

MR. SEGO: My name is Jeff Segó. I'm here because I'm a concerned citizen. And I'm here to support the coal industry. First, I want to make it clear that I would urge Secretary Jewell to immediately end the moratorium on the Federal Coal Leasing Program. I don't believe that the Department of the Interior has the best interest of the citizens of the United States at heart. I think if they did, they would acknowledge the profound affect that this will have on the future supply of low-cost, reliable coal, high-paying jobs, and revenue from Federal land. This administration does not seem to care about the moratorium's immediate impact or the long-term effects on coal production and cheap, reliable -- and energy production. I want to highlight cheap and reliable. I realize there will be a time for renewable energy. But, currently, it's not reliable or in great abundance. And it's certainly not cheap. For anybody here that doubts that, read up on the Ivan Solar Project south of Las Vegas; and you'll know what I'm saying as far as not reliable and not cheap. Renewables may be the future, but we're not there yet. We need coal to help continue to bridge the energy gap until we get there. And anyone who takes the approach leave it in the ground right now, I do not believe truly understands the circumstances. And to make my point, one of the gentlemen earlier mentioned that -- affiliated with that kind of thinking, mentioned that there's other, you know, fields we can use in cheap and abundant supply. And I would think he's probably referring to nature gas. The same group I see out there with signs trying to stop fracking. Folks, the reason natural gas is cheap and abundant right now is because of fracking. That tells me that maybe you don't understand the whole situation. It currently takes eight to nine years to get a lease approved. Secretary Jewell's poor decision could easily put that out 10 to 12 years. If you want to review and legitimate fix a problem in the Coal Leasing Program, fix that. The timeframe to get a lease and the cost incurred is shameful. The claim that the moratorium is necessary while revisions is made, is complete nonsense. It's simply playing politics and pushing the administration's agenda against coal. Agencies, including your own, the BLM, review programs without shutting down the entire program frequently. Examples of that, BLM had wind projects. They conducted PEIS 2003 through 2005. They also had solar projects 2010 and '12 that were reviewed. And ironically, none of these

were required to completely shut down. There are more examples of reviews that were completed by the Army Corp of Engineers and the Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation, without bringing everything to a halt. We hear the reasoning that we are looking out for the American taxpayer. I don't know if any of us here can remember the last time somebody truly looked out for the taxpayer. In conclusion, I just want to urge that everyone use common sense. Please quit pushing the political agendas that make no sense for our taxpayers or, quite frankly, our country, as far as the near or long-term energy future. Thank you for your time.