

MR. GRANGE: My name is Jordan Grange. One of the stated reasons for implementing a moratorium on Federal Coal Leasing Program was to determine if the U.S. taxpayer was receiving a fair return on the resource.

According to the Office of Natural Resource Revenue, in the last 10 years, the BLM had generated nearly \$10 billion from Federal co-leases, via lease bonuses, rental fees, and royalties. Coal has paid the Federal Government more, more royalties, lease bonuses, and rental fees, than another other type of electrical generation.

Thus, producing more of a return to the U.S. taxpayer than solar, wind, nuclear, geo-thermal, biomass, and hydro-electric, combined. Consider for a minute the amount of Federal subsidies given to a few of the energy-generating industries.

According to the Energy Information Administration, in 2014, alone, the government subsidized wind energy with \$5.9 billion, solar with \$5.3 billion, natural gas with \$2.3 billion, nuclear with \$1.6 billion, and coal with \$1 billion. Now, compare that to the percent of electricity generated from each industry. Again, according to the Energy Information Administration, in 2014, coal generated 40 percent of the nation's power, natural gas 26 percent, nuclear 26 percent.

Wind, wind and solar generated a whopping combined total of 3.3 percent of the nation's power. Yet, wind and solar spent \$11.2 billion in subsidies and generated very little in royalties, lease bonuses, and rental fees.

How is it that any self-respecting, intelligent individual, corporation, or entity can say coal royalties do not generate a fair return to you as taxpayers. And any other means of electrical generation does.

That kind of logic is hypocritical, asinine, and downright ludicrous. It seems the purpose of this moratorium is not so much about determining the environmental impacts of coal combustion or about receiving a fair return on resources, but more about fulfilling a predetermined agenda. This moratorium is a huge waste of time. I support stopping this moratorium immediately and streamlining, streamlining the Federal lease -- the Federal Coal Leasing Program. Thank you.