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Seattle/Tacoma, Washington**

1 workers. Remember, the Tesoro oil refinery workers were  
2 just recently on strike against gross safety violations,  
3 and just in April the Environmental Protection Agency  
4 fined the Tesoro refinery \$720,000 for safety violations.

5 They don't care about workers. They care about  
6 their profits hand over fist. Let's care about our  
7 workers. Let's build a movement that unites  
8 environmentalists, Native American activists, activists  
9 from all backgrounds and the labor movement together and  
10 young people, that we show a real vision for a safe,  
11 clean and just future. Thank you.

12 MR. BATTIS: We have one more speaker,  
13 Lee Slade from Congressman McDermott's office.

14 MR. SLADE: Good morning. I would  
15 liking to introduce into the record a letter being sent  
16 today by 48 --

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

18 MR. SLADE: Can you hear me?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

20 MR. SLADE: There?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes.

22 MR. SLADE: Okay. Let me start over.

23 I would like to introduce into the record a letter  
24 being sent today by 48 Democratic House Members,  
25 including Congressman McDermott and the ranking Democrat

1 in the Natural Resources Committee, Raul Grijalva,  
2 addressed to Secretary Jewell.

3 We are writing to thank you for initiating an  
4 ambitious and long overdue process to reform the  
5 Department of Interior's Federal coal leasing program. A  
6 programmatic and comprehensive review is essential to  
7 address the financial -- excuse me -- fiscal,  
8 environmental, and climate consequences of this outdated  
9 program, and we believe your decision to place a  
10 moratorium on the new coal leasing while this review is  
11 undertaken, to be a thoughtful and prudent step that will  
12 have positive consequences for the American taxpayers and  
13 planet.

14 As you know, the existing federal coal program is  
15 broken. Study after study have shown that taxpayers are  
16 not getting their fair share of revenues from the leasing  
17 and mining of federally owned coal and that environmental  
18 issues have gone unaddressed.

19 Concerns raised by the Government Accountability  
20 Office and the Interior Department's Inspector General,  
21 members of Congress, and the public have made it clear  
22 that many of the decades-old regulations and procedures  
23 that govern the Federal Coal Program are outdated and do  
24 not reflect the realities of today's energy economy, the  
25 dynamics of the modern coal market, the effects of coal

1 on our climate, or how it impacts the American taxpayer.

2 The comprehensive review is critical to ensure that  
3 the American people are receiving fair value for the use  
4 of their resources, to increase transparency and  
5 accountability, to hold companies responsible for  
6 cleaning up mine lands and to ensure that the Federal  
7 Coal Program is not contributing disproportionately to  
8 environmental and climate problems.

9 As you move forward with your programmatic review in  
10 federal coal leasing, we hope that it will be -- that it  
11 will highlight and work to ameliorate, among other  
12 things, the following issues that have plagued the  
13 program.

14 The first, the low royalty rate and minimum bid for  
15 surface mine coal as well as the lack of competition  
16 during the bidding process. The way that the Department  
17 of the Interior determines the value of federal coal and  
18 the mine, rather than at the point of end use, which  
19 shortchanges taxpayers and effectively subsidizes coal  
20 production.

21 The programs -- excuse me. The problems with  
22 insignificant or nonexistent bonding or reclamation that  
23 increase the risk that taxpayers will have to cover the  
24 cost of cleaning up mines.

25 And the last point, the fact that climate impacts of

1 the federal program have been ignored or barely mentioned  
2 in the assessment of market value of federal coal and the  
3 cost to mitigate the impacts of coal on land, air, and  
4 water resources.

5 We also want to commend the Department and the Obama  
6 Administration for working to transition communities that  
7 rely on coal to a more diverse and vibrant economy. The  
8 energy markets are changing, but the workers and  
9 communities that are being harmed by these changes cannot  
10 be left behind.

11 We urge this administration to work with us and  
12 others in Congress to help areas that have relied on coal  
13 and the jobs that have come with developing that resource  
14 to move forward in a smarter way.

15 Given the challenges facing the environment and the  
16 federal budget, we are strongly supportive of the  
17 Interior's -- Interior Department's proposal to update  
18 the Federal Coal Program that is broken, outdated,  
19 polluting and costing taxpayers potentially millions of  
20 dollars in lost revenue. The proposed approach is  
21 thoughtful and comprehensive and is expected to provide  
22 ample opportunity for public input on how to address the  
23 issues ranging -- excuse me -- the range of issues facing  
24 the Federal Coal Program.

25 We commend you for launching this review and look

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1 forward to working with you further as this effort moves  
2 forward. Thank you for your continued attention to this  
3 important issue.

4 MR. BATTIS: Thank you. I appreciate  
5 all the comments from the elected representatives.

6 While not speaking, I also want to recognize Chris  
7 Davis from Governor Inslee's office. Thank you for being  
8 here.

9 With that, we're going to move into the public  
10 commenting period. It's why we're here. We want to hear  
11 from you. So again, the comments cards, everybody should  
12 have a comment card. Numbers are on your cards. We are  
13 going to ask if you have the numbers 1 through 5, you  
14 come down to Microphone No. 1. This is Amy. She will  
15 help get you situated.

16 If you have numbers 6 through 10 you're going to go  
17 over to Microphone No. 2 with Molly and she'll help you  
18 get situated. So come on down and we'll start up this  
19 comment process. When you come down, can you please  
20 bring your speaker cards?

21 And again, just some quick reminders. Please be  
22 sure you speak directly into the microphone slowly and  
23 clearly for our court reporter.

24 I assume you're No. 1, sir? All right. I'll go  
25 ahead and give you three minutes.