

MS. BENG: Good morning. Good morning, Linda and all. My name is Susan Beng. I'm here for Northern Plains Resource Council in Western Colorado Congress. I reside in Red Lights, Montana, which was a former coal mining town, which has transitioned out of coal mining. I grew up in Eastern Colorado. We used coal growing up as our main source of heat. So, I am familiar with coal and what coal has done for our country. Large areas of the West are public land under the management of the BLM. One of the, one of the mandates of that management plan is to develop the resources of these lands in the best interest of all Americans, not just special interest groups. The Federal Coal Program today cost taxpayers \$1 billion in lost revenues. These losses are caused, in part, by uncompetitive bidding processes for coal leases and loopholes in the computing of royalties on mineral -- on mine coal being paid to us, the taxpayers and the owners of this land. The present regulations were put into effect over 30 years ago when there was a dire need to expand domestic energy supplies. I grew up during those times. And it was during those times that I was in lines to get gas and worried about whether or not we were going to be able to maintain our energy supplies. Now, we need to move into the 21st century with very different needs. Public coal on BLM lands need to be managed as a finite resource that it is. Management by BLM must take into consideration the entire cycle of coal development. This includes returning a fair profit on the coal mined for taxpayers, reclamation of disturbed lands to put them back into production. As well as the cost incurred by a [indiscernible] of the continued use of coal on our planet. Just as the beginning of the last century, our economy has transitioned away from the use of horses for transportation to the automobile. We are now transitioning to new energy sources and a greater awareness of global climate. This paradigm shift can be painful for some, but will open a whole new world of opportunities for all. And that's what we need to focus on. We need to make sure that we don't just dump the coal mining communities. They need our help. Particularly in Montana, one of those places that we need help is on the Crow Reservation, who is depending upon the coal for revenue. Which if we -- if they have to keep it in the ground, they have to have something that, that replaces that. And I hope this will be something that will be considered. Thank you.