

JUAN PALMA: Thank you. My name is Juan Palma, and I'm the former state director of the Bureau of Land Management here in Utah and I am not a skier, but I am snowboarder. I'm glad to see that there's a conversation going on about this important topic of coal. You have heard a lot or will hear a lot about coal mining practices, community concerns, impacts to clean air to health. I won't get into all those that you're going to hear about more in the hours to come. What I want to talk about is some possible solutions that you want to consider in this Programmatic EIS. Today we have an opportunity to protect our public lands, our critical outdoor recreation economy and our climate by careful review of the coal leasing program. I represent an organization called HECHO, Hispanics Enjoying Camping Hunting and the Outdoors. Like many in this room, my and my family enjoy many, many hours and days camping out in the great outdoors. Secretary Jewell's announced a formal review of the coal program, and we support that effort. I think the key to that effort is what is going on in this room today, to hear all sides of the issue, to hear the cons and pros, the good things, the bad things, and I think that's important that BLM listen to these conversations, listen to all the sides, and that's one of my inputs to your Programmatic EIS. This will be the first review that is being done on coal leasing since the Reagan administration which was several decades ago, so I think it is appropriate that we do a review today and be careful, be judicious in that review as you proceed forward. This is historic since this is the first time we've done this. As coal declines in the world market and we are subject to world economies, whether we like it or not, that's the way it is. We must ensure that our coal workers and communities are protected and supported. I believe that that is something that the BLM ought to consider as you move forward with this Programmatic EIS. To be able to provide for more sustainable economies, not only now but in the future, this review represents an immediate opportunity for a nation to take a strong action to ensure that a just transition occurs from energy that we use today to whatever the energy will be in the future, and this isn't going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year but over time. We know that the impacts to coal mining has had on our lands, our health, and our communities, but I think that those will be considered as part of the environment impact statement. DOI has a role to play in the energy of the future and ensuring that fair and just transition for workers as we move away from coal to other kinds of energy in the decades to come. Some of the things that I want

you to consider is that Utahns across our state depend on our public lands for their livelihood. Industries like outdoor recreation and tourism. Through fair and thorough review of the coal leasing program, we can support one our state's emergent and most important industries is outdoor recreation while protecting our national heritage and wonders of our great state. Thank you.