

Presentation to the Coal meeting  
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KRISTIN WINN  
713 IVANHOE WAY  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Hello, my name is Kristin Winn and I have lived in Grand Junction for the past 20 years. I am active in Citizens for Clean Air, a group of local citizens that are concerned with our air quality. I have asthma, and personally experience respiratory problems when we have winter air inversions in the Grand Valley. Clean air is vital to my own health and to many others as well.

I wanted to speak at this hearing because of my concerns about the present way that coal is leased. I understand that the last time the federal coal program was revised was in 1971. The world has changed dramatically since then, and so has our understanding of that world and our human impact on it. Burning coal releases Sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter into the atmosphere, all of which contribute to air pollution.

I believe there are changes that need to be made to the existing federal coal leasing program. The leasing rates do not take into account the true costs to the environment and the surrounding communities when coal is developed on federal lands. Reclamation costs should not fall on the taxpayer.

Air pollution makes breathing extremely difficult for anyone with respiratory problems, and is particularly hard on children and the elderly. When we look at the future for our children and grandchildren, that future should include clean air.

Change is difficult and painful.

I certainly understand the difficulties faced by the miners and communities that will be affected by change, but as a country, we need to be moving toward cleaner sources of energy. I would strongly urge that thought be given to how to help those families and communities that will experience the impacts of how we address our energy needs. Natural gas development can also cause negative impacts to those living near drilling sites.

Thank you for taking the time to look at needed changes to the coal leasing program, and for holding these public meetings to hear from those affected by coal development.