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1 five minutes until 1. Panel members, are you okay if we
2 go ahead and go a little bit into the break with this
3 group here? Okay.

4 So we're going to go ahead and go over this break.
5 When we come back from break, we'll reorganize with Group
6 41 through 45 after the break. Okay. We're moving over
7 to Microphone No. 2.

8 MR. BURGER: Hi. My name is Ethan
9 Burger. I'm a 16-year-old student at the Center School.
10 I'm here with my mom who, and her organization, CoolMom,
11 but to me, I feel like I'm mostly here representing the
12 general youth consensus that enough is enough.

13 I'm in an environmental science class, and the
14 things I learned about our climate there scare me. But
15 the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land
16 Management are not sufficiently scared by what we are
17 doing to our climate. Neither are the coal companies.

18 We all know what we are doing to the climate, but
19 from the ocean acidification to the positive feedback
20 loops that are melting the ice caps, but money and greed
21 continue to drive us with no thought towards the future.

22 Plenty of American utilities are working towards
23 using sustainability and turning away from coal power.
24 Our partners in the Paris Climate Agreement continue to
25 do this.

1 But the coal companies which rely on federal coal
2 leases don't care about my future or the future of every
3 other 16-year-old on earth. Today I'm trying to do my
4 part in cleaning up and protecting the earth. But if the
5 federal government continues to support the coal
6 industry, I will be paying for the cost of coal power
7 with my health and the cost of cleanup with my dollars.
8 At that point I'm going to look back and wish that I told
9 you so, clean up the atmosphere.

10 When I see how invested my fellow environmental
11 science students are in cleaning up the earth, it angers
12 me that those of us who are trying to avert the disasters
13 that are approaching are going to be the people most
14 affected by the coal industry's endless hunger for cheap,
15 dirty coal.

16 And it's not just kids either. There's a huge
17 buffer, temporal and economical, between the perpetrators
18 and the effects. Minorities are hit by these -- the coal
19 usage so much more than anyone else, paying the greatest
20 price of anyone, while the people causing this thing are
21 not.

22 When we started burning coal in 1880 we had an
23 excuse. We didn't know any better. Now we don't just
24 know better, we know there are alternatives. Continuing
25 to pull coal out of the ground only propels us deeper

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1 into a pit of reliance when we should be spending every
2 effort to ascend out of the pit we have already dug into
3 a clean and sustainable future. Thank you.

4 MR. BATTIS: Thank you. We appreciate
5 young adults providing testimony. Thank you.

6 Sir?

7 MR. GAREY: Thank you. My name is
8 Steve Garey. I'm a retired past president of the United
9 Steelworkers Local 12-591 in Mount Vernon, Washington,
10 where I represented refinery workers. I'm currently
11 serving in retirement as an executive board member of the
12 Washington state BlueGreen Alliance. I want to thank you
13 for this opportunity to provide comments in the scoping
14 process.

15 The current coal leasing program is broken and it
16 needs updating. The current program does not reflect
17 modern markets or environmental realities. It is not
18 fair for taxpayers, nor does it account properly for
19 environmental impacts. For these and other reasons I
20 support the decision to pause leasing until a new program
21 is in place.

22 A new program must be transparent, it must be
23 competitive, and it must be designed to serve the public
24 interest in ways that the current program does not. That
25 interest begins with a fair return for taxpayers and