

TODD PAULSEN: Good morning. My name is Todd Paulsen. I work at Canyon Fuel Company Skyline Mine. I've worked at Skyline here in Utah for the past 34 years. Coal mining has given my family and I the opportunity to live and work in the town I was born and raised in and has given us a great living. I've have been blessed with a great wage and benefits my entire career. I have watched over the years as the rules and regulations from the many regulatory agencies have gotten harder and harder to comply with. Many of the new regulations have been costly in terms of manpower and equipment to implement along with the continued costs associated with maintaining these regulations. We have even been issued citations for not having new equipment installed by the deadline mandated by the government even when the equipment was not available from the manufacturer at the time of the deadline. All the added costs ultimately decide whether we can stay competitive in the marketplace or not. When you add in taxes, royalties, leasing and loan payments, it puts a great burden on the operators to stay cost effective. It is my opinion that the mine operators more than pay a fair price for leases. I think that 40 cents on the dollar or \$4.28 for \$11, whichever you prefer to use, is more than fair market value. As I read through the notice of intent, I saw a proposal to include the social cost of mining such as loss of recreational or other values in the leasing program. The question is who is going to determine if there really is a cost and what the value is? Another proposal is to adjust leases to reflect exports in the future economy -- in a future economy. What government agency is going to speculate as to the future value of export coal? Another proposal was to add -- require an adder to be paid to reflect the cost of the harm to the public from negative externalities from coal development. Again, who or what agency can the American public and the coal industry trust to evaluate these so-called hidden costs in a fair and balanced manner? In summary, since President Obama first started to campaign, he said repeatedly that he will bankrupt the coal industry through rules and harsh regulations. Ever since he has gained office he has worked very hard on his promise. For those people who agree with this administration's policies and the policies of the Democratic Party, be careful what you wish for. The oil and natural gas industry will be next in the line on the environmental group's hit list. It does not matter to them how much damage it does or how many jobs are lost to them in the process. The American public will pay the high price. Thank you for your time.