

MR. PORTER: Hello. My name is Aaron Porter. I represent maybe 80 people that got laid off earlier this month. Basically you're here to talk about the [indiscernible] and royalties.

The fact is is that you're getting plenty of money that way. This isn't free money. We worked our tails off to that coal out of the ground and you're getting 8 percent on -- yeah, 8 percent off of that.

That's a lot of money; billions of dollars. And we make a lot of investment. It costs a lot of money to run a mine. And I don't think that raising the rate is going to do you any good, because most of us will go out of business. There's no way we'll be able to pay you and pay our vendors and pay everybody else and pay our taxes. And you know, it just won't happen.

The other thing is that's been brought up is that sometimes you'll only have one bid on a piece of -- on a lease that's right next to an existing coal mine. Well, the fact is is that it costs something like \$450 million dollars to start a new mine.

So, if you're going to lease it right next to an existing mine, most operators aren't going to be able to start up a new mine. So, you've already got a mine right next door.

They're the ones that bid on it. And that's the way it goes. That's just -- it, it's just the way it goes. And as far as the environment, we run one of the cleanest mines there is out here in Colorado, as far as the way I feel about it.

And we put a lot of money into that. Everybody works hard to make sure that we don't, you know, dump pollutants into the ground or anything like that.

There's gold medal fishing waters just downstream from the mine. And there's, like he said, there's elk and all kinds of deer and bears and all kinds of stuff that are running all over the mine site. And so, you know, it not like we're pillaging the land or anything like that.

If you visit the mine site, I think you'll be impressed. But, you know, just in contrast, that what some of these people from Telluride have said, I did some plumbing in Telluride for two years. And those people would put in [indiscernible] lots of piping and stuff in their sidewalks and run a pump house and boiler just to keep the ice from forming on their sidewalk.

So, how environmentally friendly is that, you know?

We're doing what we can. And we just expect your guys to, you know, look at the facts and take into account what we're doing here on the ground.

We're not just pillaging the land. We're trying to be responsible like everybody else. So, thanks for your time. And I appreciate you staying.