

My name is Louise Carter-King. I am the Mayor of Gillette, Wyoming. We are known as the Energy Capital of the Nation. The Powder River Basin, in which Gillette is located, supplies the nation with 40% of the nation's coal, as well as supplying oil, natural gas and uranium. As a representative of this region that has helped power this nation for decades, I do not view this moratorium on coal leases with anything but disdain. The idea of a "pause" in order to collect data is absurd. You have all the data. No one else does. At any point in time, the BLM can choose to study this data to determine if the American taxpayer is being compensated fairly for coal mined on Federal property. Given these facts, this moratorium can only be viewed as another attempt by this Administration to stop the mining of coal. There can be no other explanation.

Therefore I would also like to address my comments to those that are in the audience and listening via live stream. I am issuing an open invitation to each and every one of you to come to Gillette and see for yourselves. When you come to Gillette, you will see how clean and pristine the air is. You won't see black coal dust covering anything. You will not find an industrial haze in our skies. The only haze that we deal with in Gillette is the haze of misinformation created by environmental NGOs. It's easy to succumb to the spread of misinformation at each and every one one of these listening sessions around the nation when you have never seen for yourself!

Make up your own mind. Come to Gillette and observe on your own how we value and care for our land. Why wouldn't we? It's our home. We were environmentalists before lobbyists and environmental NGO's made big dollars killing jobs and creating a warped and misguided brand of environmentalism.

When you visit Gillette, you will witness the responsible way that coal is extracted from the ground. Yes, you will see a big hole in the ground, but right next to it, you will behold the reclaimed land that has not only been restored, but returned to a state that is better than it was originally. There's more value to the American taxpayer than just the revenue generated from coal leases. We get the added value of the land being improved.

In Gillette, we cherish the abundant wildlife that exists right alongside the coal mines. Pronghorn, mule deer, Canada geese... They co-exist peacefully with our mineral extraction industries, and flourish on reclaimed lands. We're proud of the excellent quality of life that the coal mining industry has provided our community. It's hard work supplying the nation with low-cost, reliable energy; when their shift is done, our citizens are able to enjoy the fruits of their labor. You are more than welcome to enjoy those fruits as well, along with our clean air and open spaces.