SENATOR CAPITO HOSTS EPW

SENATORIAL HEARING

HELD ON OCTOBER 5, 2016

1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Chief Logan State Park

Logan, West Virginia

HELD BEFORE:

SENATOR SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

SENATOR JOE MANCHIN

CONGRESSMAN EVAN JENKINS

Panelists present:

Eugene Trisko, United Mine Workers Bob Pasley, Wayne County Commissioner Jimmy "Bo" Copley, WV coal miner Karan Ireland, WV Solar United Neighborhoods James Van Nostrand, WVU

Betler's Reporting & Legal Video Services, LLC Video Conferencing Center 523 Seventh Street Huntington, West Virginia 25701 (606) 329-2154 * (304) 522-9637 * (304) 345-9891



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SENATOR CAPITO:

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2	afternoon. This hearing will come to order. I like
3	that part.
4	Anyway, again, I'd like to thank the
5	witnesses and my colleagues for being here today. And
6	this is a very important hearing, and it's very
7	important that we're in Logan County, West Virginia, one
8	of the most deeply affected parts of our country on the
9	topic that we're going to talk about.
10	Last week the United States Court of Appeals
11	for the District of Columbia heard the oral arguments on
12	the legality of the EPA's Clean Power Plan which as you
13	might recall and I think some of the testimony
14	reinforces this decision this power plan was stayed,
15	which means it was halted by the U.S. Supreme Court in
16	February. Afterward, Attorney General Patrick Morrisey
17	and Senator Manchin and I and others had a press
18	conference on the grounds of the United States Capitol
19	to talk about this case.
20	While we are understandably focused on the
21	projected impacts of the Clean Power Plan, it is
22	important that we hear from both sides and all sides
23	about this issue. Coal industry bankruptcies caused at
24	least in part by regulations and this is a discussion

So welcome and good

1	that I had on the radio this morning and that we have
2	quite a bit is it all about the regulations? No.
3	It's not all about the regulations. Is it about all
4	about natural gas? No. It's not all about natural gas.
5	Is it all about market forces? No, it's not.
6	Each one of those I believe plays
7	individually a very strong part in what we see happening
8	to our coal industry. I'm also working hard with my
9	colleagues here and others from West Virginia to make
10	sure that the UMW Health and Pension Fund is restored
11	for those miners who are set to lose their healthcare at
12	the end of the year.
13	We worked it I think very well through the
14	committee. Senator Manchin's the main sponsor; I'm the
15	cosponsor of the bill. And Congressman Jenkins has been
16	fighting hard on the House side. So we see some blue
17	sky there, although the end of the year we are going to
18	have to really put the big press on which we will.
19	You know, coal jobs are good jobs. There
20	are many coal miners in the audience today. The Bureau
21	of Labor and Statistics puts the average miner's wage at
22	\$84,000 a year which is much higher than our average
23	here in West Virginia of \$39,000 of a non-mining annual
24	salary. Coal jobs also support other jobs, and I don't

1	think they get talked about enough or as much. Every
2	vendor in the supply chain is affected. For every one
3	job, seven other jobs are affected.
4	Coal miners out of work have less disposable
5	incomes to spend in their communities. You could ask
6	any vendor here in Logan County and they can say how
7	affected they've been by this downturn.
8	And so today we will hear from Gene Trisko
9	who I've had the pleasure of meeting and hearing
10	testimony from Mr. Trisko before. He will talk about
11	the impacts of the Clean Power Plan just on West
12	Virginia, including I believe it's a relatively new
13	report that is out that shows a loss of 47 a
14	potential loss of \$47 billion just in the State of West
15	Virginia over the life or I think it's to 2040 is
16	the it's a projected.
17	We'll also hear from Bob Pasley who's our
18	Wayne County Commissioner to talk about the effects in
19	our local county commission. And then Bo Copley, who's
20	our coal miner who has been affected by this downturn.
21	We'll also hear from Ms. Ireland and Mr. Van Nostrand
22	about their position and their opinions on where and how
23	we should be moving forward.
24	So I'm going to leave it there. I think

1	I've been very frustrated with the EPA as many of us
2	have been. One of the most frustrating points for me
3	was in questioning Janet McCabe, who is the EPA acting
4	assistant administrator, about why EPA had not conducted
5	any of their listening sessions any of their
6	listening sessions in the State of West Virginia when
7	they were drafting the Clean Power Plan. And the
8	response I got from her was pretty startling.
9	She basically said, "Well, we went to
10	Pittsburgh," and that which shocked me enough, but
11	then she continued and she said, "EPA wanted to have
12	these discussions in locations where people were
13	comfortable."
14	That to me says that they weren't ready to
15	face what we're going to be hearing a lot of what we're
16	hearing today and some of the folks in the audience.
17	Well, we're here. We're here listening. We're making
18	this part of the public record. We're making this so
19	that our colleagues in the House and Senate that
20	we've that disagree with the direction that we want
21	to go and we disagree with the direction they want to
22	go, they know how we feel and how you-all feel. You're
23	putting a face on this for many people across this
24	country, and we appreciate the time and energy that

1 you've come. And I would say -- I will speak for Senator 2 Manchin and for Congressman Jenkins who I very rarely 3 4 speak for the two of them -- but I would say we feel 5 very comfortable here and are very glad to be here with 6 you. 7 Senator Manchin. 8 SENATOR MANCHIN: First of all, thank you, 9 Madam Chairman. I want to thank all of you for coming, 10 and all of our presenters and all of you in the audience for showing up today because it's extremely important 11 for all of us. I would like to also thank 12 13 Chairman Inhofe, Republican Chairman of the EPW and also 14 Ranking Member Barbara Boxer for having this and 15 allowing our Chairwoman here, Capito, for inviting us to 16 speak and also holding this. 17 Let me set the record straight for where I 18 believe that this administration has not understood the 19 grasp of the -- what we call global, a global climate. 20 A global climate means the entire globe. It doesn't 21 mean that the wind and the ocean current start and stop 22 in North America. And when you talk about the globe, it should be a global -- basically a fix. What we have 23 24 right now -- there's 8 billion tons of coal being burned

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1	in the world 8 billion tons. United States of
2	America burns about 900 million. We're less than 1
3	billion. If they quit burning every lump of coal in
4	America every lump of coal in America, it's not going
5	to change more than two-tenths of 1 percent. These are
6	by scientists and people who's evaluated it.
7	Knowing that this product's going to be
8	needed to energize our country for the next two to three
9	decades everyone has said that that's the hardest
10	thing that we have to grasp with. If you really want to
11	tackle global climate I was at the Global Climate
12	Conference in Poland with our NATO countries. Not one
13	of them not one country's administering any of the
14	environmental protection things that we do now. They're
15	not using their scrubbers, they're not using low-NOx
16	boilers or they're not using baghouses. We've perfected
17	all that.
18	And this is what really is baffling to us.
19	Why are we hindering the United States' economy and
20	basically just dismantling economies and communities
21	not just West Virginia but other coal communities
22	Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, Eastern Ohio. So with
23	that, it's no secret that we in West Virginia are facing
24	severe economic challenges.

1	The coal economy of our state has been
2	devastated. Cheap natural gas prices compounded by
3	regulatory onslaught by the EPA, an agency that
4	overstepped its authority time and time again, have put
5	coal production in a downward spiral. Being a former
6	governor, I've always said this: You can't regulate
7	what's not been legislated. That's not the role of an
8	agency. That's not the role of any one branch of
9	government. And that's why it has to go through that
10	process because a representative myself, Shelley,
11	Evan, all of us who represent basically should have
12	input and we had none.
13	We continue to experience persistently high
14	unemployment rates in this county and the surrounding
15	area traditionally. Our largest coal producing regions
16	we are consistently posting unemployment numbers in the
17	double digits. Some of our southern counties are
18	posting unemployment rates more than double the national
19	average.
20	I have said this and I've said it all over
21	Washington, everybody I can speak to, we've got a
22	minimum of six counties not in a recession but in a
23	depression. The difference between a recession and a
24	depression: In a recession you're waiting for a

1	rebound. It'll come back. We've been through the highs
2	and lows before. A depression, we've given up. We're
3	walking out. Our assets there are no assets. We
4	could care less. Here bank. There's my keys to my
5	house. Take it. It's not worth anything to me. That's
6	a depression. That's what we're in.
7	For more for the month of August,
8	Workforce West Virginia reported that here in Logan
9	County the unemployment remains at about 10 percent;
10	Mingo County 11.7; Clay County 9.1; Wyoming County 9.4;
11	Boone County 8.4; and McDowell County 12.9. Those are
12	artificially low because other people have quit
13	looking they've left or they quit looking. There's
14	no work.
15	Since 2008, West Virginia has lost 13,000
16	coal jobs. The Mine Safety Health Administration
17	reports that in 2008 there were 2,129 coal mines and
18	prep plants. In 2015 that number was only 1,459 coal
19	mines and prep plants. That's a loss of 670. Countless
20	companies have declared bankruptcy. And Workforce West
21	Virginia reports that between July 2015 and July 2016
22	in one year we lost 4,800 mining and logging jobs,
23	700 manufacturing jobs and 1,700 in trade,
24	transportation and utility jobs.

