

MR. POTTER: Jay Potter, Carbon County Commissioner. I represent 18-, nearly 19,000 people that live in my county today. And I just want to start by telling you that the invitation to come to Carbon, Emery, Sevier, or Sanpete Counties to hold these meetings is always open. You, again, picked the wrong location to really see into the eyes of the people that are affected by the Federal Government and the overreach there. (Applause.) The other thing that goes with that is that, according to NEPA, the best land planning starts in those communities that are affected. Now, you're going across the United States and, yes, we're grateful that you're in Utah, because this is an important part of our economies, but, again, you're not even abiding by your own rules set up by the Federal Government. The other thing that I would dispute today is the authority of the Department of the Interior, Secretary Jewell being the issue, this moratorium or this order. The last time that coal was reviewed, it was done under the premise of Congress and Congress asked for that to happen. Again, you have stepped over an important part of that process in representing the American people. When the congressional districts or those members in Congress, if they were to ask for this, I think I could stand up with most of these people here and say, "Let's take a look at that," but again, this is this administration, it is these offices. And you're just simply imposing more of the war on coal and forcing it upon those who live in rural Utah. In that open discussion that was held last year, there were six to seven things that were identified as potential problems and concerns within the federal coal management program. Of those items that came out through the thousands of comments, you chose three areas; market, climate, and the price of coal. So let me tell you a couple of things about, first of all, the climate effects. I don't believe that you have all the facts in regards to CO2 and the future that's there. You need to study those more because you're not getting all the story. Look to the whole thing. Your whole order is slanted towards environmentalism. Now, I would say that most of us in this room are environmentalists, but there's a big difference between sensationalism and environmentalism. And many of the people that have spoke against coal today, you live in the wrong community. You're not being affected by coal and what's mined, you don't have those issues. The second thing is that the coal should be leased in its entirety. You should open up those lands where coal is available and let those leases go forward. Stop putting the moratorium on that. And you can do that by considering a full range of

alternatives. If today's alternative is zero coal, which is what I really believe that the BLM and the Department of the Interior is after and to keep it in the ground, the opposite end of that should be full access to all the coal within the United States and to do it now.