

Federal Coal Program Programmatic EIS

Public Scoping Comment Card

Please submit your comments by July 28, 2016 via one of the following methods:

E-mail: BLM_WO_Coal_Program_PEIS_Comments@blm.gov

Mail: Coal Programmatic EIS Scoping Bureau of Land Management 20 M St. SE, Room 2134LM Washington, DC 20003

PLEASE PRINT

Date: 6/21/16

Name: Rhondalei Gabuat

Organization (if applicable): Gabrielz Seattle

E-mail Address: info@gabrielzseattle.org

Street Address: 5740 MLK Way

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98118

Public Disclosure. Before including your address, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments (use back if needed):

see attached.

My name is Rhondalei Gabuat. And I am here with Joaquin Uy and Nikko Francisco. As members of BAYAN Pacific Northwest, we have deep connections to both the Filipino American community here and back in the Philippines.

November 8, 2013 was a nightmare for many of us. Super Typhoon Haiyan tore through Southeast Asia devastating Central Philippines. The 195-mile-per-hour winds destroyed whole villages and towns, resulting in at least 6,300 people dead or missing.

While many in our community here frantically waited to see how families and friends were doing back in our homeland, we in BAYAN mobilized relief efforts on the ground in the destroyed areas, distributing food and other basic necessities.

We encountered widespread homelessness, the lack of sanitation, and bodies still being dug out from the rubble and debris.

Climate scientists are clear on this issue: evidence shows that warmer ocean waters contribute to a higher risk of more intense hurricanes. And these warmer ocean waters are due in large part to humanity's continued burning of fossil fuels...fossil fuels like coal.

This is why we join with other Filipino Americans across the U.S. in attacking the premise of this hearing. We disagree with the Bureau of Land Management's basic assumption that we should be allowing the mining of coal on Federal Lands in the first place. Rather, we call on BLM to end the practice of selling our federal lands to the coal companies altogether!

The Philippines is not the only developing nation in the world under increased threat from climate change. Tuvalu, Maldives, Nigeria, Haiti, Bangladesh, Malawi, Sudan, and others in the so-called Global South are also currently facing the destructive impacts from climate change from burning fossil fuel.

We join with other countries around the world in saying that no price is worth the lives of our families in the Philippines. No price is worth worsening climate change that in the end...affects every single one of us.

We call for an end to coal mining on federal lands! Keep the coal in the ground. Keep the lands for the people, not corporations!