

1 high school, are opening up a new dual language  
2 elementary school next year and a second high school in  
3 2017. All this has been accomplished with coal lease  
4 bonus money in the amount of just over \$136 million.

5       Unfortunately, even with all the great things we  
6 have done, there are a lot of other projects out there.  
7 We have one small rural school in desperate need of  
8 replacement. Without coal lease bonus money I'm not sure  
9 how we will be able to replace this school or build any  
10 future schools in our county, or anywhere in Wyoming, for  
11 that the matter.

12       We purchased land for another elementary school to  
13 solve our overcapacity issues. However, the project is  
14 on hold due to a lack of funding. The current program  
15 works for us in Wyoming and it works for America. Leave  
16 it alone. Our students' futures are tied to coal and  
17 coal lease bonus payments. Thank you very much.

18                   MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

19                   MS. CARTER-KING: My name is Louise  
20 Carter-King. I am the mayor of Gillette, Wyoming. We  
21 are known as the energy capital of the nation. The  
22 Powder River Basin in which Gillette is located supplies  
23 the nation with 40 percent of the nation's coal as well  
24 as supplying oil, natural gas, and uranium.

25       As a representative of this region that has helped

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1 power this nation for decades, I do not view this  
2 moratorium on coal leases with anything but disdain. The  
3 idea of a pause in order to collect data is absurd. You  
4 have all the data. No one else does.

5 At any point in time the BLM can choose to study  
6 this data to determine if the American taxpayer is being  
7 compensated fairly for coal mined on federal property.  
8 Given these facts, this moratorium can only be viewed as  
9 another attempt by this administration to stop the mining  
10 of coal. There can be no other explanation.

11 Therefore, I would also like to address my comments  
12 to those that are in the audience and listening via  
13 livestream. I am issuing an open invitation to each and  
14 every one of you to come to Gillette and see it for  
15 yourselves. When you come to Gillette, you will see how  
16 clean and pristine the air is. You won't see black coal  
17 dust covering anything. You will not find an industrial  
18 haze in our skies. The only haze that we deal with in  
19 Gillette is the haze of misinformation created by  
20 environmental NGOs.

21 It's easy to succumb to the spread of misinformation  
22 at each and every one of these listening sessions around  
23 the nation when you have never seen it for yourself.  
24 Make up your own mind. Come to Gillette and observe on  
25 your own how we value and care for our land. Why

1 wouldn't we? It's our home. We were environmentalists  
2 before lobbyists and environmental NGOs made big dollars  
3 killing jobs and creating a warped and misguided brand of  
4 environmentalism.

5       When you visit Gillette, you will witness the  
6 responsible way that coal is extracted from the ground.  
7 Yes, you will see a big hole in the ground, but right  
8 next to it you will behold the reclaimed land that has  
9 not only been restored but returned to a state that is  
10 better than it was originally.

11       There's more value to the American taxpayer than  
12 just the revenue generated from coal leases. We get the  
13 added value of the land being improved. In Gillette we  
14 cherish the abundant wildlife that exists right alongside  
15 the coal mines; pronghorn, mule deer, Canadian geese.  
16 They co-exist peacefully with our mineral extraction  
17 industries and flourish on reclaimed lands.

18       We are proud at the excellent quality of life that  
19 the coal mining industry has provided our community.  
20 It's hard work supplying the nation with low-cost  
21 reliable energy. Please come visit us and you will see.  
22 Thank you.

23                               MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

24       Sir, can we not have the signs, please? Thank you.  
25 We'll take Group 16 through 20 with Molly and turn it