

1 bid which is what the lease by application also has to
2 do, the effective rate and royalties is 22 percent.

3 Another fiction: Recent federal government studies
4 have revealed serious flaws with the Federal Coal Program
5 that merit its reforms. The fact is the 2013 reports by
6 the Government Accountability Office and the Department
7 of the Interior Inspector General contained minor
8 recommendations for improvements to Federal Coal Program.
9 And the BLM has already acted on reports, the report's
10 recommendations to improve the management of the Federal
11 Coal Program. Today the agency has published an updated
12 coal evaluation manual and handbook as well as seven
13 instruction memorandums to its field offices in response
14 to that report.

15 Fiction -- another fiction: The current leasing
16 system does not consider the climate impacts of federal
17 coal lease sales. The Bureau of Land Management includes
18 consideration of potential greenhouse gas emissions and
19 production and use of coal when potential lease sales are
20 analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act.
21 And you can look this up under the -- as defending itself
22 under the WildEarth Guardians versus Salazar; WildEarth
23 Guardians versus Forest Service; and Western Organization
24 of Resource Council versus Jewell. Thank you.

25 MR. DRISKILL: Hi. I kind of feel

1 like one of the bad guys here out of the Powder River
2 Basin. My name is Ogden Driskill. I'm a sixth
3 generation rancher from Devils Tower, Wyoming, America's
4 first national monument, and also a state senator from
5 Senate District 1. Great love for Wyoming.

6 I'd like to start with everyone in the room raising
7 their hand that's ever been to a coal mine in the Powder
8 River Basin. Thank you. We've got a bunch of them;
9 that's good. It's kind of interesting the perceptions we
10 see of what's actually there and what our perceptions
11 are. And I'm going to tell you as a rancher, look at
12 reclamation, and I've been to a lot of them.

13 It's the finest. It's as good as it gets. I live
14 on a piece of God's country that's never been touched,
15 one of the redeeming features on our ranch is it's never
16 been farmed or touched. The reclamation ground that
17 comes out of these coal mines is every bit as good, if
18 not better in the natural environment.

19 I'll go on. You guys know what this is? This is a
20 piece of coal, just a chunk of coal. But it's not just
21 coal. This is Powder River Basin coal, some of the
22 cleanest burning and most environmentally friendly coal
23 in the world. Yeah, you can laugh, but that's what it
24 is.

25 Compared to China coal, we can burn one way or the

1 other -- please don't heckle me, by the way. This coal
2 provides thousands of jobs, billions of dollars to local,
3 state, and national coffers, built schools, funds
4 government, provides thousands of high-paying jobs, also
5 provides affordable electricity for millions of people
6 heating and cooling their homes and fueling their cars.

7 Imagine this room with a third of the lights turned
8 off because that's what coal does for you. Powder River
9 Basin coal is -- in conjunction, Powder River Basin coal
10 with efficient, modern power plants provides important
11 energy with low impact for the environment.

12 Did you know that there's not a single coal-fired
13 power plant proposed for construction in the United
14 States right now? Great, great news. But there's 2,000
15 new ones worldwide. We live in a world economy, folks.
16 There's 2,000 of them worldwide. 363 in China. 445 in
17 India. Those plants are all going to burn coal that
18 doesn't look like this. It's high sulfur, black, nasty
19 what you think about. Really we ought to be thinking
20 really hard, maybe this coal should be going into those
21 plants that are being built, and maybe this coal should
22 be what fires those plants if you want clean air in the
23 Northwest, because what they burn is coming your way.

24 I guess I lost my place as far as time on the thing.
25 I guess my -- my takeaway is we've got a great value, all

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1 of you have. This country was built on wise use of
2 natural resources and let's continue --

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's not for wise
4 use.

5 MR. BATTIS: Okay. Let's please keep
6 the jeering down. Let's be respectful of our speakers.
7 Sir.

8 MR. FALL: Thank you.

9 Hello. I'm David Fall, chairman of the board of
10 trustees for Campbell County School District No. 1 in
11 Northeast Wyoming right in the heart of the Powder River
12 Basin.

13 Coal lease bonus money has been invaluable for
14 school construction in the state of Wyoming and our
15 county. Since 1980, Wyoming has received an estimated
16 \$2.71 billion in coal lease bonus payments with 2.38
17 billion, or 88 percent, deposited in the school capital
18 construction account and used to build schools all over
19 Wyoming.

20 Every county in the state of Wyoming has at least
21 one new school built with coal lease bonus money. In my
22 district our school numbers have steadily increased from
23 7,198 in 2005 to 9,177 this year. Since construction of
24 our first new school since 1992 and 2007, we built five
25 new and replaced an elementary school, a new alternative