

WILLIAM WILSON: Hello, my name is Will Wilson. I took the day off work to come and speak on behalf of myself and my child. I'm glad that you all are here, and we have got this chance to talk about this pause of federal leasing, but I'm kind of amazed that in 2016, we are still talking about it. The science of climate change is established. The observations are in line and exceeding predictions. It is real. It was 123.8 degrees in India a few days ago, it was record breaking. It is happening, and I don't know why we are still talking about it. I grew up in Scott County, Tennessee. It is one of the poorest counties in Tennessee. It is also heavily mined for coal. When I was growing up, there were strip pits like moonscapes where mining had been done. Nothing grows. Rocks, rock walls. Green and blue, brilliant, crazy blue, water, unnatural water. Twenty-five years later, you can go back, it's still there. It is not reclaiming. It doesn't come back. Coal counties in Appalachia are consistently some of the poorest counties in the nation. Coal does not bring economic benefit. Coal mining -- Well, anyway, this program, basically, if the prices -- It is offered -- it is effectively a giveaway of my money and everybody's money in here. The taxpayer dollars is being given away. Not being given away to coal miners, it is being given away to coal executives. They get to mine coal. They get to make their profits. They get to get their executive bonuses, and then they can declare bankruptcy and shirk their responsibilities for environmental cleanup and for worker pensions. So, on top of the climate change impacts, the economic benefits are not there. It is a money grab. You are giving away my money. So, please stop. You asked how, when, and where should we lease federal coal. Nowhere. How do we account for this? Make the companies pay for it. Thank you.