The ripple effect of the near total loss of our state's biggest energy industry is affecting the daily quality of West Virginia lives -- whether it be fewer and fewer grocery stores, childcare options or healthcare services or just closing schools because of lack of students.

7 To complicate matters, we just experienced a 8 once-in-a-century flood that took West Virginia lives, homes and businesses, and that's an absolutely tragic 9 10 event from which we will be recovering for years to So when I look at the manner in which the Obama 11 come. 12 administration and the EPA have handed down regulation 13 after regulation entirely outside the bounds of what 14 Congress intended when it passed legislation like the 15 Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, I can't help but 16 believe that they did not have a plan. I mean, no plan 17 for our state or any other state to be affected the way 18 we have.

And that is not only infuriating me and everybody else, it's a tragic, tragic occurrence. Historically, West Virginia has been an energy export. I think you all know that. Our home state sits in the abundant reserves of coal and natural gas. In 2016 Annual Energy Outlook, the Energy

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1	Information Administration the EIA which is part of
2	the Department of Energy projected that in a clean
3	power plant scenario this is their scenario coal
4	consumption by the electricity sector this is the
5	worst scenario you can absolutely paint. If they
6	adopted everything that's in the Clean Power Plan, even
7	with their plan they say about 18 percent of our
8	generation for base load fuel, base load electricity,
9	base load energy will still be coal. Even in the worst
10	case scenario.
11	While cheap natural gas has been a major
12	factor in the downturn of coal production, it is
13	important to remember that we have ridden the markets up
14	and down before. We've always ridden the markets.
15	We've just never had the Federal Government jump on our
16	back and try to drown us during these difficult times.
17	And it's also clear to me that there was no and is no
18	consideration by this administration of how West
19	Virginia will secure a role in the nation's clean energy
20	future.
21	I said you know what, if you've got a plan,
22	use your tax plan. We give what we call tax credits.
23	Okay. We call them extenders. We fluffed them up a
24	little bit in Washington so you won't think we're just

giving things away, but they truly are. They're called
extenders or tax credits. If I'm going to give a wind
company as a policy of the United States of America or a
solar energy company credits for developing wind and
solar, don't you think they ought to use those credits
in the areas that have been displaced?
You want us to build you a wind factory. We
can build you a windmill. We can build you a solar
factory. Just keep our people working. There was no
plan. None at all.
The EPA's new source performance standard
for power plants and the Clean Power Plan for existing
power plants are both examples of the EPA legislating
instead of regulating. I have introduced, co-sponsored
and supported legislation that would roll back climate
regulations and other harmful EPA roles.
I've co-sponsored, along with my colleague
here Senator Capito, Affordable Reliable Energy Act
called the ARENA Act reining in harmful effects of the
Clean Power Plan. I introduced Clean Air, Strong
Economies Act which stems the economic harm of the new
ozone standards. I also supported the Ozone Standards
Implementation Act. I sponsored the Coal Ash
Legislation which we just passed in the Senate, and I

1	introduced legislation that would require EPA to base
2	its regulatory standards on technology that is actually
3	proven and commercially available for use.
4	I'm almost done. I get on a roll here
5	sometimes. I go a little bit longer than I'm supposed
6	to.
7	The first bill that I introduced as a United
8	States senator was legislation that would prevent the
9	EPA from retroactively retroactively vetoing a mine
10	permit. These are mine permits that have gone through
11	five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten years. They went
12	back and reached back arbitrarily and said okay, no
13	more. And that's not right. We fought that.
14	An unprecedented legal action in 2010, I
15	sued the EPA as governor at that time for overstepping
16	its bounds regarding mountaintop removal practice in
17	West Virginia's coal industry to ensure states that have
18	the power to oversee, regulate and protect their
19	citizens and resources. That's basically protecting the
20	10th Amendment to the Constitution. State's rights.
21	Our founding fathers never intended for the overreach
22	and basically the micromanagement of government to come
23	from Washington.
24	We have responsibilities and rights. And

1	earlier this year I joined 33 of my colleagues in the
2	Senate and 171 members of the House in filing a brief
3	with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals challenging the
4	legality of the Clean Power Plan. Oral arguments were
5	just heard last week in West Virginia versus the EPA.
6	We were both there. We had good representation.
7	And right now when I talk to people that
8	basically I think, Gene, we talked coming in it's
9	a 50/50. It could be tossed up and go either way. I
10	think we're going to end up in the Supreme Court. I
11	really do. And we have got to fight. We have got to
12	fight it hard.
13	Furthermore, I do not believe the EPA
14	consulted with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
15	which is FERC. With energy, base-loaded energy in the
15 16	which is FERC. With energy, base-loaded energy in the United States of America should be dependable, reliable
16	United States of America should be dependable, reliable
16 17	United States of America should be dependable, reliable and affordable. They never basically talked to FERC to
16 17 18	United States of America should be dependable, reliable and affordable. They never basically talked to FERC to find out will the system be reliable if you take this
16 17 18 19	United States of America should be dependable, reliable and affordable. They never basically talked to FERC to find out will the system be reliable if you take this much coal-fired energy off the grid. How are you going
16 17 18 19 20	United States of America should be dependable, reliable and affordable. They never basically talked to FERC to find out will the system be reliable if you take this much coal-fired energy off the grid. How are you going to back it up?
16 17 18 19 20 21	United States of America should be dependable, reliable and affordable. They never basically talked to FERC to find out will the system be reliable if you take this much coal-fired energy off the grid. How are you going to back it up? The vortex, the polar vortex almost shut
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	United States of America should be dependable, reliable and affordable. They never basically talked to FERC to find out will the system be reliable if you take this much coal-fired energy off the grid. How are you going to back it up? The vortex, the polar vortex almost shut down the East Coast. There would've been people dying,

1	whatsoever.
2	So fossil fuels are going to continue to be
3	a major part of both domestic and global energy. As we
4	speak I believe I'm correct in this number over
5	500 new coal-fired plants are being built in India.
6	Close to 400 are still being built in China. The
7	product is the most abundant fuel in the world, and for
8	us to deny other countries from developing first time
9	energy users this is the first time in some of these
10	countries, especially in rural India, they've ever had a
11	refrigerator, they've ever had a light bulb in their
12	home, they've ever had anything.
13	And we're going to say oh, I'm sorry, you
13 14	And we're going to say oh, I'm sorry, you can't do that. That's not going to happen. So we
14	can't do that. That's not going to happen. So we
14 15	can't do that. That's not going to happen. So we better get with it and development the technology that
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1	natural resources while ensuring the reliability.
2	Instead of looking to technology and
3	infrastructure to clean up those fossil fuels and secure
4	the future of energy-producing states like West
5	Virginia, the EPA under this administration has taken it
6	upon itself to legislate a climate agenda that Congress
7	never authorized. We haven't had one input. We're just
8	playing defense all the way through.
9	West Virginia has helped power the nation
10	for decades. We have done the heavy lifting and I to
11	the high heavens, I shout out basically what this little
12	state has done and I want you all to know that basically
13	we have as the State of West Virginia, we have done the
14	heavy lifting. We've mined the coal that made the steel
15	that built the guns and ships. We have more patriots.
16	We have more veterans per capita than any other state.
17	We have shed more blood. Lost more lives for the cause
18	of freedom.
19	This little state has given her all. And
20	now we feel and I've told them this my state
21	across the board forget politics Democrat,
22	Republican across the board we feel like the
23	returning Vietnam veteran. We've done everything you've
24	asked us to do. We put our life on the line, and now

1	you've turned your back on us. And now you want people
2	to believe that we didn't do our job or what we did you
3	didn't like.
4	We built the greatest nation on Earth and we
5	have. The only super power in the world is the United
6	States of America because of domestic energy, mostly
7	coal. Someone's got to recognize that, and someone's
8	got to have a pathway for it that is humane and it will
9	work.
10	So I would say I'm happy to work and
11	Shelley and I have been working hard on the Miners'
12	Protection Act. It's imperative. If we don't pass that
13	before the end of the year, 16,000 miners retired
14	miners, will lose their healthcare by the end of this
15	year. 7,000 more by July of next year. After that, by
16	the end of next year, the pensions that all of our
17	retired miners United Mine Workers are receiving
18	right now will start spiralling down. They're
19	irrecoverable.
20	And that bill has passed. They've asked us,
21	both Shelley and I, they said go through regular order.
22	We did that. The finance committee passed it 18 to 8
23	18 to 8. It was bipartisan. All we need is for Mitch
24	McConnell to put it on the agenda, and it will pass.

