

CHUCK LAINE: Excuse me. I want to get my numbers straight. I'm Chuck Laine, a native Tennessean. I live in Knox County, and I'm the president of Tennessee Mining Association, and I am opposed to the moratorium that will be on the federal lands while you are doing the study. And I have a reason for that. Here's what happens when that happens. If you decide to do that, the taxes that are provided for the rural schools and infrastructure will disappear. I know that because in Tennessee, there was a moratorium put on 67,000 acres of coal area by the OSM six years ago, and in that time all of those things have happened. The areas where we mine are some of the most economically depressed areas of our state. They are just north of here. And all of the severance tax that came from that went directly into the school systems and the road systems. And millions of dollars are not going there now because we are not mining there. Can't mine there. We also have -- We also have -- It did not produce a new renewable energy sector. It did not produce noticeable increase in tourism. It did not increase notable increase in health. But it did drastically diminish Tennessee's coal mining permits and drive down coal production, put miners off work, and decreased the taxes paid to local governments. Keeping coal in the ground doesn't provide a better return on investment. It just punishes coal companies. These actions also threaten the affordable, reliable, electricity provided by coal and further impacts the negative economic implications of the Department of Interior's actions. Thank you.