

KURTIS THOMPSON: Good morning. My name is Kurtis Thompson. I'm a mining engineer for the Canyon Fuel Company, Sufco Mine. I'm here today to discuss the facts about U.S. energy industries. First the consumption of energy in the U.S. and worldwide has and is growing exponentially. The need for cheap and reliable energy is more important than ever. Fossil fuels, particularly coal, have improved quality of life for our society over the past century. Coal is not used only to produce electricity. It is used to filter and purify air and water. It is also used in making steel and construction materials along with numerous common household items. Most Americans are and want to stay naive about the truth of renewable energy. The facts are solar and wind are heavily dependent on government subsidies, are not as ecofriendly as most people assume. In fact, they are far dirtier, and they are not reliable or efficient. The fact is this moratorium outlines increasing taxes on our already heavily taxed and sensitive industry, claiming concerns about American taxpayers, us as coal miners included, for a fair market value and return, when the government has issued \$39 billion of subsidies annually over the past five years for solar alone while only producing less than 1 percent of U.S. electricity. What do American taxpayers have to show for it? Billions of dollars lost in solar and wind companies going bankrupt. The environmental facts about solar and wind do show they directly lower emissions over traditional energy sources but the benefits are so minute and carbon emissions do not tell the whole story. The indirect environmental impacts of solar and wind are greater land and water usage, endangered species habitat loss, bird deaths, and the use of hazardous materials such as silicone, tetrachloride, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, hydrogen chloride, tetrachloroethylene, acetone, and hydrochloric acid to name a few used in manufacturing and production of PC solar panels. The facts show renewable energy is not reliable and efficient. A federally backed 5.6 square mile Ivanpah solar power plant project in the California desert isn't producing the electricity it is contractually required to deliver. The plant in 2014 only supplied 45 percent of the electricity it was expected to. The Ivanpah power plant also uses enough natural gas to emit double the carbon emissions and the threshold which California regulates its own natural gas power plants and factories to be. The other equivalent amount of natural gas burned at the conventional power plant would produce enough power for 17,000 home or a quarter of Ivanpah's electrical production. Coming from a mining background, everything that we as people in this

room enjoy comes from a rock or a plant and we need that to improve our society. Thank you.