

MS. GAWLER: My name is Maddy Gawler. I'm a Colorado native and a student at the University of Denver studying International Studies and Geography. Going to a high school with 65 languages and 75 countries represented, I heard about the horrors of displacement. One of my closest friends experienced it firsthand. She grew up in the same house for all of her life. And then, one day, water levels increased a tad too much and wiped out her whole town. All that she knew was ruined and under water. She was forced to move to Denver, learn a new language, and get to know a new city. She is a climate refugee, who was displaced because of the pollution that these coal leasing projects produce. Living in this melting pot where one-quarter of the population is not from the United States, you most likely know at least one person that has experienced this tragedy. And I challenge you to ask them about their story to really understand the social cost of these coal leasing programs. As a citizen of this world who cares about the livelihood of others, I believe the time has come to right a wrong and make a way towards a greener future. Currently, every second, a person is displaced due to climate change and natural disasters. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that by the end of the century, 50 million to 1 billion individuals will be displaced. The Federal Coal Leasing Program is not -- is contributing to this pollution that is creating climate refugees. This program is not only socially and unacceptable, but it is [indiscernible] impacting every taxpayer. This land is your land. And this land is my land. But, not when coal companies keep purchasing it for well below market value, and destroying our lands. As a citizen of the United States, I deserve to know where my tax dollars are going. I shouldn't be helping bale out big fossil fuel companies who are polluting our environment and taking money from the government. Our government should not be assisting in these socially unacceptable and [indiscernible] irresponsible behaviors. Clear leaders, such as Peabody and Arch Coal, are getting most of products from public land under a program that loses money for the Federal Government and, in turn, for American citizens. The price that these companies are getting this land for is preposterous. The average price per ton for those coal leases was only \$1.03. Yet a ton of publically- owned coal leased during the past eight years will cause damages estimated at \$237 on average. That is one 237th

of what we should be getting paid. The carbon pollution from publically-owned coal leased during the past eight years will cause damages estimated at up to \$530 billion. Yet, the amount of revenue generated from the lease sales was only [indiscernible]. I do not want my money to be used to displace more individuals like my friend. If we are to follow through with your commitment [indiscernible] this past December, we [indiscernible]. Thank you.