

MS. WOODWARD: Hi. My name is Joan Woodward. I'm from Grand Junction. And I'm a member of [indiscernible] Colorado Congress and Citizens for Clean Air. I appreciate your being here. In my former life as a Lawyer and then a State Superior Court Judge, I inhabited a world of winners and losers. I say this not to enhance or, as the case may be, discredit my testimony, but to note that I didn't much care for this world. When I retired from the bench, I opened a mediation practice. In that world, the goal is to help people or companies come to an agreement that all could live with. That was the model I found compelling. So, when we are accused by the mining industry of caring nothing for the miners who are already being displaced by the slowdown and shutdown of coal mines and generating facilities, I must disagree. Because I care passionately about the [indiscernible] not suffering from rapidly increasing climate change for my children and grandchildren, in no way means that I don't have the same concern for people all over the world, including coal miners. Moreover, I strongly believe the coal miners and plant operators deserve assistance with developing new means of earning a living. In one community outside of Colorado, that group of miners themselves decided that they wanted to be retrained in IT. So, that's an example of what might happen if coal miners displaced here could make their own decisions and get assistance. It must be noted, however, that in the bankruptcies of Arch Coal and Alfa Coal, it has been the coal barons, not the environmentalists, who have asked for or taken millions in bonuses while cheating the miners out of their healthcare benefits and retirement plans and aggregating collective bargaining agreements. It's difficult for me to believe that anyone truly thinks that climate change is not real. Exxon was finally outted as having determined the reality of climate change decades ago. While definitive statistics vary from source to source, coal is responsible for roughly 30 percent of this country's greenhouse gas emissions. The fact that [indiscernible] generates greenhouse gas emissions and China is shrinking its coal plant construction because the pollution is making people sick, is no justification for a country as large and important as the United States to abandon all efforts to contain its emissions. That is not called leadership. And we claim to be the leaders of the free world. No one should claim the issue is simply one

brought on by environmentalists. The economics of cheaper and less polluting natural gas, which needs its own modifications that contain methane emissions and address the problems associated with fracking have put coal on the decline for many years. And now renewables, primarily wind and solar, are rapidly gaining market share at economically feasible rates and without any climate change consequences. But, changing sources of energy production and the fact that there are still 20 years of coal available under existing leases, support the imposition of considerable constraints on new coal leases. It is true that some communities in western Colorado have long depended on coal for employment, tax generation, and general welfare. But, that is no justification for fouling our planet. When the land at issue is Federal land, it is hardly improper for the Federal Government, on behalf of us all, to regulate whether or how we extract the building blocks of energy from it. We need to work together for a win-win solution to diversify our local economies and to save our local and planetary environments. Thank you.