

MS. WINN: Hello. My name is Kristin Winn. And I live in Grand Junction. I'm active in Citizens for Clean Air, a group of local citizens that are concerned about our air quality.

I have asthma and personally experience respiratory problems when we have winter air [indiscernible] in the Grand Valley. Clean air is vital to my own health and to that of many others, as well.

I wanted to speak at this hearing because of my concerns about the present way that coal is leased. I understand that the last time the Federal Coal Program was revised was 30 years ago. The world has changed dramatically since then, and

so has our understanding of that world and our human impact on it. Burning coal releases sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter into the atmosphere. All of which contribute to air pollution.

I believe there are changes that need to be made to the existing Federal Coal Leasing Program. The leasing rates do not take into account the true cost to the environment when coal is developed on Federal lands.

Reclamations costs also should not fall on the taxpayer. Air pollution makes breathing extremely difficult for anyone with respiratory problems. And it is particularly hard on children and the elderly.

When we look at the future for our children and grandchildren, that future should include clean air. Change is difficult and painful. I certainly understand the difficulties faced by the miners and communities that will be affected by change.

But, as a country, we need to be moving toward cleaner sources of energy. However, I would strongly urge that thought be given on how to help those families and communities that will experience the impact of changing to cleaner energy sources.

Thank you for taking the time to look at needed changes to the Coal Leasing Program and for holding these public meetings to hear from those affected by these changes. This is the first time I haven't had to drive all the way to Denver to do one of these meetings. And I appreciate that. Thank you.