

KATIE REILLY: All right. Hello. My name is Katie Reilly, and I want to thank the BLM for conducting a PEIS on the Federal Coal Lease Program and for the opportunity to comment. My mom and her side of my family is from a Northern Appalachian coal town in Pennsylvania. The strip mines that surround her town are far bigger than the town itself. And my aunt worked in the town of Centralia when it had to be evacuated because of toxic fumes from an underground mine that has been burning now for more than fifty years. There isn't much mining left in my mother's community and wind turbines now stand on the mountains next to skies of abandoned mines, which shows that transition to clean energy really is possible. As a young person, I ask that BLM take full advantage of this review process to protect coal impacted communities, our public lands, and our climate for generations to come, not just for the next few years. This PEIS must look at stopping coal production on taxpayer land, incorporating the cost of carbon into royalty rates, evaluating how federal coal impacts production of clean energy, re-evaluating self-bonding, which unfairly places a burden of reclamation on taxpayers, evaluating BLM's authority to ensure a just transition for coal-impacted communities. We must make sure that our public lands are being used in a way that benefits all Americans. And it is clear that the Federal Coal Leasing Program is harming far too many communities. It is time to keep the coal in the ground. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.