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1	That's all we need. So anybody that knows Mitch, close
2	to him, can call him, talk to him, please do so. We
3	need it on the agenda. We've got to pass it before
4	December the 9th.
5	Thank you, Madam Chairman. I can't thank
6	you enough for this hearing.
7	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you, Senator Manchin.
8	I feel a bit like the person who did the
9	vice-presidential debate last night. I feel like I've
10	already lost control of my own hearing. In any event,
11	Congressman Jenkins, thank you.
12	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Thank you, Senator.
13	There were no interruptions along the way, so
14	SENATOR CAPITO: That's true.
15	SENATOR MANCHIN: Very nice.
16	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: We're old friends.
17	Senator Capito, thank you so much for the
18	wonderful opportunity. You know, the folks in this room
19	see us altogether Democrats, Republicans, House,
20	Senate working hard for West Virginia. What you may
21	not realize is the opportunity for me to participate in
22	a Senate hearing is probably bending the rules a little
23	bit that Senator Capito went to the mat in her
24	leadership role in the subcommittee calling this and I

1	am sincerely appreciative of the opportunity of being
2	able to participate directly. I don't get to go down
3	the hall on the Senate side and sit in on the Senate
4	hearing, so we appreciate it very much. Senator
5	Manchin, great to be with you.
6	This is a unique opportunity. It was
7	referenced about communicating with the EPA and their
8	unwillingness to come to West Virginia, and it reminds
9	me when I had Gina McCarthy not even as far as
10	Commissioner Pasley and I are apart here a few feet.
11	I asked Gina McCarthy, I said, "Ms. McCarthy, have you
12	ever been to West Virginia as the EPA Secretary?" You
13	know, the lawyers and a lot of people say you never ask
14	a question you don't already know the answer. And she
15	said, "Well, I can't recall." And I said, "Well, I know
16	you've not been to West Virginia, and I know you know
17	you haven't been to West Virginia. You just can't even
18	bring yourself to acknowledge that no, I've been
19	unwilling to even come to West Virginia."
20	So having this subcommittee hearing under
21	Senator Capito's leadership is quite an opportunity for
22	our voices to be heard, and I appreciate the opportunity
23	for these voices. These are important voices. You
24	know, times are tough here in Logan County and

throughout Southern West Virginia. And it's really in
large part and it is because of the war on coal. And
there is a war on coal, and we feel it. We see it. We
actually can taste it right here in Southern West
Virginia.
You know, coal jobs are good jobs. As
Senator Capito very accurately said, Bureau of Labor
Statistics average coal job \$84,000 a year. You can
support a family on that. You can raise a family. You
can provide for a family. You can put food on the table
for that.
Whereas, the average wage in West Virginia
is \$39,000. So over twice the average is a coal miner's
wage. And we talked about the unemployment rate. Eight
years ago West Virginia had one of the lowest
unemployment rates in the entire county. Today, we
tragically are one of the highest. So what's happened
in the last eight years? We all see it. I hear time
and time again from moms, dads, retirees who are worried
about their futures and worried about their children's
futures. They're forced to make some very tough
decisions.
One of those is with us today, Bo Copley.

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1	highlighting our efforts to extend unemployment
2	compensation benefits for our laid off, employed coal
3	miners. We were bringing a national spotlight to this
4	tragedy. I also brought two coal miners
5	Jordan Bridges is with us, Doug Killan. We brought them
6	to Washington. We put them in front of a congressional
7	committee to tell the story of the plight of the West
8	Virginia coal miners.
9	But there's another story. I heard from
10	Tammy Bateman of Logan County. She's lived here all her
11	life, but she and her husband and her husband worked
12	for CI Walker Machinery in their Logan branch for almost
13	20 years and they had to move. And here's what she
14	wrote me. "Due to the decline in coal industry, we had
15	to move to another state and move our daughter from the
16	school she loves. We have a lot of friends and family
17	that have either had to pack up and move away also and
18	some that have stayed and have had to be laid off and
19	are suffering. This is all due to Obama's war on coal.
20	You see, when coal is affected, so are small businesses,
21	schools and much more especially people's
22	livelihoods."
23	Just as Tammy wrote to me and said that, the
24	war on coal impacts so many people and businesses, so

1	many more than just the thousands of direct coal mining
2	jobs as we've heard today. It hurts our schools. It
3	hurts our police and fire departments all of which are
4	funded by the coal severance tax. We've got Bob Pasley
5	here from Wayne County who's going to talk about the
6	fact that coal severance tax revenue has dropped 88
7	percent from 2013 to 2016. And as coal mines shut down,
8	communities have less and less and have had to make
9	tough choices.
10	So Senator Capito, thank you for this
11	opportunity. I look forward to the testimony of the
12	panelists. I appreciate the fact that we are in
13	Southern West Virginia, in the 3rd Congressional
14	District, in front of coal miners who are going to have
15	their voices heard, and they've not had that opportunity
16	enough in the past. So it's an honor to be here, and
17	thank you for this opportunity.
18	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you both for our
19	opening statements, and now we will begin with the
20	witnesses. We're going to begin on the left with
21	Mr. Gene Trisko. Gene is the counsel to the United Mine
22	Workers of America, and he's from Berkley Springs, West
23	Virginia. And he is no stranger to helping us analyze
24	the effects of legislation for many years.

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1	Welcome, Gene.
2	MR. TRISKO: Thank you, Chair Capito,
3	Senator Manchin, Congressman Jenkins. It's a great
4	pleasure for me to be here. I've represented the United
5	Mine Workers for some 30 years in environmental matters,
6	and I must say, ladies and gentlemen, I've never seen it
7	like this before.
8	I'm here today to talk about the impacts of
9	EPA's Clean Power Plan and also to express our
10	appreciation to you Chair Capito, Senator Manchin and
11	Congressman Jenkins for your leadership and your support
12	of the Miner's Protection Act. We must get that
13	accomplished this year, as you have clearly stated, and
14	we're all committed to working together later this year
15	with Senator McConnell in order to ensure that result.
16	The mine workers, along with West Virginia
17	and other petitioners and there are more than a
18	hundred petitioners have challenged the validity of
19	the EPA Clean Power Plan in Federal Court. In May the
20	Supreme Court issued an unprecedented stay of the rule
21	pending the conclusion of all legal challenges. We
22	believe that the Power Plan oversteps EPA's legal
23	authority under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act
24	because it forces utilities to switch from coal to

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1	natural gas or renewable energy in a manner inconsistent
2	with the legal requirements of the Clean Air Act.
3	West Virginia depends on coal for 96 percent
4	of its electricity. West Virginia's economy, coal
5	miners, communities, electric generators and the allied
6	industries that depend on coal for their livelihoods and
7	all of these industries share the high wage structure,
8	Senator Capito, that you noted all of these
9	industries share that characteristic. They will all
10	suffer greatly if this rule is implemented.
11	Recent studies by the PJM Interconnection
12	and this is the multistate power grid that covers West
13	Virginia and eight or nine other states indicate that
14	EPA's rule could cause West Virginia to lose up to 34
15	percent of its coal-based electric generation by 2025 if
16	the state met its EPA targets by instate means.
17	There could be smaller loses if West
18	Virginia engaged in an interstate trading program, but
19	in effect what that would mean is that West Virginia
20	rate payers would be asked to subsidize the construction
21	of renewable energy facilities in other states. So
22	hundreds of millions of dollars would leave the pockets
23	of West Virginia rate payers in order to create those
24	renewable facilities mainly in other states Iowa for

1	wind, New Mexico for solar and so forth.
2	These impacts do not consider the loses of
3	coal production that would result from the loss of coal
4	shipments to other states that are affected by the EPA
5	rule. This is a very important point. Less than
6	one-third of West Virginia's coal production is consumed
7	in state. That's what makes it impossible for West
8	Virginia to control its destiny, so to speak, in the
9	implementation of the Clean Power Plan.
10	Between 2009 and 2014, West Virginia lost 32
11	million tons of coal output, and all of the high wage
12	jobs associated with that. Those losses are
13	attributable to lower natural gas prices and to the EPA
14	mercury MATS rule.
15	The Department of Energy estimates that the
16	mercury rule has caused the closure of some 40,000
17	megawatts of coal capacity across the nation. EPA at
18	the time of issuing that rule estimated the loss of coal
19	capacity at 4,700 megawatts. The WVU Bureau of Business
20	and Economic Research has estimated that the EPA power
21	plan would lead to the loss of about 20 million tons of
22	West Virginia coal production. This is on top of the
23	losses that already have occurred.
24	Using data from DOE's analysis of the Carbon

