

MR. GRAKO: Let me start out by saying in the moratorium on coal -- my name is Lou Grako. I work for Bowie. And I've worked in the mining industry for 47 years. I have witnessed the prosperity of mining communities. When the new mine opens up, the standard of living raises. For property taxes and other taxes, mining operations pay. Mining jobs can bring great earning opportunities for the community, as you can see here today. And great volunteerism by our miners. Bowie paid 1.1 million in property tax, 1 million in royalties and severance tax for schools and education last year alone. And you heard the numbers about over -- the overall numbers. Fossil fuels and oil and coal will create cleaner water, air. And it's found to be cheaper, reliable, and abundant. There are concerns with other impacts on public health and how it affects the environment. But, fossil fuels will solve the biggest environment challenge through clean coal technology and the adequate regulations, as in the past, to grow this great country of ours. They have -- they will look for export potential for coal in a fair market valuation. The bid we currently use, taxpayers get the most out of it. The royalty rate of 8 percent should be reduced to four to which it will encourage operations to invest. Bowie mine has funded St. Mary's Hospital, Delta County Hospital, and the Community -- and Community Hospital, as well as other local businesses in Mesa County and Delta County. Coal mines and the dollars go right back to the local community. And as previously stated, the coal -- the cost of fossil fuel is cheaper, reliable, and ready available. There has been a concern that fossil fuels cause global warming. But, according to the scientific studies, in the last 15 years, there has been little or no change in the earth's temperature. Also, Western coals are much lower in sulfur and traceable minerals than found in any other areas. Out here we need to protect the miners. Thanks to conscientious operators and behavioral safety principles, miners today work more safely than ever before. Bowie miners are much more likely to be injured on the highways on days that they're off, rather than working in the mine. The President's, President's -- all the above energy policy does not include coal. This is evident in the moratorium in the Federal Coal Leasing Program. The administration is progressing with the to keep it in the ground policy. That will be detrimental to the American workers and will

jeopardize the affordable, reliable, and secure energy. As I near retirement, I fear the high cost of the utility bill due to the high cost of wind and solar and, and it will cut deeply into my ability to enjoy my retirement years. So, let's get these miners back to work and end the moratorium. And remember coal keeps the lights on. Thank you very much for this opportunity.