

MS. REHN: Hello. My name is Maddie Rehn. And thank you for coordinating this and allowing us to speak today. I was born and raised in Colorado and am a resident of Gunnison County, where I attended graduate school at Western State Colorado University.

I'm also the Project Director of the Mountain Pact. We work closely with mountain communities that have outdoor recreation based economies throughout the American West. And we support the Interior Department's review of the Federal Coal Leasing Program and encourage the agency to account for the climate cost of coal.

Coal companies are mining taxpayer-owned coal at cut-rate prices, while Western communities face the fallout -- destroyed landscapes, air and water pollution, project shortfalls, and the growing impacts of climate change, to name a few.

It is time to modernize our broken Federal Coal Program and ensure the best economic and social results that include a way to protect resource-dependant local economies -- our land, air, and water.

We also need to empower [indiscernible] invest in a new pact of cleaner, renewable energy. I thank the Obama administration for making \$75 million available in grants for economic and workforce development to communities hit by the coal downturn.

This will help to [indiscernible] the transition to a more diverse economy. Republican President Richard Nixon instituted a nearly identical [indiscernible] on coal leasing and review of outdated guidelines in 1971, which gave the Federal Government time to correct the problems with the coal industry speculation and unfair return to taxpayers.

Since then, Western economies and energy development have entered the 21st century, but our guidelines haven't kept up. It has now been more than 30 years since this last review. And for that reason, I urge the Interior Department to update the Federal Coal Program to ensure resources extracted on public land return a fair share to American taxpayers and account for the impacts to our environment.

I also urge the Interior Department to diversify rural economies and create new jobs through investments and technology and infrastructure for both renewable energy and recreation outdoor economy.

I also think that we should tighten the binding -- the bonding requirements for coal to help ensure that companies

have to restore the landscapes after production is over.
Thank you.