1	Rule and an extended Clean Power Plan, we estimate that
2	another 20 million tons of production would be lost if
3	the national CO2 reduction were expanded from 32 percent
4	in the current rule to 45 percent by 2040.
5	DOE's extended power plan scenario is
6	consistent with the pledges that the United States of
7	America made in the December 2015 Paris agreement. This
8	would reduce total West Virginia coal production from a
9	current level of about a hundred million tons today to
10	60 million tons by 2040. The consequences of these
11	production loses would be devastating for jobs, for the
12	overall state economy.
13	Applying U. S. Department of Commerce
14	economic multipliers specific to the West Virginia
14 15	economic multipliers specific to the West Virginia mining sector, we estimate that the EPA Carbon Rule
15	mining sector, we estimate that the EPA Carbon Rule
15 16	mining sector, we estimate that the EPA Carbon Rule and this is just a rule that's on the books today
15 16 17	mining sector, we estimate that the EPA Carbon Rule and this is just a rule that's on the books today would lead to the cumulative loss of \$47 billion of
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15 16 17 18 19 20	mining sector, we estimate that the EPA Carbon Rule and this is just a rule that's on the books today would lead to the cumulative loss of \$47 billion of state economic output, 11 billion of household income and 229,000 job years of employment by 2040. A job year is one job held for one year.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>mining sector, we estimate that the EPA Carbon Rule and this is just a rule that's on the books today would lead to the cumulative loss of \$47 billion of state economic output, 11 billion of household income and 229,000 job years of employment by 2040. A job year is one job held for one year. Even larger losses would occur if an</pre>
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<pre>mining sector, we estimate that the EPA Carbon Rule and this is just a rule that's on the books today would lead to the cumulative loss of \$47 billion of state economic output, 11 billion of household income and 229,000 job years of employment by 2040. A job year is one job held for one year.</pre>

1	\$14 billion loss of household income. A total of
2	288,000 job years of employment would be lost. Clearly,
3	West Virginia cannot afford such draconian economic
4	impacts.
5	The U. S. Census Bureau reports that the
6	pretax median household income in West Virginia in 2015
7	was \$42,800, and that is 24 percent below the national
8	median income and \$5,300 below West Virginia's 2007
9	pre-recession levels.
10	You know, there was a lot of talk in the
11	last few weeks about the big increase in median incomes.
12	Well, there was a bump in 2015. The first time really
13	since 2009. But as it stands, West Virginia's median
14	household income, you're \$5,300 below where you were in
15	2007. So not so much of an impact in West Virginia.
16	The UMWA supports reasonable measures to
17	address climate change consistent with established Clean
18	Air Act principles, but we cannot support rules that
19	cause massive loss of jobs and income in already
20	depressed rural communities like Southern West Virginia.
21	We need instead a major infusion of R&D capital both
22	federal and private to lower the cost of carbon
23	capture technologies so that coal can continue to play a
24	vital role in base load power generation.

1	We look forward to working with the
2	Congress, the Department of Energy and other interested
3	parties to ensure this future for our members and for
4	our nation. Thank you very much.
5	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you very much,
6	Mr. Trisko. Our next person is our commissioner, our
7	Wayne County commissioner, Bob Pasley. Before he was
8	commissioner, he was for many years the county clerk in
9	Wayne County. So thank you Commissioner for coming. We
10	look forward to your comments.
11	MR. PASLEY: Senator Capito, let me tell you
12	I appreciate this opportunity to come before and the
13	invitation was very pleasing. It's always good to be
14	with Senator Manchin, Congressman Jenkins. Thank you
15	all for this opportunity.
16	I have a you know, folks who might be
17	listening to this see the world from 35,000 feet, but as
18	county commissioner, I have the honor and the privilege
19	of serving on the ground and I where the services are
20	rendered so many times to our people. So this is coming
21	from a dollars-and-cents standpoint but also from here
22	(indicating).
23	Wayne County is located in the southwest
24	corner of West Virginia. According to the 2010 census,

1	we had 42,481 citizens, and I think that's been reduced
2	now because we've had losses. But of those, 65 percent
3	were rural, and 35 percent were urban. So we have a
4	unique county in that we have a city part and we have a
5	country part.
6	Two companies that I want to bring to or
7	three actually to mention today. Argus Energy and
8	Kiah Creek Transport closed in 2013 resulting in the
9	loss of 236 jobs directly related to the coal mining
10	industry. In 2015, Alpha Natural Resources closed its
11	Rock Spring Mine operation resulting in the loss of 429
12	jobs at their mine and preparation plant.
13	Now, for these communities this is what was
13 14	Now, for these communities this is what was involved: Argus Energy was a business partner with
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1	Rock Spring Development, likewise, was a
2	business partner with East Lynn Elementary School. I
3	contacted Ms. Melissa Maynard, principal of East Lynn
4	Elementary School, and she also said that the loss of
5	the school's business partner was a severe blow to the
6	school and the students. Rock Spring owners and
7	employees provided many benefits to the school.
8	Playground equipment, a new sign, classroom improvements
9	were some the projects undertaken.
10	Additionally, Ms. Maynard said that Rock
11	Spring adopted the preschool students and provided
12	additional items for them, including a Christmas party
13	for all the preschool students and their families along
14	with presents for each child. Ms. Maynard stated that
15	the Rock Spring family was always willing to help any
16	time she called upon them.
17	Now, Wayne County's coal severance revenues
18	have all but disappeared. That was mentioned awhile
19	ago. I think the Congressman mentioned it. From fiscal
20	year 2013, was \$728,500 and for fiscal year 2016,
21	\$86,523. Based on what we know now, this was a this
22	was when we budgeted in March. We were probably
23	optimistic even at the \$86,000 mark. I have that as
24	Exhibit 1 in my presentation.

1	And you'll see down there at the fiscal year
2	2016, the first quarter, second quarter, the third
3	quarter and fourth quarter the third and fourth
4	quarter had zero money from the 75 percent allocation.
5	Now, when you have two operating mines in the county and
6	they're gone and you have zero income, you just can't
7	take much more than that away from us. And that's one
8	of the things that we have known.
9	Now, what do we use coal severance money
10	for? Well, thankfully we didn't operate it for
11	unimportant things. The money was used for goods and
12	services that we do not have did not have in our
13	county, general county budget. We used to we did
14	give \$50,000 each year to the volunteer fire department
15	for an ambulance for our people. We have a program
16	where we had two police cruisers replaced every year for
17	our sheriff department. This will be the third year
18	that we haven't been able to do that. We're going to be
19	in critical need before long.
20	Capital building projects, senior citizen
21	programs, utilities, economic development and many other
22	worthwhile projects were part of this coal severance

23 that we no longer have. And then now that we don't have
24 the funding, we have to look at a already tight general

1	county budget to plan those in and it's not there. And
2	I'll go on and tell you exactly why.
3	The general county fund loss is more
4	critical because more money is involved. During this
5	time the Wayne County Commission we saw our insurance
6	premiums continue to rise utilities, property and
7	liability insurance. And I forgot to mention here our
8	regional jail bill. And so those things that we have to
9	provide as county services, a very tight budget is now
10	even strained further.
11	Based on figures compiled by the Assessor's
12	Office Wayne County Assessor's Office, coal tax
13	revenue by Argus and Rock Spring Development and three
14	other coal-related industries declined from 1,702,000 to
15	1,340,000 from 2013 to 2016 a total decrease of 21
16	percent.
17	Personal property for this period saw a
18	total decrease of 22 percent, while the real estate
19	taxes for this period decreased by 5 percent. That
20	doesn't even get into the leased properties that they
21	leased for coal that when they're no longer mineable,
22	that value disappears too. With that value
23	disappearing, so does our revenues.
24	Even more a telling statistic is the

1	increase in tax delinquencies and, Senator Capito, I
2	think you touched on this by these industries for the
3	period. In 2015/2016 Rock Springs Development had a
4	total tax delinquency of \$2,426,000, while Argus and
5	Lincoln Leasing have tax delinquencies of 380,000 and
6	\$137,000 respectfully.
7	This resulted in the net loss of \$3 million
8	in coal tax revenues to Wayne County. The loss
9	constitutes a \$2,371,000 loss in tax revenues to Wayne
10	County Board of Education who is now struggling because
11	of these losses, and \$810,867 lost in general county
12	revenues revenues which are critical for our
13	education system and general county operations. And I
14	have shown on Exhibit 2 here the by from fiscal
15	year '13 to fiscal year '16 the decline in the values
16	and revenues that we have now to work with.
17	And as mentioned before too, I've worked at
18	the Wayne County Courthouse for 39 years. 31 of which
19	has been served either elected official as county clerk
20	or county commissioner. And during that time and I
21	was the bookkeeper and I know I do not believe that
22	Wayne County has been so challenged to provide for its
23	citizens that it is now experiencing, and the forecast
24	for the foreseeable future is very bleak.

