

CHRISTIAN TORP: Greetings. I'm Christian Torp from Lexington, Kentucky, an attorney at law in state and federal court. Thank you for this opportunity to speak and thank you for engaging in this process to update the Federal Coal Leasing Program. I urge you to phase out, to end coal leasing on publically-owned lands as soon as possible. Why? From a strictly economic standpoint, the American people are losing money each time an ounce of coal is leased by the BLM. Federal coal royalties have not changed in thirty years and are far below the royalty rates on natural oil and gas. Furthermore, there is an estimated \$3.6 billion, that is billion with a "b," in outstanding self-bonded reclamation liability in the U.S. And there is Alpha, Arch. And they have all filed for bankruptcy. As coal companies are historically always apt to do, who is going to be left holding the bag but us, the American people? Finally, the American people have always been left holding the bag when it comes to extractive industries. And as time has progressed, it has and only continues to grow evermore egregious. From the localized degradation and health impacts, coal mining is never without, to the elephant in the room, climate change. To mine coal is to kill the less fortunate for the betterment of the already well-to-do. I'm familiar with the orange poison tap water in Appalachia. Where is our reclamation? When the temperature has risen four degrees Celsius and the world's food supply has been disrupted, where is our reclamation? I speak truth to power. America is going to pay for what you choose to do, one way or the other. Either you can get moving down the road, you are one day going to try it anyway, given the ultimate and undeniable end of the fossil fuel era and economy, or we can pay for it on the back end with human health costs, under-funded environmental liabilities and widespread social disruption. Your move. I will submitting my comments electronically, and thank you.