

MS. BEEBE: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Federal Coal Lease Program, a program that is long overdue for a reevaluation and reform. My name is Lindsay Beebe. And I'm here with the Utah Sierra Club, representing over 3500 members in Utah. I'm grateful that our government has had the foresight to protect our beautiful public lands and put them in trust to all Americans for all time. However, I am deeply troubled when I think of how those public lands are being exploited so that a few may profit while many suffer. There's been a lot of talk today about putting the right price on coal. But, how can you monetize human life? Whatever fleeting profits we gain from extracting and burning coal, we will pay a thousand-fold in healthcare cost, in disaster relief, in environmental reclamation, in environmental refugee relocation, and in replacing or repairing eco system services that all of us take for granted. Symptoms of those costs are plainly visible if you have the courage to look. Scientists estimate that 200 species go extinct every 24 hours. Doing the math since I've been sitting in this room, that's 70 species of plant, animal, and marine life that have gone extinct since we've all been here. We haven't seen that type of extinction since 65 million years ago when the dinosaurs disappeared. While the impacts of the Coal Lease Program have huge and worldwide implications, it's fortunate that we actually do know how to address those harmful environmental and moral impacts. We [indiscernible] cut emissions of carbon dioxide, mercury, sulfur dioxide, arsenic and other toxic pollutants in order to protect the continued prosperity of our species. We must also ensure that sufficient funds are secured from the coal industry and are -- and not the taxpayer, to reclaim the sacrifice zones coal mines leave behind, so that we don't end up leaving our children with another version of the Gold King Mine spill, for example. I urge the Department of Interior to evaluate the true cost of coal extraction so that we will be able to meet both our moral and financial obligations to future generations. As coal declines, we must ensure that coal workers and extraction communities are supported with sustainable economic opportunities. And the government must play a key role in helping drive a just transition towards clean energy economy that will maximize investments in economic development, provide workforce training, and create lasting jobs in impacted communities. If we choose to act now

using all the capacity of our, as yet, unlimited human ingenuity, we can create the clean energy economy that will fuel both economic and spiritual prosperity. The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones. This review is an important opportunity for our nation to make smart choices about the future of U.S. energy policy and whether we will continue to subsidize a failing industry or seize the chance to plan strategically to transition to a cleaner, more sustainable way of life. Thank you. MR. LEAHY: Good afternoon. My name is Todd Leahy. And I'm the Deputy Director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, a century-old organization that represents over 80,000 licensed hunters and anglers across the State of New Mexico. One of the great benefits of living in the nation with public lands is that occasionally we American citizens have the opportunity to rethink how we can be stewards of our nation. That stewardship cannot be done passively. We must all take direct action. As the BLM works to implement Secretary Jewell's Orders to consider new leasing models, gather public input, and ensure American taxpayers get a fair return. The New Mexico Wildlife Federation believes that this review should be guided by three imperatives. First, rely on independent peer review Clients. We strongly believe that the nation cannot continue to lease coal without taking into account that it is the most significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. The current PEIS, under which the Federal coal was leased, was completed in the '80s. Every one of our hottest years on record has occurred in the last 20 years. A scientific consensus was developed around the reality of global warming. And the BLM must grant its new PEIS in this reality. Second, reconsider how to balance multiple uses. The nation has relied on fossil fuel sources extracted from public land since its founding. In the Federal Lands Policy Management Act requires that the BLM balance extractive uses against other public, public land uses. It's clear that coal mining doesn't simply compete with other uses. Coal [indiscernible] be stabilized and degrade, making other uses impossible. Given the long-term impacts of carbon dioxide, the effects of mining public coal today will affect public lands for centuries, damaging recreational opportunities, water supplies, wildfire resilient, and even other extractive uses, such as timber and grazing. If a disparity exists between the high, long-term cost of coal usage and the low, short-term

windfalls from sale, then the BLM must consider this disparity when making its decisions. Finally, the vast majority of coal lies under prairies, ranchlands, and valuable wildlife habitat in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana. More of these lands will have to be mined to extract the coal that is underneath them, causing widespread habitat fragmentation. A full review of the Federal Coal Program must ensure that future development safeguards not only public lands, but also watersheds and wildlife, so American sportsmen and women can continue to enjoy their American outdoor traditions for generations to come. Thank you very much for your time.