

1 Extraction and burning of coal is not good stewardship
2 and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable among
3 us, the poor, the marginalized, young children, and our
4 elders, and so it is a moral and spiritual imperative to
5 do something about it.

6 For what does it profit us if we gain greater wealth
7 at the cost of lives and our very souls? Continued coal
8 extraction supports a fossilized understanding of
9 stewardship, and so I ask you to take immediate steps to
10 end coal extraction on public lands. Get the federal
11 government out of the coal business. Support instead the
12 transition to renewable energy resources for the benefit
13 of our planet and all of its creatures.

14 When you do this, you will be part of making a giant
15 step for justice and for the common good.

16 I bless you, your listening, and your mission, and I
17 thank you for your commitment.

18 MR. BATTIS: Thank you. We're still
19 missing No. 51, and then on this side Nos. 56, 57 and 58.
20 So if you have those numbers, please come on down.

21 MS. CELT: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Stephanie Celt, and I am the Washington state policy
23 coordinator with the BlueGreen Alliance. On behalf of my
24 organization, I want to thank you for holding these
25 public listening sessions.

1 In 2006 the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club
2 formed the BlueGreen Alliance with the belief that
3 creating good jobs and protecting the environment were
4 not mutually exclusive. We can and must do both.

5 The BlueGreen Alliance believes that the
6 contemplated overhaul of this program is not only an
7 opportunity to fix a broken system, but also an
8 opportunity to take a hard look at how coal-dependent
9 communities, regional economies, and individual workers
10 can transition to new economic models.

11 The review of the federal coal leasing systems must
12 evaluate BLM authority and opportunities as well as
13 actions other agencies and Congress can take to help
14 ensure a just transition for workers and communities to a
15 clean energy economy.

16 Such actions should include robust investment in
17 community, economic development, protection of worker
18 livelihoods, and development of new tax revenue sources
19 for local economies. A combination of factors is forging
20 a new reality where lower natural gas prices, rising coal
21 costs, and the complete costs of renewable energy
22 sources are driving a shift to clean energy.

23 The new energy technologies coming on line will
24 create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and will
25 continue to do so in communities across the country. But

1 as our nation makes this transition, some workers and
2 communities may be impacted.

3 Coal mines, coal-fired power plants, coal
4 transportation infrastructure, coal-handling facilities
5 and their associated supply and maintenance industries
6 are often the lifeblood of small towns providing
7 significant employment and contributing to the
8 community's tax base.

9 Moving towards clean energy can result in fewer jobs
10 at a local level and a reduction in the tax stream going
11 to local governments. Therefore, we must consider what
12 authority and opportunities the federal government
13 possesses having succeeded in capturing a fair return for
14 extracted coal to ensure that some portion of this
15 increased return is put to use ensuring a just transition
16 for workers, communities, and regional economies.

17 BLM has also sought comment as to whether the
18 extraction of fossil resources from federal land is
19 consistent with U.S. climate goals. In order to better
20 understand and manage carbon emissions from public lands,
21 the US Geological Survey intends to establish and
22 maintain a public database to account for annual carbon
23 emissions from fossil fuel developed from public lands.

24 The BlueGreen Alliance supports this effort to
25 ensure a transparent process that accounts for costs

1 which would otherwise be externalized.

2 In summary, we thank the Bureau of Land Management
3 and the U.S. Department for the Interior for seeking to
4 improve the federal coal leasing system and look forward
5 to continuing to work with your agencies on the eventual
6 implementation of a modernized and improved system built
7 to serve the interests of America's communities, workers,
8 taxpayers, and our natural environment. Thank you.

9 MS. LOCKHART: My name is Alice
10 Lockhart. I've been touched, honored, and humbled by the
11 beauty of testimony I've heard today. I work with
12 Seattle 350 and with Seattle Rising Tide, but I'm not
13 here to speak to these -- for those groups today. I'm
14 speaking as a mother whose adult children don't yet know
15 whether they can in good conscious have children of their
16 own in the world we're creating with said existential
17 threat of climate change. And I'm working towards the
18 very possibility of grandchildren today.

19 I thank Secretary Jewell for asking this question
20 and for the moratorium and the opportunity to speak and
21 for asking this question, how do we manage the program in
22 the way that is consistent with our climate change
23 objectives. I promise you about 50 pages of closely
24 spaced bullet points on that issue. I'm only going to
25 address three here today.