

MS. SJOBERG: And thank you for being in Grand Junction. And thank you, all of you, for staying to hear each of our stories. We appreciate it very much. I am -- my name is Karen Sjoberg. I am the Chair of Citizens for Clean Air, CCA. We're a local organization of volunteers. We feel that a comprehensive review of the existing Federal Coal Program is essential for our quality of life. We are surrounded by public land so that many of us work, play, and appreciate on a daily basis. And we also experience the effects of air pollution. Because of our topography -- we're in a valley. Winter air quality here has been historically poor. Particulates in ozone are a primary concern. The winter of 2013/2014 was so polluted, we exceeded National Air Quality Standards. And CCA has worked ever since to improve air quality in the Grand Junction air shed and beyond. Any incremental increase in air pollution requires our attention, which is why our members have come here today. It's well known that air pollution associated with coal is harmful to human health. And Dr. Sussors [indiscernible] on that. Particulates are also the major cause of reduced visibility, or haze, in parts of the U.S. and right here in Mesa County. We stand with whose neighbors in nearby Delta County and beyond who have legitimate concerns about the effects of coal mining on air quality. In addition, the, the Federal royalty rate should account for the environmental cost of coal production. Thank you for all of you [indiscernible] for making electricity affordable and accessible. [Indiscernible] during this time of transition is the responsibility of all of us. Many of us take electricity and where it comes from for granted. We can no longer do this. Many of us also take clean air for granted. And we cannot do this anymore either. We can either take it upon ourselves to make the hard decisions now. Or we can pass them along to our children and grandchildren when the choices will be more limited and far more difficult. Thank you.