

Good Morning. My name is Garrett Atwood and I work in the coal industry.

The energy industry is the industry that powers every other to improve human life. The more affordable, plentiful, and reliable energy we can produce, the more (and better) food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical care, sanitation, clean water, technology, and everything else we can have.

Unfortunately, because of backwards energy and environmental policies that are anti-development, not anti-pollution, we are squandering the opportunity of a generation, through blind opposition to one of our most potent sources of power, coal. (Source: "The Energy Liberation Plan" Forbes Magazine, contributor Alex Epstein)

Instead of running from coal, we should be running more on coal.

I believe that current royalty rates are excessive and should be reduced in light of current market conditions.

The current leasing process is too lengthy and burdensome and should be streamlined and simplified to enable easier leasing of coal.

The method used for fair market valuation is excessively biased in the governments favor and unfairly discounts the capital incurred to develop an existing mine and doesn't fairly account for the market risks assumed by the proponent.

It is premature and arrogant for the government to assume that they can accurately measure climate change itself, let alone try to estimate what portion of climate change is manmade and how much of this impact is attributable to an individual fuel source.

One thing that climate scientist have proven over the last 40 years is that their climate prediction models are incapable of accurately predicting the climate. Nearly all of the models (102) used by manmade climate change alarmists over the last 40 years have predicted rapidly increasing global temperatures that would result in worldwide catastrophic climate events. Instead, these models have been proven false as we have actually witnessed a mild warming effect and an enormous climate protection effect from fossil fuel energy. (Source: Dr. John Christy of the University of Alabama Huntsville).

In the last 80 years, we have increased the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere from 0.03% to 0.04% (Scripps Institute of Oceanography merged ice core data), and the warming has been barely more than the natural warming that occurred in the 80 years before that, when there were virtually no CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Source: UK Met Office Hadley Centre).

According to the international disaster database (Emergency Events Database EM-DAT), climate-related deaths are down 98 percent over the past 80 years. In 2013, there were 21,122 such deaths worldwide compared to a high of 3.7 million in 1931, when world population was less than a third of its current size. Why is the climate killing less people? Because while fossil-fuel use has only a mild warming impact, it has an enormous protecting impact. Nature doesn't

give us a stable, safe climate that we make dangerous. It gives us an ever-changing, dangerous climate that we need to make safe. And the driver behind sturdy buildings, affordable heating and air-conditioning, drought relief and everything else that keeps us safe from climate is cheap, plentiful, reliable energy, overwhelmingly from coal and other fossil fuels. (Source: "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels", Alex Epstein)

Since 1980, the world has increased its use of coal, oil, and natural gas by over 80 percent — because that is the most cost-effective way to produce energy. At the same time, the average life expectancy of our world's 7 billion people has gone up 7 years—that's 7 years of precious life! Every other metric of human well-being has also improved, from income to access to health care to nourishment to clean water access. The most growth has been among the poorest people in the world. (Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy, Historical data workbook World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI)).

If this Programmatic review intends to try value a perceived cost of harm to the public from the negative externalities from coal development than an equal effort should be made to acknowledge and assess the benefits afforded to the public from the positive externalities of coal development and use. I believe that the benefits of reliable and affordable energy far outweigh the associated risks and should result in a reduction in the cost of leases and royalties. At a minimum, a simple thank you to the hard working men and women of the coal industry for improving all of our lives is in order.

In Closing, I urge the BLM to use common sense and not worsen an already burdensome coal leasing process.

Royalty rates and leasing costs should be reduced to alleviate pressure on an already battered coal industry.

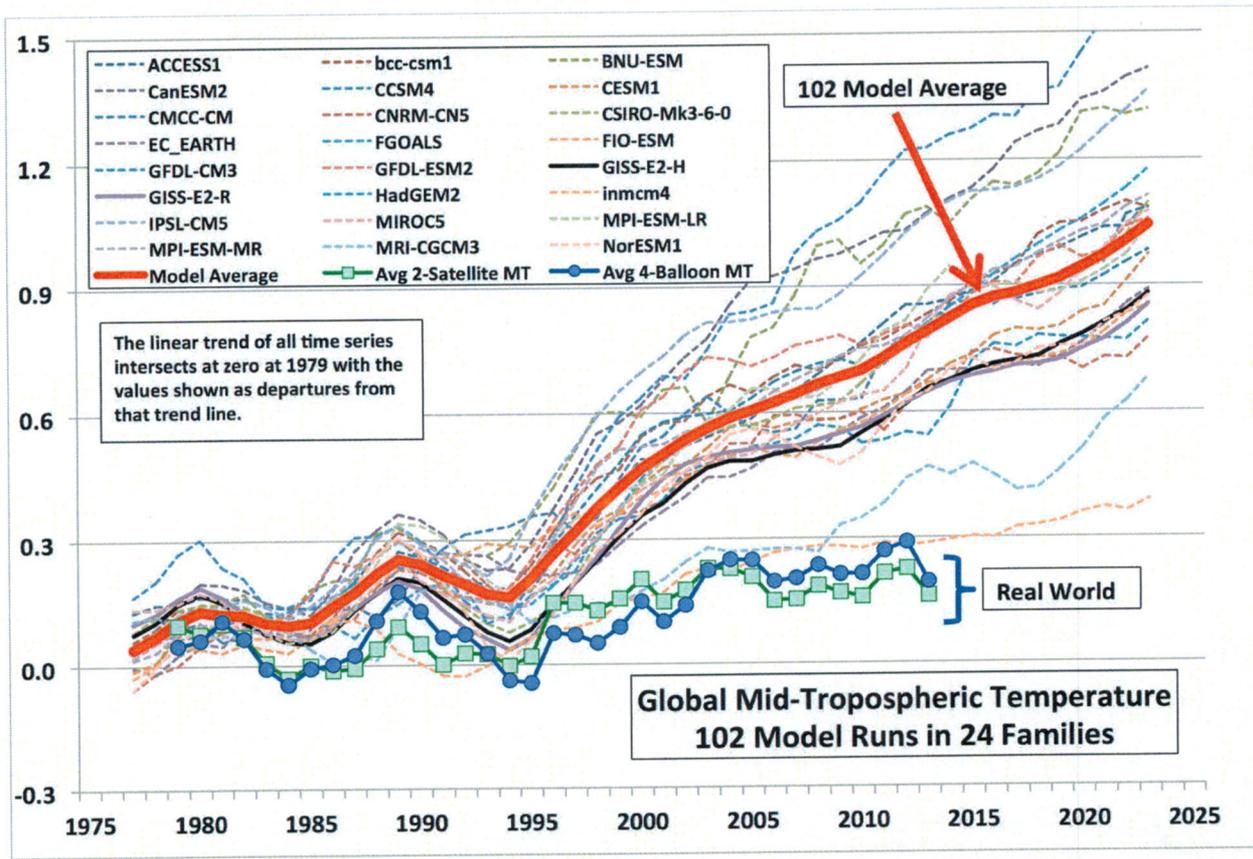
Royalty rates should be applied to revenues realized at the point where the coal is mined to properly account for loading and transportation costs.

The Fair market valuation method should be adjusted to account for development capital and market risks assumed by the proponent.

I ask the BLM to consider the lives and livelihoods of coal miners here in the state of Utah and other parts of the U.S. as they make their decisions instead of catering to a select group of individuals who are not directly impacted by these decisions.

As I state earlier, the energy industry is the industry that powers every other to improve human life. Our government should be working to further this industry no trying to destroying it.

Thank you for your time.



(Source: Dr. John Christy of the University of Alabama Huntsville)