1	So I hope that this has been some kind of
2	informative thing that you can use and you can take back
3	with you and know that this comes from the ground.
4	Thank you very much.
5	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you, Commissioner.
6	Our next panelist is Jimmy "Bo" Copley who is a coal
7	miner here in Southern West Virginia. He's also a
8	family man. And he's going to tell his story to all of
9	us. Thank you, Bo, for coming.
10	MR. COPLEY: Senators Capito, Manchin,
11	Congressman Jenkins, thank you for having me here today.
12	As I said, my name is Bo Copley. I'm a 39-year-old
13	child of God, I'm a husband to one, a father to three, a
14	proud West Virginian and unfortunately a former coal
15	miner.
16	I was formally employed at Coalmac,
17	Incorporated in Holden, West Virginia, which is a
18	subsidiary of Arch Coal in St. Louis, Missouri, and I
19	was employed there from July 26, 2004 to September 18,
20	2015. My duties at that job were that of a maintenance
21	planner, EMT, rescue team member and a certified surface
22	mine foreman.
23	Just slightly over a year ago, I was
24	notified that my services were no longer needed due to a

1	reduction in force, and we were told that we wouldn't
2	have to see that kind of reduction possibly until the
3	beginning of 2016. But unfortunately, that wasn't the
4	case. We were the only company in Arch Coal that had
5	not suffered such a loss in workforce.
6	Every Monday during our weekly safety
7	meetings we were told how increasingly difficult it was
8	becoming to acquire mining permits due to EPA
9	regulations. Weekly we were told how fortunate we were
10	to not have our pay cut and how fortunate we were to
11	even be mining and still working in general. My duties
12	as a maintenance planner required me to work in an
13	office. That's where I saw numerous state and federal
14	mine inspectors that would come to our jobs as they
15	started their inspections.
16	With increasing regulations forcing other
17	mines to close, we'd see more and more inspectors on our
18	job. At one point we had 12 inspectors on our property
19	on the same day. They told us that they were all there
20	because they had nowhere else to go. Many times we
21	would see underground inspectors who had no idea what
22	they were looking at because they had never been on a
23	surface mine. What would that would lead to more
24	violations because of their interpretation of our laws.

1	And as we all know, more violations lead to higher costs
2	per ton, higher cost per ton leads to less profits and
3	less profits lead to job loss.
4	My job also required me to build
5	relationships with vendors that performed various tasks
6	related to our industry. As each major coal corporation
7	has faced bankruptcies and downsizing, every vendor down
8	the line has had to face the same ramifications of those
9	actions. From large companies like Walker Machinery to
10	smaller, locally owned companies like Guyan Heavy
11	Equipment, every vendor that's related to our industry
12	has taken their share of loss due to this
13	administration's EPA overreach. For every coal mining
14	job lost, there are countless more that are also
15	affected.
16	Heavy equipment vendors face the hardship of
17	trying to keep people working versus making a profit.
18	School administrators face decreased funding because
19	their enrollments have dropped due to people moving to
20	find work. Many commercial businesses locally have
21	closed their doors due to the lack of spending in our
22	region, and many small business owners just like my
23	wife see a decline in their business because people
24	don't have extra money to pay for things that are

1	outside of their necessities. Our entire state feels
2	the ramifications of a targeted industry.
3	My family has been very fortunate to have my
4	wife's photography business to help sustain us in what
5	otherwise would be a very dark time, but many coal
6	miners don't have that luxury. They don't have the
7	second income to depend on like we do.
8	For many years coal mining has produced
9	great wages that have allowed spouses the opportunity to
10	be stay-at-home parents and to be able to do the various
11	things that are vital for a family to operate and
12	function properly. For a long time, my wife didn't
13	she didn't have a second job. She didn't have the small
14	business because we felt it was more important for her
15	to be at home to raise our children so we didn't have to
16	put them in daycare, and working in a coal mine provided
17	us that opportunity.
18	Finally, but definitely most importantly,
19	our family's faith in God as our provider,
20	Jehovah-Jireh, has allowed us to be able to carry on
21	with our everyday life. Our God is able to bring his
22	people through any circumstance that they may face, and
23	we believe that West Virginian's unwavering faith in God
24	is what will separate us from those who mean to do us

1	harm. Our faith in Him will guide us to the type of
2	people and leaders that will ultimately lead us to
3	prominence.
4	While coal is not a nonrenewable energy
5	source, I believe that He has given us this resource to
6	provide clean and affordable energy. I also believe
7	that He will lead us to elect the type of people that
8	will allow us to use this energy source until a better
9	all-around source is available to compete with, if not
10	eventually take its place.
11	I want to thank you again for the
12	opportunity to be here today and to speak before this
13	committee, to share concerns on behalf of so many
14	people. In our great state it is a tremendous honor
15	that I don't take lightly, and I pray that I'm able to
16	represent the people of this state in a way that shows
17	the honor and dignity that they truly deserve.
18	So have a good afternoon and God bless you.
19	SENATOR MANCHIN: Thank you. That certainly
20	is honor and dignity. Thank you.
21	Our next panelist is Ms. Karan Ireland with
22	the West Virginia she's the program director for West
23	Virginia SUN. She's also an at large member of the
24	Charleston City Council

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1	MS. IRELAND: That's correct.
2	SENATOR CAPITO: and on Urban Renewal in
3	Charleston.
4	MS. IRELAND: Yes.
5	SENATOR CAPITO: So you're my city
6	councilwoman.
7	MS. IRELAND: Yeah. Absolutely.
8	SENATOR CAPITO: Welcome.
9	MS. IRELAND: Thank you, Chair Capito.
10	SENATOR CAPITO: And yours too.
11	MS. IRELAND: That's right.
12	Thank you Chair Capito and Senator Manchin
13	and Congressman Jenkins for the opportunity to talk here
14	today. So I'm talking to you as both a person who works
15	in renewable energy and also as an elected official that
16	is responsible to my constituents and who knows
17	intimately what it's like to fight to retain and attract
18	population and make sure that people have a way to make
19	a fair living. And I'm also here as a proud West
20	Virginian. I and I really appreciate hearing
21	Mr. Copley's comments.
22	West Virginia SUN is a nonprofit that helps
23	communities start their own solar co-ops. So when
24	people are interested in going solar, that can be a

1	sometimes complex process if you don't know what
2	questions to ask. So we help communities come together
3	and learn more about solar power, and we help them with
4	competitive bids and help them ultimately install solar
5	arrays usually on their homes but sometimes on their
6	businesses.
7	And part of our overall goal is to scale the
8	solar industry in West Virginia, and I wanted to talk a
9	little bit about the economic opportunities related to
10	increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency as
11	part of West Virginia's compliance under the Clean Power
12	Plan.
13	When I started with West Virginia SUN one
14	year ago just a little bit over a year ago, as I
14 15	year ago just a little bit over a year ago, as I said, we'd go around the state and help different
15	said, we'd go around the state and help different
15 16	said, we'd go around the state and help different communities like Morgantown had a successful co-op,
15 16 17	said, we'd go around the state and help different communities like Morgantown had a successful co-op, Fayette County, Monroe County and we solicit bids.
15 16 17 18	<pre>said, we'd go around the state and help different communities like Morgantown had a successful co-op, Fayette County, Monroe County and we solicit bids. And when I started, it was almost impossible to get a</pre>
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15 16 17 18 19 20	<pre>said, we'd go around the state and help different communities like Morgantown had a successful co-op, Fayette County, Monroe County and we solicit bids. And when I started, it was almost impossible to get a bid from a West Virginia company. And I'm happy to say that a year later, almost all of our bids come from</pre>
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>said, we'd go around the state and help different communities like Morgantown had a successful co-op, Fayette County, Monroe County and we solicit bids. And when I started, it was almost impossible to get a bid from a West Virginia company. And I'm happy to say that a year later, almost all of our bids come from people working in West Virginia West Virginians who</pre>

1	grown. They've outpaced all other job creation forms
2	of job creation by a factor of 12, and so we expect to
3	see that start happening in West Virginia as demand
4	grows.
5	As a member of Charleston City Council, like
6	I said, I'm familiar with the challenges of population
7	loss and what that does to the tax base, what it does to
8	rate payers, and we are consistently seeking new ways to
9	attract and retain young families. It's clear that West
10	Virginia's economy is in transition and has been in
11	transition due to a convergence of factors, and so I'm
12	here today, I guess, just to say that I think we need to
13	take advantage of the opportunities in some of these
14	emerging energy sectors while we have the chance.
15	Finally, as a West Virginian, I understand
16	and appreciate how important coal is to our state and
17	our very identity. I have felt the frustration of
18	talking to friends from out of state who think they have
19	all the answers to climate change or energy policy, but
20	they don't seem to appreciate that they owe we all
21	owe a debt of gratitude for every modern convenience
22	that we have. And that's to the people who have mined
23	coal mined coal in this state, and I do appreciate
24	that. And I'm proud to have stood with UMW workers in

