

MR. NILSEN: My name is Andy Nilsen. I'm representing Delta Rigging and Tools. And since Ms. Jewell claims that this is to protect the taxpayer, then I will represent a taxpayer, as well. And the reason I'm a taxpayer is because of the coal industry. I realize we're supposed to stick to the facts here. But, it's difficult not to speak with emotion when it's mine and my companion's livelihoods and families that are under attack and at risk. If this moratorium is truly to ensure a fair return to the taxpayers, I hope you consider the number of jobs created and the tax revenue produced by these mines and their vendors. The coal industry is already in decline. And many communities are suffering. My company has made considerable cuts because of this downturn. I suggest you drive by the railroad yard before you leave town and see all the engines that have been sitting there for over a year now. Thank you. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're welcome. MR. NILSEN: It's not just the mine jobs and the vendors who are at risk. Teachers -- entire school districts are at risk because [indiscernible] these school districts can't afford to continue at this rate. It's frustrating seeing the devastation in the North Fork Valley and Delta County, is just one example. And then, listening to these environmental groups brag and take credit for another mine closure. So, here we are, instead of most of us in this room working today, which we would rather be and contributing to our local economies, we are here fighting an unnecessary fight with lobbyists and an administration that has made their intentions quite clear. They would like to see an end to the coal industry. In closing, I truly hope that you consider all of these factors that we have and will discuss today. What I am afraid of is that this is simply a formality. And it's just one more step in ending the coal industry. I hope that I'm wrong. Thanks.