

MR. MONGER: Good morning. Doug Monger. I'm a County Commissioner from Routt County. And Routt County has been the number 1 or number 2 coal producer for the last 40 years. And we have some great mines there.

We have underground mines. And as Commissioner Grobe said, we've had a lot of surface mines, as well. And all of those things, as Commissioner Grobe said, I actually have rented pasture on some of those things that the reclamation efforts since the 1970s, when the Reclamation Act came into play, have been, as he said, better than normal. I just want to pass on some information. You know our coal industry and our power industry, with the Hayden Power Plant, is the number 1 and number 2 taxpayers in Routt County.

Twentymile Coal itself pays \$1.7 million to, to -- not to the County, but to the County's -- all the taxing entities -- \$1.7 million. And the fact is for the Soroco South Routt School District, it -- the -- they get \$1 million out of their \$5 million total budget.

So, as, as the Commissioner from Delta County has referred to, we're in a crisis right now because of the pending bankruptcy of Peabody Coal. You know we -- on top of that, you know, we -- the Federal mineral lease to Routt County is about \$350,000 a year.

That -- probably 90 percent -- 95 percent, that comes from coal industry. You know, I think it's been said our clean air -- we're very proud of the Hayden Power Plant. A hundred sixty million dollars in the last two years that they've put into -- with the [indiscernible] and the rest.

So, that we can -- through the -- you know -- and I think we need to be held to the best standards -- that we all need to be held to the best standards. Me -- as my -- being a rancher, or whether it's driving a car, or whether it's you guys in government, or whatever.

We all need to be held to the best standards that we can be held to. And I, and I think we, we went through the Sierra lawsuit with the Hayden Power Plant and have a much better power plant.

I live next door and across the street from the Hayden Power Plant. And I don't mind at all walking outside. I ride my horse. I run cattle. And everything is very good there.

So, you know, I appreciate you guys coming out and making the stop here. I want to remind everybody that Routt

County Coal, as the Delta County Coal is, as well, is high, high in BTUs, low in sulfur. And it, it's just good burning coal.

But, with the jobs that we have -- our jobs and the Peabody Mine are probably more current information. But, we roughly have reduced from somewhere down in 500 down to about 260.

And then, when -- I live, again, across the street from the -- and so we used to have trains that used to go -- used to go by my house. And they all came from Moffat County. And right now we have probably -- when I first moved there 14 years ago, we probably had probably two trains a day.

And now we have -- we don't have a train a month anymore coming out of coal country and, and Moffat County. You know if you think about the total carbon footprint, especially for us up here in Northwest Colorado and Delta County -- and Delta, us burning our coal here for the energy that we're providing -- the 60 percent of the energy that comes for Colorado comes out of, of the coal industry.

If you think about the total footprint for us to mine the coal underneath the ground, transport it up, transport it right, you know, 5 miles away, and to burn it, and transport the energy, makes a lot more sense than trying to, trying to transport our energy coming out of the gas plants.

And I, I think we've said it all along, too, we want to be all inclusive energy community. All of us. Routt County has invested over \$1 million in alternative energy, as well, just because it's the right way to do.

I -- one other thing I just -- I'm going to close here quickly. But, you know our coal jobs, you know, averaging \$134,000 a year, and we're a prospering community here. We're a destination ski area. Steamboat Springs, Colorado, a destination ski area.

And what are those jobs? Those are service industry jobs. Not to knock on them. But, they're \$10 an hour. A third of the population in Routt County right now is on Medicaid.

And you would think that a population of a destination ski area would be just great. Well, our coal business and our power plant business are the stable that keeps our life together. So, thank you for your time.

