

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. As a parent I understand the decisions you face are often quite heavy, but I also ask that while you make these decisions, you consider the health of the children who will be effected by them for the remainder of their lives.

President Obama has publically acknowledged the need for America to reduce our emissions. In addition to overusing fossil fuels that pollute our atmosphere by adding climate driving chemicals, we have chosen to turn a blind eye to the environmental damage that is created. For too long, piecemeal evaluations and lease-by-lease comparisons to global greenhouse gas concentrations misrepresent the nature of a very real climate crisis and thereby downplay the extent to which coal leasing contributes to the problem.

We can no longer accept this naïve view of what coal pollution does to our environment, our health and our economies. To date, the BLM has not turned down a federal coal lease based on the projected environmental impacts. When our environment is damaged, our climate is damaged.

Already, 2016 has been the hottest year on record, pollution from coal is a great contributor. In January 2015, a peer-reviewed study in Nature concluded that in order avoid the worst effects of climate change, 1/3 of all oil reserves, half of all gas reserves, and more than 80 percent of coal reserves worldwide must remain in the ground through 2050. We ask that the BLM address the evident inconsistency between the conclusions of the best available climate science and the agency's continued expansion of the federal coal program.