

MS. HATCH: Hi. I'm actually Lisa Hatch [phonetic]. And I am representing the County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County. I'm a Trustee for Rangely, Colorado. And quickly, I want to say thank you. I appreciate you being here and being on the Western Slope with us today. I appreciate all the comments that we've been -- that we've listened to today. Just real quick, I, I do have to state that we are for coal. Pretty obvious coal does affect our economies and that, you know, we want to keep coal going. But, I think we have a unique message in how we keep coal moving that would benefit both sides of the argument today. And that's why I wanted to make sure I got up here. So, as I go through this, I, I just want you to consider the possibilities of where coal can go, instead of what we've always used it for. So, this is some studies that's now being done by MIT on coal. So, I'm just going to read a little bit of this. For decades, coal has been a valuable resource. Despite its rich chemical properties, it's been largely used for burning for the purposes of producing electricity and heat. And they found that recently a group of scientists from MIT -- they set out to prove that we may be -- we may have been underestimating the abilities of this combustible sedimentary rock. So, it's lead by Jeffrey Grossman [phonetic], the Professor of Material Science and Engineering. They showed that they could -- that coal could be used for a variety of high-tech uses. The group successfully created a simple electrical heating device with potential applications in window defrosting, which could be used to defrost wings of an airplane. Their research is focused on four different film of coal. Grossman told MIT News that when the group decided to explore coal as a material, rather than just something that could be burned, the chemical properties of the material were surprising quite rich and that coal -- I lost my place. This discovery sparked an interesting question. Could the unique chemical properties of coal be used to make electronic devices with useful functionality? Despite coal being widely used for centuries, it had optical and also electronic-type properties that could be used for other things. So, many electronic devices are made from chip-grade silicone or grapheme, both of which are very costly when it comes to the purification materials to create them. But, powdered coal could not only prove to be a cheap substitute, but could also offer chemical property advantages. Plus

there's this high conductivity in its thermal [indiscernible]. As this report continued, it talks about using it in solar panels and all types of electronic devices with more sustainable success than some of the things we use today for those things. So, my testimony today is that coal is not something we should be keeping in the ground. It is something we should be putting money forward and exploring what else can we use coal for? It has some very unique properties that could be used in medical devices. They talk even a little bit about they're doing some research at Stanford on how we can stimulate dead muscles on people that have been paralyzed. And maybe we can use it [indiscernible]. So, I know that my time is out. I appreciate the time you've taken to listen to me. And I leave that with you. Thanks.