

JORDAN GRANGE: My name is Jordan Grange. I'm a fifth-generation coal miner. Have you considered the environmental effects and economic implications on our nation if the already struggling coal companies were taxed, regulated, and lease burdened to extinction? As much as 35 percent of the nation's power would need to come from other sources such as nuclear, solar, geothermal, wind and hydroelectric power. How many eagles would die? How many rivers be dammed, and how many nuclear spills will occur with increasing production of nuclear and renewable energy sources? How long until the increased production of windmills drives the eagle population back to the endangered species list? What will happen to running fish population with an increase of hydroelectric plants? How will the environment cope with large-scale increases in lithium production to supply batteries for solar panels? Don't naively tell us that coal mines are the only source of energy negatively affecting the environment. Coal is used to help make numerous commodities such as steel and cement. Without coal in the steel- and cement-making process, the price for said commodities would increase. How would the rising commodity price affect our economy? Large quantities of both steel and cement are required for the construction of windmills and hydroelectric facilities. Therefore, the cost of building renewable energy facilities would increase thus resulting in a higher cost to produce electricity. How would the rising electric bill effect the economy? Furthermore, how much of the government's money or, in other words, how much of the U.S. taxpayers' money will be required to subsidize renewal energy sources to make up for what coal no longer generates? According to the Office of Natural Resources and Revenues, in the last ten years the BLM has generated \$12.5 billion from federal coal leases via lease bonuses, rental fees, and royalties. If the coal industry were taxed and regulated to extinction, the government will no longer generate coal lease revenues. Not only will the government be losing \$12.5 billion over a ten-year period, it will be required to spend billions upon billions of U.S. taxpayers' dollars to subsidize renewable energy sources. Up to this point in time our current technology is not sufficiently adequate to accommodate the loss of coal production without negatively affecting our economy and our environment.