

MR. ARMSTRONG: My name is Jeremiah Armstrong. I'm an Environmental Engineer. And I'd like to point out a little bit about hypocrisy. As we've talked about coal royalties and the amount of money that's supposedly is lost from the Federal government for not having higher royalty rates. It's, it's quite low compared to some other subsidies that, that are quite astounding. We know the ultimate goal of this administration is to keep coal in the ground. But, Federal coal in the ground -- but keeping Federal coal in the ground as a coal project, opponents suggest, would result in no return to the taxpayer. The Federal Coal Program provides [indiscernible] revenues. That's Federal and State Governments totaling roughly \$14 billion since 2003. Is zero really 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 percent of our nation's electricity. It makes no sense to sit here and complain that the taxpayers are not getting a fair share -- a fair return on Federal leasing of coal. But, the Government can then take the taxpayers' money and waste billions and billions of dollars on intermittent energy sources, such as solar farms and wind farms, that are not reliable, not efficient, and very expensive. How about we spend some of the government's money, or the taxpayer's money, on the already clean, cheap, and reliable coal industry to help make it better? And I would like to point to contrast. An example is the solar energy industry. Specifically, they've received \$39 billion in annual government subsidies. Yet, solar produces less than half of a percent of the energy use in America. One glaring example of this failure of the alternative energy source is the \$2.2 billion Ivanpah solar power project. This was funded by taxpayer money in California's Mojave Desert. And it's supposed to be generating more than a million megawatt hours of electricity each year. But, 15 months after starting, the plant is producing only 40 percent of that. Again, we see the hypocrisy from this, this administration. This doesn't seem to be about revenue. It seems about -- be about destroying and damaging America's energy infrastructure. One big miscalculation that this particular power plant is -- that it 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 about one hour's worth of natural gas to generate the steam, Ivanpah needs more than four times that help from natural -- from fossil fuels to get going. Another unexpected problem is not enough sun. Some of the studies and weather predictions overestimated the amount of sun. It had more cloud cover. It doesn't work when the sun's not shining. Ivanpah isn't the only solar project struggling to energize the grid. According to greentechmedia.com, 64 worldwide solar companies have either gone bankrupt or closed their doors. Even with over \$40 billion subsidized dollars, they can't make it and compete with coal energy. So, again, it doesn't make sense to sit here and be lied to and deceived by the administration. Their agenda isn't about royalties and tax revenue, but about crippling America's -- the backbone of America's number 1 energy source.