

MR. STEIN: Hi. My name is Joe Stein. I'm a graduate student studying environmental policy. I'd like first to say that I've had several civil and enlightening conversations today with coal miners. And I think that that's a really healthy thing bringing these two groups together. For decades coal executives have treated our public land as their land, destroying pristine wilderness areas for profit, all the while admitting climate change greenhouse gases, an obnoxious mix of chemicals that affect human health. In the wake of a global climate crisis, we as Americans must maintain our current moratorium on Federal coal leases in order to meet our intended goals and prevent environmental disaster, paired with wise policy, emphasizing green subsidies. The extension of the current moratorium on coal will create jobs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and show the world that America is once again a global energy leader. According to Sally Jewell, the current Secretary of the Interior, we already have 20 years' worth of coal supply at current production levels, at least for extraction. Because production levels are dropping, that stock will last longer and longer. We simply have no need for new coal plants. Removing the moratorium on Federal coal leases after signing on to the Paris Agreement, would be a step in the wrong direction at the most pivotal point in American energy history. Opponents of the coal moratorium correctly argue that the coal industry provides jobs and economic benefits to working class towns that need it. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, about 56,700 Americans are employed in coal mining; down from 80,000 in 2014. These workers are drawn to coal because jobs are a plenty. The U.S. still gets one-third of its energy from coal. Coal companies claim that we cannot replace the jobs that they provide with jobs in the green industry. The data says something different. Worldwide, there are more jobs in renewables than coal mining, oil, and gas combined. As fossil fuels dry up, workers are turning to the solar sector. There are already twice as many solar workers in the U.S. as there are coal miners. 31,000 new solar jobs were created in 2014 alone. With wise policies centered around green energy subsidies, we could create thousands of jobs, effectively nullifying the job loss experienced during the inevitable and necessary divestment from fossil fuel based energy. Clean air and a thriving

economy need not be mutually exclusive goals. The first step is reforming our coal policy. Thank you.