

1 we've seen the most devastating wildfires in our state's  
2 history.

3       So the impacts of climate change are already taking  
4 place in Washington. We contribute less than 2 percent  
5 of the total United States greenhouse gas emissions here  
6 in Washington, but we're suffering the impact  
7 nonetheless. There's only so much that we in our state  
8 can do to reduce our fossil fuel emissions, but we're  
9 already doing what we -- we're doing much of what we can  
10 as we shift towards greater reliance on electric  
11 vehicles, on public transportation, on renewable energy,  
12 but the fossil fuels being burned from coal produced on  
13 federal lands are -- vastly outweigh anything we can do  
14 in Washington state to reduce our own contributions to  
15 climate change.

16       And so I just want to ask and thank you for engaging  
17 in this PEIS process. Thank you for taking into account  
18 climate impacts of coal combusted from federal lands and  
19 ask that you consider all of those impacts, consider  
20 those impacts on people and economics and on habitats in  
21 our state and around the country and ask that you  
22 consider an alternative that includes no future leasing  
23 of coal on federal lands. Thank you.

24                               MR. VON FLATERN: Hi. I'm Michael Von  
25 Flatern. I'm the Wyoming state senator from the Powder

1 River Basin which is mostly Gillette, and I'm here to  
2 discuss a few facts and fictions regarding coal leasing.

3 Fiction: Taxpayers do not receive a fair return  
4 from leasing of federal coal. The Federal Coal Program  
5 provides substantive revenues to federal and state  
6 governments totalling \$13.8 billion since 2003. So for  
7 an example, the Powder River Basin in Wyoming, which  
8 produces over 80 percent of the coal reserves on federal  
9 lands, local governments and the federal government  
10 receive almost 40 cents on every dollar, 12 and a half  
11 percent royalty to the federal government, that's 12 and  
12 a half percent. That's not 12 and a half cents on a ton.

13 So the current price is approximately \$11 for a ton  
14 of coal. So you take the \$11 and you look at the 40 --  
15 almost 40 percent, and you get \$4.28 of every ton of coal  
16 that they produce goes to the government, either the  
17 local government or the federal government. The federal  
18 government is getting 12 and a half percent or roughly  
19 \$1.75 or \$1.50 of that ton, not 12 and a half cents a  
20 ton. 12 and a half percent.

21 Federal coal lessees, the fact that we pay a  
22 considerably higher royalty rate than paying on state or  
23 private lands because they pay a bonus bid which is  
24 something that rarely occurs from private coal. Just  
25 combining the federal mineral royalties with the bonus

1 bid which is what the lease by application also has to  
2 do, the effective rate and royalties is 22 percent.

3 Another fiction: Recent federal government studies  
4 have revealed serious flaws with the Federal Coal Program  
5 that merit its reforms. The fact is the 2013 reports by  
6 the Government Accountability Office and the Department  
7 of the Interior Inspector General contained minor  
8 recommendations for improvements to Federal Coal Program.  
9 And the BLM has already acted on reports, the report's  
10 recommendations to improve the management of the Federal  
11 Coal Program. Today the agency has published an updated  
12 coal evaluation manual and handbook as well as seven  
13 instruction memorandums to its field offices in response  
14 to that report.

15 Fiction -- another fiction: The current leasing  
16 system does not consider the climate impacts of federal  
17 coal lease sales. The Bureau of Land Management includes  
18 consideration of potential greenhouse gas emissions and  
19 production and use of coal when potential lease sales are  
20 analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act.  
21 And you can look this up under the -- as defending itself  
22 under the WildEarth Guardians versus Salazar; WildEarth  
23 Guardians versus Forest Service; and Western Organization  
24 of Resource Council versus Jewell. Thank you.

25 MR. DRISKILL: Hi. I kind of feel