

MATTHEW HEPLER: Hi. Yes. My name is Matthew Hepler, and I am from -- I work for the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, and I live in a tiny little town called Appalachia, Virginia. And being from Appalachia, I knew a couple of things about self-bonds. So, all of the mines around my house are owned by Jim Justice, A&G Coal Company, and all of those mines are self-bonded. In 2014, Virginia passed a law -- the Virginia Legislature passed a law ending the practice of self-bonding in the state of Virginia. Subsequently after that, the DMOME, our state regulatory mining agency, started encouraging Jim Justice's mines to move over to other forms of bonding. However, this -- ultimately, this was not effective. Basically, what had ended up happening was Jim Justice, instead of changing his regs, just ended up taking the notice of violation and settling with the state agency and leaving \$25 million in self-bonded mines still happening in the state of Virginia despite the fact that the state legislature no longer allows it. I am basically -- I'm really concerned that this same process will also happen on our federal lands. And I would encourage just the -- you all to end the practice of leasing coal on federal lands. And if not, short of that, make very strict bonding requirements on federal lands. All right. Thank you.