1	demanding safe work practices and the payment of
2	benefits that they worked hard to earn.
3	Compliance under the Clean Power Plan does
4	not mean right now at least no coal. We truly can have
5	an all-of-the-above energy portfolio and at the same
6	time take advantage of the job and wealth creation that
7	comes with investment in emerging energy sectors. In
8	this way, West Virginia can continue to be a leading
9	energy state.
10	We have the flexibility to do that. We have
11	flexibility in how we comply. And energy efficiency and
12	renewable energy should be central to the plan for
13	compliance so that we can at least enjoy the economic
14	gains and the sharp increase in clean energy jobs that
15	we've seen across the rest of the country, and will also
16	help mitigate the negative consequences we see related
17	to compliance.
18	And I want to thank you for having me today.
19	I also like to be in Southern West Virginia so thanks.
20	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you very much.
21	And our final panelist is participated in
22	a similar panel that we had in Morgantown, and I
23	appreciate that. And I appreciate that Mr. James Van
24	Nostrand has returned. He's a professor of law and

1	director of the Center of Energy and Sustainable
2	Development at West Virginia University College of Law.
3	Welcome.
4	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Thank you very much,
5	Senator Capito. It's good to see you, Senator Manchin,
6	Congressman Jenkins again. I really appreciate being
7	invited to this hearing. I appreciate having it being
8	held in Logan County, a very beautiful part of the state
9	and a beautiful day for a drive.
10	I've been in West Virginia only since July
11	2011. I can't claim to have the deep roots that either
12	Karan or Bo or the other panelists have. I can't claim
13	to have a deep understanding of the history and the
14	culture of the state. I've done a lot in the last five
15	years to catch up and to get up to speed on the issues
16	that are important to West Virginia.
17	We've had five energy conferences at WVU.
18	Senator Manchin's keynoted at two of them. Senator
19	Manchin and Congressman Jenkins both participated in our
20	last conference via video.
21	And I got to say, one of things you hear a
22	lot about and Congressman Jenkins mentioned it this
23	morning is the war on coal. And so I've spent a lot of
24	time studying the war on coal the drivers for that.

1	And I guess I characterize them more as the forces that
2	are aligned against the coal industry in West Virginia.
3	But sticking with the war analogy, here is
4	my take on the artillery that's being deployed in this
5	war. First, the main driver is economics primarily
6	cheap natural gas which has been referred to a few times
7	this morning is resulted in massive displacement of
8	coal-fired generation with highly efficient, new
9	combined-cycle combustion turbines. In terms of the
10	artillery in the war on coal, this is the aircraft
11	carrier. It's a Nimitz class aircraft carrier. It's
12	the big dog.
13	Second is geology. The cheap seams are gone
13 14	Second is geology. The cheap seams are gone in central Appalachia. We're working our way up the
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14	in central Appalachia. We're working our way up the
14 15	in central Appalachia. We're working our way up the cost curve. Our coal is more expensive. Our mines are
14 15 16	in central Appalachia. We're working our way up the cost curve. Our coal is more expensive. Our mines are less productive. Not because our miners are working
14 15 16 17	in central Appalachia. We're working our way up the cost curve. Our coal is more expensive. Our mines are less productive. Not because our miners are working less hard, but the the productivity is simply gone.
14 15 16 17 18	in central Appalachia. We're working our way up the cost curve. Our coal is more expensive. Our mines are less productive. Not because our miners are working less hard, but the the productivity is simply gone. The mines are less productive. And in terms of the
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14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>in central Appalachia. We're working our way up the cost curve. Our coal is more expensive. Our mines are less productive. Not because our miners are working less hard, but the the productivity is simply gone. The mines are less productive. And in terms of the artillery of the war on coal, this is probably a destroyer. It's damaging but it's not a game-changer. Third, I would point to climate change. Not</pre>

1	water due to sea level rise or our valleys and hollows
2	continue to be flooded by extreme weather events. It's
3	in the sense that the world gets it. And they aren't
4	going to be buying any more of our coal for exports.
5	And Senator Manchin might know this India
6	signed the Paris Agreement on Sunday and it was
7	ratified. And it's now going to be taking effect
8	because we now have enough countries that are part of
9	that. But in terms of the artillery of the war on coal,
10	this is maybe a submarine. It's underwater but it's
11	having some impact.
12	And then finally what we're here to talk
13	about today, it's the EPA and the Clean Power Plan. And
14	I've read documents from this issue by this
15	administration over the last seven years. I would say
16	there's certainly been a hostility towards mountaintop
17	removal, and there's been a clear desire to address
18	climate change through reducing greenhouse gas
19	emissions. Coal is obviously the biggest source of
20	greenhouse gas emissions.
21	But in terms of its impact, it's something
22	like a shoulder-fired rocket launcher. A tool to be
23	deployed in minor skirmishes, but it's not going to win
24	a war. We're spending all our time and energy talking

1	about the casualties we are suffering in this war from
2	things getting occasionally blown up with a rocket
3	launcher. The real heavy fire is coming from economics
4	and geology and international concern about climate
5	change.
6	I'd like to talk a little bit more about the
7	battleship the aircraft carrier that's the economic
8	forces. There's a revolution underway in the energy
9	industry in the United States. It's not just cheap
10	natural gas. It's wind technology which keeps
11	improving.
12	Charles Patton spoke at our conference in
13	April and talked about Appalachian Power doing an RFP.
14	\$46 a megawatt for a wind farm in southern Indiana.
15	Wind technology keeps getting better. It's more
16	competitive.
17	Solar photovoltaics have gotten so cheap
18	it's a fundamental threat to the utility business model
19	around the country. In many states customers are not
20	that far from being able to drop off the grid entirely.
21	We have energy efficiency demand response. Using
22	technology to help people manage their energy costs.
23	There's truly a revolution underway in the
24	energy industry.

1	And what are we doing about it? How are we
2	doing in West Virginia in that revolution? We're
3	getting killed by friendly fire. For the last several
4	years virtually everything that we have done in this
5	state has been in the wrong direction from what it takes
6	us to position ourselves well in this new energy
7	economy.
8	We've got the alternative renewable energy
9	portfolio standard was passed when Senator Manchin was
10	governor. That was repealed in one of the first actions
11	of the legislature last year. We now have nothing to
12	promote renewable energy in the state. There's nothing
13	to encourage energy efficiency that Karan talks about.
14	The legislature passed a law to handcuff the
15	DEP in developing a compliant strategy for the Clean
16	Power Plan that would minimize the compliance cost for
17	West Virginia be least disruptive to our economy.
18	DEP is handcuffed from adopting the least disruptive
19	plan.
20	The legislature went after net meterings.
21	Well, the solar potential that Karan talks about is very
22	much in peril because there's a cloud of uncertainty
23	hanging over net metering. We have one utility that's
24	positioning to buy an uneconomic coal plant and put in

1	the rate bases in West Virginia as though we're going to
2	win the war on coal they're putting on the backs of West
3	Virginia rate payers.
4	It's a new game in the energy industry.
5	It's about zero carbon or low carbon resources, and the
6	markets that are coming into play as a result of that.
7	It's all about carbon allowances and carbon credits.
8	And as West Virginia get's ready to participate in this
9	new game, we have a zero balance in our account.
10	I know Mr. Trisko talked about subsidizing
11	renewable projects outside the State of West Virginia.
12	It does not need to be that way. We can be building
13	those renewable projects in West Virginia. We can be
14	investing in energy efficiency in West Virginia.
15	And we can we have the resources. We
16	have the people. We can succeed in this new game
17	this new energy economy. But we have a tremendous
18	opportunity, but we need to keep our eye what are the
19	drivers of this change in order to craft a solution
20	that's going to make us be winners in this new energy
21	economy.
22	Thank you very much.
23	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you. Thank you all
24	very much. And now we'll move to the question portion.

