease program should be determined by the economic benefit to the communities located near the mine and to the country as a whole. A typical three to four million ton annual underground operation will employ about 300 people with a payroll of about 30M annually. That operation will consume about 30M a year in supplies. Capital investment typically will be 200M to 300M to get in operation. Equipment and supplies will come from all across the country, machinery from Illinois and Pennsylvania, electronics from Virginia and Alabama, motors from California and Indiana. Medical benefits for the employees will cost about 6M annually. Our Bowie mine in Paonia largest medical payees are St Mary's in Grand Junction and Delta County Memorial hospitals. Coal dollars and their hard work put all 4 of my children through Mesa State College.

The bid process currently used, works to get the most for the taxpayer. The royalty rate of 8% should be reduced to 4% to encourage more operators to invest. Profit margins and return on investment for coal operators is very small.

When we look at the environmental impacts, the current requirements for environmental impact studies or assessments are more than adequate. State regulators do a good job of ensuring public lands are cared for. Western Coals or BLM coals are lower in sulfur and trace minerals than found in other parts of the country or the world.

We must look past the hysteria spread by activist groups such as Sierra club and Wild Earth Guardians and recognize them for what they are, a parasitic burden on our economy and the American way of life, they produce no product, provide no service and make careers from suing our government and the American taxpayer. I lived 15 years in Craig Co only 4 miles from 2 large power plants and any brown clouds, smoke or haze I saw, was from California wild fires not the power plants.

We will hear data from our scientific community regarding the negative effects of coal generation, we must remember that the scientific community needs research dollars to survive and if there is no crisis, no drama, those dollars dry up. In my life time that scientific community suggested I prepare for another ice age and the drying up of the oceans, it is even now suggested that my morning bacon is as bad for me as asbestos.

When we consider climate impacts of BLM coal we should recognize that globally there are more than 1100 coal fired power plants proposed or in some stage of development across the globe. India 554, China 350, Turkey 82, Europe 69, Africa 40, South America 37, Rather than leave our coal in the ground we should be taking the lead to ensure coal is used as cleanly and efficiently as possible. The rest of the planet hungers for the low cost energy we used to enjoy and build our economy on. My electric bill at my home in Delta is up 30% in 5 years the rate at Bowie has increased from 4.6C to 7.3C per kilowatt hour due to the mandate to include wind and solar in our power mix.

End the moratorium on coal leases and let us get back to work.

Thank You for your time.