

MARK COMPTON: Good morning. Mark Compton, president of Utah Mining Association. I believe this coal moratorium, while maybe not surprising coming from the current administration, is nevertheless shortsighted and dangerous. Coal is still the backbone of our nation's and the world's energy supply, and restricting access to this affordable, abundant resource will destroy jobs and lead to higher and higher electric bills for every American. More than half of the world's population has little or no access to energy, and if we are going to raise the standard of living here in the U.S. and around the world, coal must continue to be a part of our energy mix. We simply can't meet the demand for energy without it. In addition to removing federal coal reserves, the moratorium will reduce the lease revenues of western states. 50 percent of federal coal lease revenues are returned to the states in which the coal is mined, and these funds are very important to local and county budgets, addressing community impacts, and developing infrastructure. And of course this action has significant economic impacts on applicants who have borne the cost of environment analysis but now cannot proceed to a final decision on a lease. It's difficult to see how the Interior department or the American taxpayer is harmed by at least proceeding with pending lease applications. The leasing process involves public comment. Environmental stipulations can and are added to lease terms and conditions, and the process includes competitive bidding and confirmation that the bid accepted meets fair market value. The reality is we need fossil fuels to power our society and, as I said, to raise the standard of living around the world. So real climate leadership from this administration would be a commitment to advancing development of carbon abatement technologies for all fossil fuels. We've made tremendous strides in technology, and we can make more. Now, one of the stated reasons for moratorium is to make sure the public receives a fair return for coal resources developed on federal lands, but the policies are in fact designed to simply keep coal in the ground. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that imposing more burdens on federal coal production will yield less, not more, federal revenue to federal, state, and local governments. If we really want to have an open and honest conversation about the federal coal leasing program and what is in the public interest, we need to consider lowering the federal coal royalty rates thereby lowering energy bills for homes and businesses and we should improve the efficiency of the federal coal leasing program. Unnecessary delays in the leasing process

certainly do not result in a fair return to the taxpayer. I believe public interest is served by policies that keep federal coal available and competitive in the marketplace. The result of doing so is more revenues, high-wage job creation in communities throughout the supply chain and low-cost, reliable electricity for everyone. Thank you.