1	I will take my five minutes and ask questions, and then
2	we'll just kind of rotate around. So anyway, I want to
3	thank all of you. Very good.
4	Mr. Trisko, you know, one thing that I've
5	wondered about and in your testimony you mentioned that
6	if West Virginia participated in an international or
7	an interstate trading program to meet the demands of the
8	Clean Power Plan, that we would be subsidizing and
9	Mr. Van Nostrand mentioned this too subsidizing other
10	types of energy in other types of state. So just in
11	terms of a in terms of meeting the Clean Power Plan
12	through trading, I've always thought if we've got 96
13	percent coal-fired generation, who's going to want to
14	trade with us? Because what do we really have to offer
15	as a state? And I just feel like it disadvantages us
16	even more.
17	So could you talk a little bit about that
18	for me.
19	MR. TRISKO: Senator, one of the compliance
20	options that is available under the Clean Power Plan is
21	participation in an interstate trading program, either
22	on a tonnage mass basis or an emission rate basis. And
23	the PJM study found generally that the least cost
24	approach for most of the states it evaluated was the

1	interstate rate approach.
2	Now, in effect what that requires is the
3	purchase of emission allowances for states that are coal
4	heavy like West Virginia. The purchase of emission
5	allowances from carbon-free generators such as wind and
6	solar.
7	SENATOR CAPITO: Right.
8	MR. TRISKO: Now, the economics of wind and
9	solar industry are complex and it depends upon whether
10	you're talking about residential solar rooftop kinds of
11	applications, utility scale solar which is a different
12	and more economic option in the long run, but bottom
13	line is that the renewable energy resources are most
14	cost effective where the renewable energy is located.
15	And that is, for example, why Iowa is the
16	wind capital of the Midwest because it has tremendous
17	wind resources and will continue to develop those
18	resources. They've been selling emission reduction
19	credits to other states subject to renewable portfolio
20	standards for many years, and they will continue to do
21	so under the Clean Power Plan.
22	If you want to develop large scale solar
23	applications and it's really only the large scale
24	ones that are economically competitive you go to

1	where the sun shines with the greatest intensity
2	watts kilowatt hour per square meter of land, and
3	that's not in West Virginia. It's in Arizona. It's in
4	New Mexico. It's in California. It's in the sunbelt;
5	it's not here.
6	So, you know, while there may be some
7	applications for rooftop solar and the like in West
8	Virginia, sure that doesn't even dent the State's
9	requirements reduction requirements under the Clean
10	Power Plan.
11	SENATOR CAPITO: So let me just follow up on
12	here because I'm going to kind of keep it under my five
13	minutes in the questioning. So basically if you're
14	buying if West Virginia would have to buy credits
15	which we would have to do, those credits are come at
16	the expense of the state, of the rate payer, and our
17	electricity would go up. I mean, is that would be
18	the result of
19	MR. TRISKO: Correct. The dollars would
20	leave the State of West Virginia
21	SENATOR CAPITO: Right.
22	MR. TRISKO: and this was this was a
23	mainstay of the state and non-state petitioners'
24	arguments last week before the Court of Appeals that

1	this rule requires generation shifting in a way that in
2	effect requires utilities in states such as West
3	Virginia to open their checkbook which is their rate
4	payers' money and subsidize development of new and
5	it has to be new renewable energy development in
6	other states.
7	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you.
8	Mr. Copley, thank you for your testimony and
9	I'm not sure that anything can be added, but I know
10	you're a proud coal miner and we're proud of you.
11	There's been a lot of talk about young people leaving
12	the state. What are you seeing here anecdotally in your
13	church, in your communities? Are people leaving? Are
14	they able to leave? Can they sell their homes? Can
15	they reposition themselves in other jobs? What for
16	the folks who are in positions like you, where are they
17	right now?
18	MR. COPLEY: We've had a lot of people from
19	our community that have either moved to another state or
20	moved away. We see it in our school systems. Mingo
21	Central High School was once four separate schools in
22	our county, but each of those coal mining counties
23	have or excuse me coal mining communities have
24	withered over the last several years.

1	And so you see young people who see jobs not
2	in our area but in other places and they see
3	hopelessness. There's nothing here. There's nothing
4	for us to stay here for. So when they leave school,
5	they leave the state
6	SENATOR CAPITO: Right.
7	MR. COPLEY: or they go to other places
8	where economic opportunity is. And not just in energy,
9	just for economic diversity in general.
10	SENATOR CAPITO: Right. Thank you.
11	Senator Manchin.
12	SENATOR MANCHIN: First of all, again, thank
13	you. Thank all of you for being here. I think to
14	Mr. Van Nostrand, I would like to a few questions.
15	The first I want to say is on the energy portfolio that
16	was repealed in West Virginia had nothing to do with cap
17	and trade. There's not a single word of cap and trade
18	in that.
19	Basically, it said we could utilize coal in
20	a cleaner fashion and get credits. We're the only state
21	to say that. I think it was very short-sighted on what
22	was done there because we were moving to where
23	recognizing if coal was used with more technology, that
24	gave us the credits that we were needing and that makes

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1	no sense to me.
2	MR. VON NOSTRAND: Senator, I've been
3	consistent on the point that cap and trade is the
4	complete misnomer as applied to that. But that was used
5	as the basis for repealing it. What it did have was
6	some measures in there that actually encouraged
7	renewable development because you did have greater
8	credits being allowed if it was renewable energy versus
9	alternative energy.
10	And what the legislature did by repealing it
11	was sending a signal we do not want to encourage
12	renewable energy in West Virginia. And that has been a
13	disservice in terms of positioning us for the new
14	clean
15	SENATOR MANCHIN: Also in that piece of
16	legislation, it had net metering back which they found
17	out that was pretty popular and they were had to pull
18	back off of them. We could get into that all day long.
19	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: They passed another bill
20	that said that PSE needs to avoid cross-subsidization
21	and so there's a cloud over net metering because what's
22	the PSE going to do in cross-subsidization.
23	SENATOR MANCHIN: One thing I want to ask
24	you very quickly, sir. Do you think that the U.S. can

1	basically operate and provide the energy this country
2	needs to be a super power, if you will, and an economy
3	of \$19 trillion EDP in a fossil-free no fossil
4	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: No.
5	SENATOR MANCHIN: anytime soon? So
6	MR. VON NOSTRAND: No. I
7	SENATOR MANCHIN: even though so I've
8	said this. I want you all to know. I'm not a denier.
9	I think the 7 billion people on the planet Earth have
10	we have an impact. We have a responsibility. Now, we
11	can argue all day long how much of an impact humans
12	have, but there's no denying 7 billion people have had
13	an impact. Okay. I'm not a denier.
14	But when I have people saying that we can
15	run this country we can run the world without fossil,
16	they're worse deniers than the people that deny that
17	there's climate change. So until we can get people
18	looking for solutions to move forward, we're not going
19	to solve it. So you're saying that fossil has to be
20	used. Coal and gas and oil will be used.
21	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Senator, I looked at the
22	same EIA data that you referred
23	SENATOR MANCHIN: Right.
24	MR. VON NOSTRAND: to this morning. And

1	coal will continue to play a dominant role in the
2	nation's future, and I what I cited in my testimony
3	was even even without the Clean Power Plan, coal is
4	still
5	SENATOR MANCHIN: Without tax without tax
6	credits, do you think renewables could survive and
7	basically fill what we're we're looking at EIA's
8	looking down the path at renewables are going to have
9	to jump up to 18, 20 percent.
10	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Correct.
11	SENATOR MANCHIN: They're not out of single
12	digits yet. And we keep pouring more and more tax
13	credits to them, when you have coal and natural gas and
14	the things that are carrying the load right now, having
15	no very little research being done. That's what
16	we're talking about. We're trying to get some sort of a
17	balance.
18	We can carry the load, but we need some
19	investment for clean coal technology and how we have
20	more efficient combustibles.
21	MR. VON NOSTRAND: I think a lot of the
22	effort you make in the way of clean coal technology, I
23	think it's more about innovation. That's the way we
24	solve problems in America is we innovate and we solve

1	things and we invent things. So devoting the resources
2	to clean coal technology let's talk about burning the
3	stuff more cleanly and being able to capture the carbon.
4	That's the future. It's not necessarily defending that
5	we need to
6	SENATOR MANCHIN: But if the credits but
7	if the credits right now is about 2, 2 and a half cents
8	per kilowatt hour
9	MR. VON NOSTRAND: 2.5, yes, for wind.
10	SENATOR MANCHIN: for wind okay if
11	that went away and if the other countries don't adopt
12	the
13	MR. VON NOSTRAND: The Paris agreement.
14	SENATOR MANCHIN: tax credits, are they
15	going to be able to fill in and basically bring
16	renewables onboard across the country across the
17	world if you will?
18	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: I think
19	SENATOR MANCHIN: Would they adopt that?
20	MR. VON NOSTRAND: The solar credit is
21	substantial and but I've talked to people in the
22	solar industry. I don't think they think it's necessary
23	if solar prices are going down so rapidly that's it's
24	achieving grid parody. Wind out West they're

1	bringing wind projects online now for
2	SENATOR MANCHIN: We've tried to take it
3	away and they won't let go of it. They keep every penny
4	they can keep.
5	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Well, I don't think we
6	want to get in to all the embedded subsidies that are in
7	the tax code that favor the fossil fuel industry. We'd
8	have an interesting debate about that. It would last
9	for days.
10	SENATOR MANCHIN: So basically you do agree
11	that we cannot operate this country without fossil fuel.
12	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: I would never take that.
13	SENATOR MANCHIN: Okay. We've all got that.
14	MR. VON NOSTRAND: Yes.
15	SENATOR MANCHIN: So nobody's in denial
16	right now.
17	Bo, have you been able to have any job
18	offers since you've left? Have you had any
19	opportunities for jobs since you've left?
20	MR. COPLEY: No, sir. Not really.
21	SENATOR MANCHIN: No jobs at all. Nothing
22	substantial whatsoever
23	MR. COPLEY: No.
24	SENATOR MANCHIN: with benefits or good

1	pay?
2	MR. COPLEY: No. Nothing that would ever
3	compare to
4	SENATOR MANCHIN: Oh, I know the 84, but I'm
5	just saying
6	MR. COPLEY: Yeah.
7	SENATOR MANCHIN: the average job
8	30-\$40,000 in West Virginia, anything in that
9	neighborhood or above that that you've seen?
10	MR. COPLEY: No.
11	SENATOR MANCHIN: Okay. Bob, I don't need
12	to I know what's going on. I know how difficult it
13	is. And the bottom line is is that the severance tax
14	there was a bill trying to reduce the severance taxes
15	they were already paying.
16	MR. PASLEY: Even further, even further.
17	SENATOR MANCHIN: Were you for that or
18	against it?
19	MR. PASLEY: Oh
20	SENATOR MANCHIN: You'd be against that,
21	right?
22	MR. PASLEY: Much so, yes.
23	SENATOR MANCHIN: And it's not going to save
24	one coal job.

