

1 American taxpayers. This needs to change.

2 We appreciate the balance, the transparent process  
3 that you created and look forward to continuing to  
4 participate in that process. Thank you.

5 MS. MADSON: Hi. My name is Diana  
6 Madson and I'm the executive director of The Mountain  
7 Pact. I work closely with mountain communities for  
8 outdoor recreation-based economies throughout the  
9 American West, and together we applaud the Interior  
10 Department for launching the PEIS and request you  
11 incorporate the climate impacts of coal into this scoping  
12 plan.

13 Positioned in rural mountain areas and often  
14 surrounded by federal land, our communities are  
15 experiencing firsthand the effects of climate change from  
16 reduced snowpacks and protracted droughts to increased  
17 flood risk and more severe wildfires. Our communities  
18 and outdoor recreation and economies and bearing the  
19 growing financial costs of warming temperatures and more  
20 extreme weather events.

21 The costs of responding to and adapting to a  
22 changing climate are rising, but at the same time, coal  
23 companies are able to pay well below market rate for coal  
24 extracted from taxpayer-owned lands. This deprives many  
25 Western States and taxpayers across the country their

1 fair share of revenues that should be going to schools,  
2 roads and other priorities.

3 Coal production is on the decline in the U.S. and  
4 it's time to catalyze the transition toward more  
5 sustainable and diverse. Economies. We need to empower  
6 our economy to invest in a new path of cleaner, renewable  
7 energy. And I thank the Obama Administration for making  
8 the \$75 million available in grants for economic and  
9 workforce development in communities hit by the coal  
10 downturn.

11 In short, we request the Interior Department in this  
12 the scoping plan update the royalty rate for fossil fuels  
13 extracted on public lands to ensure that American  
14 taxpayers receive their fair share and invest a portion  
15 of these new revenues into local climate resilience  
16 projects.

17 We request that the Interior Department help  
18 diversify rural economies and create jobs through  
19 investments in technology infrastructure and the outdoor  
20 recreational economy; and lastly, to ensure that  
21 companies must restore the landscape after production is  
22 over, we urge you to tighten the bonding requirements for  
23 coal.

24 In the face of climate change it's time to modernize  
25 the Federal Coal Program to accurately account for its

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1 cost to communities, taxpayers, and the environment while  
2 supporting the transition to a more sustainable and  
3 resilient economy. Thank you.

4 MR. BATTIS: If we could have Group No.  
5 11 through 15 come down and see Amy, please, we'll get  
6 you set up. We'll go ahead and move over to No. 6,  
7 please.

8 MR. FITZGIBBON: Great. Good morning.  
9 Welcome. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I'm  
10 Joe Fitzgibbon and I'm a member of the state house of  
11 representatives here in Washington state representing  
12 140,000 people of West Seattle, White Center, Burien, and  
13 Vashon Island and I'm the chairman of the State House  
14 Environment Committee.

15 I want to focus my remarks on the climate impacts of  
16 combustion of coal. We are already in Washington state  
17 seeing devastating impacts from just the early onset of  
18 climate change. Ocean acidification is having severe  
19 impacts on our shellfish growers in some of the most  
20 economically depressed parts of our state as more of  
21 what's traditionally fallen as precipitation has fallen  
22 as snow is now falling as rain. We are seeing less  
23 ability to store water for irrigation of our crops in  
24 Eastern Washington, less ability to store water for  
25 hydropower purposes, and of course, the last two summers