

1 10 percent of total U.S. climate emissions. In effect,
2 our current federal coal leasing policies don't just
3 allow; they subsidize the use of an energy source that
4 undermines other public investments in clean air and
5 water and economic development and in combating climate
6 change.

7 Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. And
8 I am submitting a copy of an earlier letter from our Safe
9 Energy Leadership Alliance for the record. Thank you so
10 much.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Good morning.
12 My name is James Byrd. I am a state representative from
13 the state of Wyoming. I represent House District 44.
14 For the record, my last is spelled B-Y-R-D.

15 I come here today to give the people that I
16 represent in the state of Wyoming a voice in this
17 proceeding. A little bit of history and background about
18 myself, my family homesteaded in the Wyoming territory
19 before it was a state, so I have some deep roots in the
20 area that I live and where I represent.

21 The people of my state are a very proud and
22 hard-working group of people, and they appreciate the
23 fact that they can participate in the security of this
24 nation by providing them with a resource that we don't
25 have to go overseas to get.

1 These people go to work every day, they work very
2 hard, and the only thing they ask for is fairness and
3 objectivity when it comes to making rules around their
4 job. And that's one of the reasons that I took the time
5 to come all the way out here to talk to you today.

6 Rules and regulations that have come around and
7 directly affected the coal industry through the Clean Air
8 Standards and other things have seriously impacted these
9 people's ability to have jobs. Wyoming is a very unique
10 and niche environment for work that these jobs, when they
11 are lost, it's not like the metropolitan area, the West
12 Coast that you guys live in. When these jobs are lost,
13 they do not come back.

14 So this economic damage that is being done to my
15 state through regulation will be fairly permanent, and
16 not just on people who work there but the derivatives
17 through the state economies and the other jobs that
18 support these industries.

19 So quickly, in my district we do not have any coal
20 at all. I am 250 miles from the nearest coal mine. But
21 I have at least 500 direct jobs that are related by the
22 coal business and another couple thousand jobs that are
23 indirectly related to the coal business in my area, and
24 those are in the industry. There's related industries
25 that are the railroads, the other support industries, the

1 engineering and everything, so it's not just the coal
2 industry that suffers with improper regulation. It is in
3 my case the entire state.

4 The largest impact in my area is money that comes
5 from the coal lease program that goes directly into
6 building schools and providing the materials so that we
7 can give our students a competitive education and be
8 right up there in the top.

9 So this directly not affects us, but it affects the
10 next generation of individuals that we're going to bring
11 up and help solve the problems.

12 Now, one of the most important things in Wyoming is
13 stewardship of the land. Our second largest industry in
14 Wyoming is tourism. Last year \$3.8 billion was spent on
15 tourism. That is people hopping in a Chevy with their
16 family and coming to Wyoming. And I guarantee you that
17 they did not come to Wyoming to see open pit coal mines,
18 pump jacks, and refineries.

19 They come to Wyoming to see wide open spaces, blue
20 skies, crystal clear lakes, world-class fishing and
21 hunting, and all of those things that are on all of the
22 postcards that you guys send each other.

23 We cannot sustain and keep that land without not
24 good stewardship but the best stewardship. So I would
25 like that everybody in this room understands that Wyoming

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1 is aware that we can do it and do it correctly.

2 In our extractive minerals and energy business our
3 primary goal is to return the land as to what it was. In
4 some cases -- in most cases actually make that land
5 better than it was before.

6 So that's -- that's -- I'm going to defer the rest
7 of the comments to my colleagues who join me, but I would
8 like to thank the BLM for this time to address you, and
9 at this time I'll stand for questions.

10 MR. BATTIS: Kshama Sawant?

11 MS. SAWANT: My name is Kshama Sawant.
12 I'm on the Seattle City Council. I'm an activist. I'm a
13 member of the local teacher's union. I first won
14 election in 2013 as a socialist and independent of the
15 democratic party establishment and I was reelected last
16 year despite the fact that the entire party establishment
17 did everything in its power to get our voice out of city
18 hall.

19 I am grateful to the Bureau of Land Management for
20 giving us this opportunity for testimony and especially
21 grateful to the Power Past Coal campaign for organizing
22 activists in today's speak-out.

23 My comments today are directed to the Bureau of Land
24 Management but it's primarily towards my fellow activists
25 because the question is: How do we organize ourselves?