

MS. SAGER: Hello. My name is Jennifer Sager. And I'm a resident of Montrose, Colorado. Thank you for placing a temporary moratorium on these leases and for holding these very important hearings. For the last decade, I have worked as a technical recruiter. I specialize in recruiting software engineers who are themselves employed with the -- within the Intelligence and Department of Defense communities, building the systems that keep our nation safe. [Indiscernible] in the national security apparatus and my concern for our planet, I have paid close attention to what Experts in the IC and DOD have had to say about the intersection of climate change and our national security. Last May, the White House released a report called the National Security Implications of the Changing Climate, which included findings from DHS, DOD, and other Federal agencies. This report makes clear that climate change poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to America's safety and stability. The Pentagon refers to climate change as a threat multiplier because it aggravates existing stressors, such as poverty, poor farming conditions and political instability, which in turn provides environments where terrorist activity thrives. This results in the need for more frequent defense missions. This increased scale and intricacy costs human lives and taxpayer dollars. Domestically the IC and DOD recognizes that climate change poses serious threats to our coastal communities and military bases, two essential aspects of our economy and food security, like agriculture and water; and to our critical national energy and transportation infrastructure. From my perspective, we need to transition away from fossil fuels. And I believe that reforming our coal leases is a good step in that direction. My role as a technical recruiter doesn't just inform my understanding of national security. It also has me focused on jobs. Although the employment of X, Y, or Z specific coal miner falls outside of the scope of BLM, this is where the rubber meets the road. These are real families with real mouths to feed. In addition to making sure that Americans are receiving a fair return on Federal coal, I ask the BLM's leadership work with the President and Congress to ensure that those resources get directed to the most impacted communities so that the transition away from fossil fuels is one that is fair to the communities and workers whose daily grind and kept our country running. It is possible for our policy to put

people over profit. It is possible to have policies that support both our planet and our people. Let's close the loopholes, increase transparency, foster competition in, in bidding, hold companies accountable for reclamation, and make sure the taxpayers are getting a fair return. But, let's also ensure that those returns are directed in a way that supports communities in the inevitable and the absolutely critical transition away from fossil fuels. As an American living in coal country, I am especially aware of how important it is to turn towards these workers and say, hey, thanks for getting us here. The tide is turning. Let's make sure you're on the ship, too. Because the truth is that secure communities make for a more secure nation. Thank you.