

1 related to coal outweigh its benefits, and I urge the  
2 Department of Interior to take this into account.  
3 Externalizing climate costs must be incorporated into the  
4 internal valuation of coal.

5       The City of Hood River urges the Department of  
6 Interior to do three things: Update the coal royalty  
7 rate for fossil fuels extracted on public lands; number  
8 two, help diversify those rural economies and create new  
9 jobs and investments where the coal miners will be  
10 displaced; and number three, tighten the bonding  
11 requirements for coal. As we've heard, there's huge  
12 scars on the land. We're not sure the coal companies  
13 have the wherewithal financially to recover that. That  
14 needs to be inspected.

15       Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

16                   MR. BATTIS: If you have Speaker Card  
17 No. 4, come on down.

18                   MR. GREUEL: Good morning. My name is  
19 Ben Greuel. I'm the Washington state director for the  
20 Wilderness Society.

21       Here in the Pacific Northwest we are lucky to have a  
22 wealth of public lands, parks, juniper dunes, wilderness  
23 area, BLM's only wilderness area in Washington State,  
24 it's one of my favorite places, so I just visited there a  
25 few months back.

1           Our children and grandchildren deserve to experience  
2 America's forests, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas  
3 that we have done and as President Obama did this past  
4 Father's Day.

5           I want to thank the Department of Interior and the  
6 BLM for taking the time to hear from the American people  
7 on how we should steward and manage our public lands,  
8 particularly in the mist of the climate change, one of  
9 the greatest threats to our wild lands we face.

10          For too long energy development on public lands has  
11 been a blind spot in our national approach of climate  
12 change. It is estimated that coal from public lands  
13 alone is responsible for more than 12 percent of all U.S.  
14 greenhouse gas emissions.

15          Given that action on climate change is urgent, we  
16 need to work rapidly to reign in coal's contribution.  
17 This administration has committed to at least a 26  
18 percent reduction in emissions by 2025. Fossil fuels  
19 from public plans needs to be a part of this reduction.

20          Going forward we should reduce production in order  
21 to align the Federal Coal Program with the nation's  
22 climate change targets. This includes measuring the  
23 climate impacts of all federal coal up for lease, and in  
24 turn, using information to make land management  
25 decisions. Our shared resources should not contribute a

1 disproportionate amount to global climate change.

2       A problem we are keenly aware of in the Pacific  
3 Northwest is the export of coal. We absolutely should  
4 not be leasing our public lands to coal companies with  
5 the expectation that the coal is burned in other  
6 countries.

7       We need to adjust the way we manage our public lands  
8 to not only adapt in a changing energy landscape, but  
9 also to reflect the uses the American people value.

10       A report released just this last week by the  
11 Department of Interior found that our parks, wildlife  
12 refuge and other public lands support 443 million  
13 recreation visits last year supporting \$45 billion in  
14 economic output.

15       Instead of subsidizing a Federal Coal Program that  
16 has led to destroyed landscapes, polluted our air and  
17 water, fueled climate change, we should be investing in  
18 renewable energy, recreational conservation on American's  
19 public lands. That's the future we want to pass along to  
20 our children.

21       Thank you for hosting this hearing and committing to  
22 reform the Federal Coal Program.

23                               MR. STEWART: Good morning. I'm Dave  
24 Stewart, general counsel of Vulcan, Inc.

25       Vulcan has a broad range of business interests, in