

1 significant role in providing electricity to Americans
2 for decades. The PEIS must evaluate how changes to the
3 Federal Coal Program impact reliability and affordability
4 of the electricity.

5 If production on federal lands is decreased,
6 consumers will be forced to pay for more expensive forms
7 of power generation. This might not be of concern to
8 many of you living here in Seattle or in the state of
9 Washington, but it is a major concern for your fellow
10 Americans across the country.

11 We have already seen a series of public policies
12 over the past several years designed to increase
13 electricity prices and degrade the reliability of the
14 nation's electricity by inducing the closure of
15 coal-based load power plants which are the backbone of
16 our electric grid. Thank you for your time.

17 MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

18 MS. CLEVELAND: Hi. My name is
19 Britten Cleveland. I'll respond to the previous speaker.
20 We're having this conversation because coal kills people.

21 I'm here representing Greenpeace, but more
22 importantly I'm representing my millennial generation.
23 And I'm pleased to see the administration moving forward
24 on such an important issue. We all know it's long
25 overdue and I'm really hopeful this process will lead to

1 significant and meaningful reforms to our business as
2 usual.

3 We know that coal is in structural decline, not just
4 here in the U.S. but across the globe as countries like
5 China take radical steps to move away from coal
6 generation. We are already feeling the impacts to our
7 mining sector. We must accept that our relationship to
8 coal will evolve, and indeed, it already has.

9 How we weather this period of transition away from
10 coal is absolutely critical and will require bold,
11 forward-looking and decisive action from our Interior
12 Department including the following: Our federal agencies
13 must incorporate the social cost of carbon and its
14 valuation of what we deem a fair price for leasing and
15 the taxpayer-owned coal.

16 The federal government has an established price for
17 this social cost of carbon, and it must be applied to
18 this program immediately.

19 For too long coal companies have been allowed to
20 privatize their profits of their business while
21 socializing the cost of damages connected to the mining
22 of federal coal through a carbon adder on the royalty
23 rate, or by other means the social cost carbon needs to
24 be incorporated.

25 We need to put in place reforms that hold coal

1 companies accountable for cleaning up mine sites so that
2 the significant reclamation cost and responsibility isn't
3 left to taxpayers. This should include denying any
4 future lease applications for coal companies that have
5 failed to reclaim mine sites and/or taking back
6 undeveloped leases if applicable -- applicable and if
7 they fail to make it on their reclamation commitments.

8 We've seen dozens of coal companies, including three
9 of the four major Powder River Basin coal producers file
10 for bankruptcy. Yet, some of these companies -- some of
11 these companies continue to purchase lease applications
12 and new modifications. This is unacceptable. The
13 taxpayers cannot be left with cleanup costs.

14 And finally, we must support a just transition for
15 coal workers and traditional mining communities. This
16 should include holding companies -- coal companies
17 accountable to their commitments to workers as well as
18 those communities impacted by destructive coal mining.

19 We should also be setting aside resources to help
20 communities transition when coal companies pack up shop
21 and leave. This is a huge opportunity to set us on a new
22 course. Our federal coal program must align with our
23 climate goals and our evolving relationships with
24 resources.

25 While we transition to a coal-free era, we should

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1 pursue reforms which hold coal companies accountable to
2 their responsibilities, incorporate the cost to the
3 climate, and close loopholes. Thank you so much for
4 listening to us today.

5 MR. BATTIS: Okay. We're going to do a
6 quick time check. It is 3:45. On our agenda we have
7 until 4. I am curious in the room how many of you have a
8 speaker card that have not spoken yet and would like the
9 opportunity to speak? So if you have those cards, if you
10 can please come down and see Amy, we'll order you up in
11 the order of the cards and we'll try to get as many
12 people processed.

13 Again, if we can just all work together and try to
14 focus on keeping our comments concise, that would help us
15 be able to accommodate everybody.

16 So we're going to go back over here to this group.
17 We'll go over to 86 through 90 with Molly on Microphone
18 No. 2, please.

19 MS. ROBINSON: My name is Joelle
20 Robinson and I appreciate you having the hearing here
21 today and the meeting, because the moratorium and the
22 proposed changes deeply affect my life and all life on
23 the planet. It is, in fact, very appropriate that you
24 have included us here today.

25 I'm here on behalf of my seven nieces and nephews,