

JOANNE GOLDEN HILL: My name is Joanne Golden Hill. I have traveled here from Kentucky. I am with Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. I'm a fully retired nurse, born and raised in Harlan County, Kentucky. I'm here today related to my concerns that for decades coal companies have ripped four hundred million tons of coal from our public lands every year, burning it in dirty coal plants like the one located in the town I live now. The Cooper Power Plant was built in 1963 on the banks of the Cumberland River in Burnside, Kentucky. The power plant is located directly across the river from the Burnside Elementary School. You don't have to be in the healthcare field to notice there is an abnormal high amount of brain cancer in the Burnside, Kentucky area, some diagnosed as early in their thirties. And most of them have attended the Burnside Elementary School. Destroying our land and health for dirty coal plants like this one is slowing the low cost, clean energy resources, like wind and solar. This is worse than climate destruction and polluting our communities' air and waterways. By keeping dirty fuels in the ground and generating electricity with clean energy, we can avoid the pollution costs and the health risks associated with coal. Thank you, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today.