

MR. ATWOOD: Good morning. My name is Garrett Atwood. I work in the coal industry. And I'm excited to be able to share my comments with you today. The energy industry is the industry that powers every other to improve human life. The more affordable and plentiful and reliable energy we can produce, the more and better food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical care, sanitation, clean water technology, and everything else we can have. Unfortunately, because of backwards energy environmental policies that are anti-development, not anti-pollution, we're squandering the opportunity of a generation through blind opposition to one of our most potent sources of power -- coal. In a scoping document sent out by the BLM in advance of this meeting, one of the stated objectives of this programmatic review is to determine if the leasing program was providing an adequate return for the American public for the use of Federal coal. In addition, you stated that you wanted to make sure that the Coal Leasing Program accounted for the negative externalities associated with greenhouse gas emissions and man-made climate change from the burning of coal. I'd like to show you a chart that I brought with me. This is a chart put together by Dr. John Christy [phonetic] of the University of Alabama, that compiles all of the different climate models since 1975. There's 102 of them. You'll notice that none of these models accurately predicted climate. Even the most conservative one was way off the mark relative to what actually occurred in the global temperatures. My point being is that we can't even predict climate change in and of itself, let alone try to determine how much is man-made and of that man-made climate change, how much is attributable to a specific source? The only thing that the climate scientists have proven over the last 40 years is their climate prediction models are inaccurate. Nearly all of these models, used by man-made climate alarmist over the last 40 years, have predicted rapidly increasing global temperatures that would result in worldwide catastrophic climate events. Instead, these models have been proven false. And we've actually witnessed a mild warming affect, coupled with an enormous climate protection affect from fossil fuel energy. In the last 80 years, we've increased the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere from 0.03 percent to 0.04 percent. And the warming has been barely more than the natural warming that occurred in the 80 years prior

to that when there were virtually no CO2 emissions. According to the International and Disaster database, climate-related deaths are down 98 percent over the last 80 years. In 2013, there were 21,000 such deaths worldwide, compared to a high of 3.7 million deaths in 1931, when the world population was less than a third of its current size. Why is the climate killing less people? Because while fossil fuels may have only a mild warming impact, it has an enormous protecting impact. Nature doesn't give us a safe stable climate that we make dangerous. It gives us an ever-changing, dangerous climate that we need to make safe, and the driver behind sturdy buildings or affordable heating and air-conditioning. Drought relief and everything else that keeps us safe from climate is cheap, plentiful, reliable energy, overwhelmingly from coal and other fossil fuels. Since 1980, we've increased the use of fossil fuels by 80 percent. And the average life expectancy of the world's billions of people has gone up seven years. That's seven years of precious life. We talk about externalities associated with coal. We should consider that that. How much would you pay to extend the life of a loved one by seven years? I think we should be thanking the coal industry and the hard workers for the contribution they've had and the positive externalities of coal use. Thank you for your time.