

MR. GILLIAN: My name is Mike Gillian and I love clean air and I'm a coal miner. And most of my speech has been covered pretty well. At the last EPA hearing, things got pretty heated there. A lady asked me, "What's the big deal? You can just get a new job. I don't know why you guys are getting so upset." Well, myself, my job isn't my concern, it's not any of these guys' concern. They're talented, we can weld, they're mechanics, they're well-rounded men and women. The concern is, is our way of life and having things that are affordable to keep the economy rolling and do the things that we enjoy to do as free Americans. And the reason we get so upset is we go to work day in, day out in less than desirable conditions, do backbreaking work, run huge equipment that takes its toll on our bodies. We work schedules that are hard on our bodies and tear our families apart. The last raise we got was a slap in the face. And over three years ago, we pay more and get less for our health care, our incentives have gone away. There's a contractor on my crew that is one heck of a good man and a miner, but he can't get hired because -- I mean even after he's proven his wealth or his worth time and time again, he can't get hired because costs are too high for the coal companies to make money. Anyway, so we take it pretty personal when people who are misinformed and are not smart enough to look at the facts try to take away our way of life. So in closing, I think it's time to talk about reality. And reality is, is without coal right now, we shut down everything with coal, the economy's not going to run. I say we flip the breakers on all the power plants. All you corporate men in here, let's shut her down, let's give them a reality check, and let's put the ball back in our court. We don't need to be pushed around by the government and the EPA and everybody else. We have the leverage, not them. And to the skiers and the people who make their living off of tourism and stuff like that, they wouldn't have a business if it wasn't for us coal miners that support them things. You're not just talking, you know, us -- it's going to put you out of business, too. If you take out coal right now, you're going to shut down basically this entire nation. It doesn't just affect our local economy right there in Sanpete, Sevier, and Carbon Counties. It affects the entire nation. And that's all I've got.