

1 can identify all of these true costs, and I urge the BLM
2 to consider to update its policies on coal leasing and --
3 on federal land.

4 Finally, I wanted to acknowledge that coal does
5 currently provide electricity and jobs to a significant
6 number of people. While we must transition away from
7 coal, I think we should be mindful of the fact that coal
8 mining regions may need help in moving to clean air
9 economies.

10 So with that, I thank you for taking my comments.

11 MR. BATTIS: Thank you. We are missing
12 cards 41 and 45. So if you have 41 or 45, please come on
13 down.

14 MR. LeRESCHE: Good afternoon. I'm
15 Bob LeResche. I'm a rancher in Northeast Wyoming, and
16 I'm representing a Powder River Basin Resource Council
17 and the Western Organization of Resource Councils.

18 We, as others have, submitted voluminous comments
19 which I won't try to summarize, but I will raise four
20 major points. But before I do that, I just have to say
21 that Interior and the apocryphal war on coal is no more
22 responsible for the demise of the U.S. coal industry than
23 William Howard Taft was responsible for the demise of the
24 buggy whip. I mean, we've heard this so many times today
25 and I couldn't resist saying that.

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1 Please consider at least four things. First, 40
2 years leasing and management have created thousands of
3 jobs, thriving communities, and excessive state revenue
4 dependence on coal mining. Both state and federal
5 governments have created a moral obligation to provide a
6 just transition to the new economic future. Quitting
7 federal coal leasing cold turkey would be an unjust
8 disaster.

9 Second, the leasing system must be modernized and
10 must be simplified to fit the new market realities.
11 Interior must regain control of the leasing program to
12 reflect markets, both supply and demand, and abolish what
13 has become a noncompetitive lessee-driven system.

14 Third, reclamation requirements must be completely
15 revised and rigidly enforced so that water and land are
16 quickly returned to their original best uses truly
17 contemporaneously with mining. Self-bonding has removed
18 all incentive for timely reclamation and put taxpayers at
19 risk when corporations hide behind the bankruptcy laws.
20 Self-bonding must be totally eliminated as proposed in
21 Senator Cantwell's recent bill.

22 Finally, Interior must reassess fair return. Fair
23 return to all American citizens who own the coal, of
24 course, but also fair return to those on whose back
25 massive costs are now externalized. We who breathe the

1 air, we who as grandparents raise cattle on grasslands
2 and aquifers mined 40 years ago and not yet reclaimed, we
3 who wait interminably at rail crossings in our small
4 towns and large cities. There must be a new means of
5 assuring competition in bidding, transparent lease
6 valuation, transparent royalty collection stripped of
7 loopholes and unaudited self-reporting.

8 The new program must treat fairly a broad range of
9 stakeholders, including U.S. taxpayers, host state
10 taxpayers, ranchers and recreationists forced off public
11 lands for too long.

12 MR. BATTIS: Thank you.

13 MR. GOLDEN: Hello. Thanks for this
14 opportunity and for your patience and durability in
15 listening to today's testimony.

16 My name is KC Golden. I'm with Climate Solutions
17 and 350.org, and I am reminded today of the words of John
18 Maynard Keynes who said, The trouble is not so much in
19 coming up with new ideas. It's in escaping the old ones.

20 And we ask for your help now in escaping the old
21 ideas and delivering on the new ideas that we know are
22 available.

23 I've spent my whole career and my whole adult life
24 in the private and public sectors developing clean energy
25 solutions and I am here to affirm today that they are