

MS. MALZBENDER: Hi, there. Thank you, guys, so much for staying for this extra hour. I'll be very brief. My name is Katie Malzbender. I'm a 25-year-old Colorado native. And I'm the U.S. Campaign's organizer with the Climate Reality Project. Last weekend I went camping just outside of Rollinsville with my dad for Father's Day. He was the one who gave me my love of nature and my appreciation of Colorado's natural beauty. He was also the one who instilled in me the value of protecting our public lands so that we can continue to enjoy them for generations. And when we arrived at our campsite last weekend, we were appalled to see thousands of shells, lead bullets, and clays littering the ground. I've always lived by the mantra, as cliché as it is, leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures. So, for Father's Day, my father and I spent about an hour cleaning up a little tiny piece of this country's public land. So, I was collecting someone else's trash, feeling a bit of relief knowing that the lead bullets wouldn't be leaching poison into ground water. I thought about this hearing today and about the Federal Coal Leasing Program more generally. My effort seemed small and insignificant in the face of the Federal policing program that is subsidizing an industry that spews poison from lead into its surroundings and into the atmosphere. As I was walking through the forest around my campsite, I passed hundreds of gray, dead trees that had been killed by pine beetles. And these beetles are surviving warmer winters -- warmer and shorter winters due to climate change. My efforts, again, seemed small and insignificant in the face of the Federal policing program that has unlocked almost 4 billion metric tons of CO2 just in the last seven years. The current Federal Coal Leasing Program is forcing taxpayers, like myself and everyone in this room, to subsidize the destruction of our most cherished places and the health of our climate and communities. The moratorium on new coal leases must be made permanent as the United States transitions from the dirty energy sources of the past to clean, healthy, and renewable sources of energy. Thank you so much.