

Hello. My name is Bobbi Bryant-Salvato and I have lived in the charming historic town of Panguitch, Utah for almost 20 years ago. I was attracted to its charm, small town friendliness and close proximity to Bryce Canyon National Park. I enjoy recreating in this area.

I am here today to urge the Department of the Interior to fully reexamine the Federal Coal Lease Program to take into account the devastating impact coal mining and combustion has on our climate, access to public lands, and local tourism economies. From personal experience I can speak to several aspects of the lifestyle that attracted me to Southern Utah as being threatened by the Alton Coal Mine.

Panguitch, like several other gateway communities to National Parks in southern Utah, is dependent on tourism. Upwards of 2 million people visited Bryce last year which was an increase of 15.8% from 2014. \$7.8 billion tourist dollars is spent in the state of Utah which equates to over \$1 billion in state and local tax revenues. We see an extension of our seasonal business as the "shoulder periods" are starting earlier in the season (April) and extending until end of October or beyond. Tourism is vital to our local economy.

Bryce Canyon is known for its beautiful night skies and it is a "Night Sky Sanctuary". BLM admits there will be a detrimental impact on these skies from increased lighting and air pollution at this 24 hour mine operation which is located ten miles from Bryce.

The Alton Coal Mine, if permitted by BLM, will be a strip coal mine on 3,500 acres of public lands. Highway 89 will be the haul route of this coal. Highway 89, the Mormon Heritage Highway, is a small two lane highway that goes through the towns of Hatch and Panguitch. In the latest SEIS by BLM I quote, "adverse impacts of community and social well-being and tourism related business, population, housing and public safety and health" will result from permitting this mine. BLM has heard from more than 200,000 members of the public asking they not approve this mine.

Truck traffic through these small towns will be estimated at up to 300 double tandem truck trips operating 24 hours a day 6 days a week. You can imagine the noise and road hazards.

These trucks are not covered and coal and coal dust particulates are released as these trucks travel along the Sevier River for almost 25 miles.

They overload these trucks from time to time above allowable limits knowing the trucks are not being "watched". No water or air quality monitoring is being done nor being proposed as the amount of trucks increase should this mine be expanded.

Time does not permit me to discuss other areas of concern such as mercury in the Sevier River, air quality, safety hazards, destruction of historic Native American sites on the proposed mine site and the threat to the Greater Sage Grouse.

My hope is that the Federal Government and the State of Utah will look at alternative forms of clean energy that will increase employment in rural Utah as the demand for coal decreases. Give these clean industry businesses the same advantages on federal lands that we have given the coal industry for decades.

Thank you.

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