

1 renewable energy.

2       You may be familiar with the study, a group of  
3 Stanford scientists who have developed a 50-state plan to  
4 move us to 80 percent clean energy by 2030 and virtually  
5 fully clean energy by 2050. The technology exists today.  
6 We need the political will, the resources, and a shared  
7 commitment to make it happen.

8       We need to unleash the creativity, entrepreneurial  
9 spirit and can-do attitude of the people of this great  
10 country towards this achievable goal.

11       We are much more likely to do this if the financial  
12 and regulatory incentives are all pulling in the same  
13 direction. Clearly wind, water, and sun are the cleanest  
14 and least expensive solutions in the short-term. I urge  
15 you to have no more new leases. We need to stop leasing  
16 coal except just for the emergency use of those who have  
17 no other power and move as quickly as possible to a clean  
18 energy future. Our land, our lives -- and our lives, our  
19 children and grandchildren are at stake.

20                   MS. DYE: Good afternoon. My name is  
21 Jessie Dye. I'm program and outreach director at Earth  
22 Ministry, a 30-year-old organization that connects people  
23 of faith with environmental stewardship.

24       First I want to thank you for being here today. You  
25 all are incredibly patient. I don't think I could sit as

1 still and as pleasantly as you have for all this time,  
2 and I only hope you're going to do an hour of yoga or  
3 have a stiff shot of whiskey after this. Oh, no on the  
4 whiskey. Whatever. Please do because you've earned it.

5 I can say today with no grandiosity that I'm here on  
6 behalf of Pope Francis. The encyclical that he published  
7 one year ago this week called the Laudato Si' talks about  
8 faith and climate change in ways that we've all been  
9 familiar with but which he has suddenly or consistently  
10 brought to the front burner to the fore.

11 There are three main points I would like to ask you  
12 in the -- as you do your evaluation of the coal leasing  
13 program. The first is to consider climate change, and  
14 that is central now to our faith that we care for  
15 creation, and it's clearly articulated in the encyclical.

16 When I ask you to consider climate change, that's  
17 going to take some technical evaluation. How much is the  
18 coal that is sold in the federal leasing program, how  
19 does that affect global climate change, what's the  
20 temperature, what's the effect of blowing back to our  
21 coasts in Washington, our glaciers.

22 I don't know how as a scientist you would do that,  
23 but I think that that is central to how much of this coal  
24 contributes to climate change.

25 Secondly, we heard from our -- the beautiful Native

1 American speakers today saying that the earth is  
2 intrinsically valuable, the species, the water, the  
3 ecosystems that we share both here in the Northwest but  
4 also in Wyoming and also in Texas, that those species are  
5 intrinsically valuable. And that is the same thing that  
6 the Pope says in the encyclical as well.

7 Creation is intrinsically valuable, and so that  
8 which is harmed is -- it is sinful to harm the intrinsic  
9 beauty of the earth.

10 Finally, I have to say that I think the  
11 self-insurance system of coal companies for restoration  
12 and reclamation is sinful. I would use that word because  
13 it's vague, it's manipulative. They do not actually have  
14 the money to restore the land after they bankrupt out of  
15 it. So I ask you to change that.

16 I ask you on behalf of creation and all species that  
17 you evaluate what really needs to happen for restoration  
18 and renewal. If you do that, put that money into the  
19 federal leasing system, get the insurance companies to  
20 work on it. But that also includes restoration for the  
21 communities involved. Those communities are suffering  
22 because they put all their money into the fuels, all  
23 their hope, all their future into fossil fuels. We heard  
24 that today. And through your review of the program you  
25 can change that. You can reinvest government's money in

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1 healthy, clean energy. Thank you.

2 MR. GORDON: Hello. My name is Thomas  
3 Gordon. I'm from a little town called Washougal,  
4 Washington right along the Columbia River.

5 So the Department of Interior is conducting a long  
6 overdue review of the federal coal leasing program called  
7 PEIS. One area needs special review. This is the area  
8 of leases. Stronger rules should be in place to make the  
9 companies pay fair market value and the Powder River  
10 Basin in the last 20 years, the majority of leases  
11 received only one bid.

12 If a bid does not reflect fair market value, the  
13 sale should be denied. Royalties are 12.5 percent of the  
14 fair market value. And while our country receives money  
15 for its natural resource, also a common practice is for  
16 the coal company to buy coal through a subsidiary at a  
17 domestic rate and to sell it overseas for a higher rate,  
18 cheating our country out of the additional royalties.

19 Reuters said two companies, Arch Coal and Peabody  
20 Energy, sold coal to Indian, South Korea, and Japan and  
21 have not paid their full royalties. Now these companies  
22 have shaky financial ground under them and have filed for  
23 bankruptcy.

24 Also, there is currently a process for the coal  
25 company to request a royalty rate reduction. If the coal