

FRED KRAYBILL: My name is Fred Kraybill. Greet you all. I live in Pittsburgh. I work at the VA Medical Center. I am very concerned about climate change and I dedicate much of my spare time to working on this issue. I want to thank President Obama, Secretary Sally Jewell, and the Department of the Interior for this historic step to put a pause on coal leasing on federal lands. It was very unfair that federal lands were leased to coal companies at rock bottom prices and allowed them to compete unfairly with other cleaner energy sources. It was also unfair to the taxpayers that shoulder a tax burden when highly profitable coal companies were not paying their fair share to lease federal lands for coal. But ultimately, the most important consideration to this issue is how much coal can still be burned in our remaining carbon budget. How much must we reduce our carbon emissions to prevent a 2 degree Celsius warming and to try to stay within a 1.5 degree Celsius warming? Most of the people I know will say that we must keep fossil fuels in the ground. The BLM has many competing interests to think about, but at the very least it seems to me that if the BLM continues to lease federal lands for coal, then it must be at a price that accounts for the social cost of carbon and it must be at a price that allows clean, renewable energy to rapidly overtake fossil fuels in the energy marketplace. Because the solution to pollution is renewable, it's doable. Recently I've been watching the devastating weather events in both ends of the U.S. Historic rainfall and flash floods in West Virginia and devastating, out of control, wildfires in the southwest. We are witnessing exactly what climate scientists have predicted for years. Record breaking heat waves, drought, forest fires, flash floods and storms. Record breaking sea level rise, glacier melt and ocean acidification. So I ask the BLM and the Department of the Interior to make addressing climate change your most important priority when considering how to revamp the federal coal leasing program. Thank you for your time.