1	MR. PASLEY: No.
2	SENATOR MANCHIN: I've talked to coal people
3	and
4	MR. PASLEY: It just benefits those it
5	benefits those that get the credits.
6	SENATOR MANCHIN: So we can't basically
7	it'd degradate our tax base that we have now what
8	little bit we have left.
9	MR. PASLEY: Yeah.
10	SENATOR MANCHIN: And Gene, I guess I would
11	just say to you is that what future do you see where
12	we're going to be at? I mean, we're hoping this the
13	Miners' Protection Act, without that, we throw every
14	health clinic in Southern West Virginia and most all
15	health clinics
16	MR. TRISKO: Most.
17	SENATOR MANCHIN: in jeopardy of staying
18	open. I don't know if people know that or not. If we
19	don't get this passed, our clinics who basically support
20	the retired miners in the communities that have been hit
21	hardest are not going to be able to survive. Is that
22	MR. TRISKO: Absolutely correct, Senator.
23	We support the UMWA funds support the medical
24	infrastructure in Southern West Virginia.

1	SENATOR MANCHIN: Yeah. All right. Thank
2	you.
3	SENATOR CAPITO: All right. Representative
4	Jenkins.
5	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Thank you, Madame
6	Chair. Couple of quick questions.
7	Ms. Ireland, I appreciate the sensitivity
8	and the concern you clearly expressed in the I think,
9	as you say, kind of this challenging balance of an area
10	that you see economic opportunity but fiscal
11	responsibilities in your governing capacity.
12	I took a look at your testimony. I don't
13	remember hearing it, but you referenced that the average
14	wage in the industry is 20 to \$24 an hour in the solar
15	industry. And I guess these are the installers. You
16	referenced a little bit higher for the what you call an
17	inside job. I guess these are the kind of the
18	management people in the office.
19	MS. IRELAND: Right.
20	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Okay.
21	MS. IRELAND: Sales, engineers.
22	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Well, I was struck by
23	your comment and you did use the words these folks can
24	make, quote, "a fair living." I want people to have a

1	good living. And we talked here a moment ago about the
2	average coal miner making well in excess of \$80,000 a
3	year. And I did some quick math. At the 20, 21, \$22 an
4	hour for these solar installers that you think we have
5	real opportunity for, I calculate that to be somewhere
6	in the low \$30,000-a-year jobs. Is my math wrong?
7	MS. IRELAND: I haven't done the math. I
8	mean, you multiple it by 2080 hours.
9	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Well, that's part of
10	the challenge. And, again, I recognize that you are
11	advancing the sense that we have of job opportunities in
12	the solar, but I think it's important that we point out
13	that that may be considered as a fair job. It's a
14	\$20-an-hour job. And should we be focused on trying to
15	grow \$20-an-hour jobs or \$89,000-a-year jobs in coal and
16	that's what I think we've giving up.
17	Mr. Van Nostrand, the I'm fascinated that
18	you're referencing and apparently adopting and accepting
19	some of the EIA numbers and the research of the impact
20	of the Clean Power Plan. You're nodding yes now. Part
21	of the research that's been done and all this talk about
22	climate change and saving our planet and the impact of
23	the adoption of the Clean Power Plan and what was argued
24	before the D.C. Circuit Court, as I understand the

1	research and studies suggest that the benefits the
2	benefits that are argued that full implementation of the
3	Clean Power Plan by 2100 you know, we're in 2016
4	now but full implementation of the Clean Power Plan
5	till the year 2100 at the end so we're talking 84
6	years from now with full implementation, the effects of
7	that will be to reduce temperatures by .018 degrees
8	centigrade, and the reduction in the sea level rise will
9	be I'm going to get it here the equivalent of
10	three pieces of paper.
11	So the economic devastation that we're going
12	to have over it's 2050 less than .3 millimeters.
13	So we're going to reduce the sea level rise by 2050
14	2050, 2-0-5-0 by .3 millimeters, and that's three
15	pieces of paper. And for the benefit of that we're
16	going to have a lot more Bo Copleys. We're going to
17	have a lot more bankrupt, challenging situations in our
18	counties. We're going to have retired coal miners who
19	are going to lose their pensions and widows.
20	Now, I want to ask you, Commissioner and
21	you're going to be mad at me for asking this question
22	because the good Senator on the end said cutting that
23	tax isn't going to save one job, and I want to come back
24	and ask you one more time. Do you think tax policies

1	and rates impact employment? I bet you do. I don't
2	know how anybody can think that taxes don't matter to
3	jobs.
4	MR. PASLEY: Well, they certainly do.
5	That's the whole picture the whole business world
6	picture.
7	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: That's my
8	understanding, so but my so I just I think it's
9	a tough message. And I understand the unique
10	environment of our fiscal house, and I understand your
11	strong responsibility for the fiscal responsibility of
12	Wayne County. You've got a tough, tough situation. But
13	I want to come back to the taxes that employers pay
14	because I bet you're out there promoting tax breaks to
15	attract employers to come in to Wayne County. I know we
16	do to West Virginia.
17	MR. PASLEY: We do to a point, but we have
18	given the farm away. We need people to come in now and
19	set up businesses and hire people and put them to work.
20	This coal severance tax, as the Senator was alluding to,
21	was paid on extraction from minerals from our state, our
22	county. Why don't we get some of that back in our
23	county where it come from?
24	They have raped this state for years from

1	timber and coal and oil and gas. We should be sending
2	rebates back to our citizens like a lot of states do.
3	No one matches our state for natural resources.
4	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: I agree.
5	MR. PASLEY: And so but where does the
6	money go? It's not landing in Wayne County, West
7	Virginia.
8	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Well, it's not landing
9	in Wayne County, West Virginia, because the payers are
10	those that Alpha, and those employers that aren't
11	there anymore. They're not there, and they're not
12	paying taxes as a result. And we're all paying we're
13	all hurting as a result. Wouldn't we like to have those
14	jobs back?
15	MR. PASLEY: Tell me how to do it. Any
16	cost. Let's get it done.
17	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: That's what we're all
18	in this together. Absolutely. To get it done.
19	MR. PASLEY: But they are they have not
20	paid taxes that were due in '14 and '15. We've already
21	operated two years on that. And now they want us to go
22	back and lower those taxes. Below zero? We're not
23	going to send them a rebate check. So there is a
24	they're good, corporate citizens.

1	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Yes.
2	MR. PASLEY: We were blessed with good,
3	corporate citizens, but they have a responsibility as a
4	corporation also to take care of what got them where
5	they are.
6	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: I understand.
7	Absolutely. Thank you.
8	SENATOR CAPITO: I think we're going to do
9	another round if that's okay with everybody. I'm as
10	the Chair, I'm mandating that.
11	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Senator, could I have a
12	chance to respond? I know Congressman Jenkins had a
13	long statement there, but didn't actually ask me a
14	question that would give me a chance to respond to what
15	he said.
16	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Absolutely.
17	SENATOR CAPITO: Yes, please.
18	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Well, first you talked
19	about the economic devastation. I mean, I think most
20	would see this as huge economic opportunities that are
21	being created, and the question is are we going to
22	position ourselves to take advantage of those
23	opportunities.
24	Economic devastation I don't know how you

1	put a price on the calamities that are occurring around
2	the world as extreme weather events occur with more and
3	more frequency. And the damage that we saw in West
4	Virginia, at least some newspapers in this state have
5	attributed that to climate change and extreme weather
6	events caused by increase in concentrations of
7	greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
8	Finally, you're talking about number three
9	on my list of the forces that are affecting West
10	Virginia. You chose to talk about climate change.
11	Let's talk about economics. You talk about economic
12	devastations. Climate change is not doing this to West
13	Virginia. It's economics. It's cheap natural gas.
14	It's cheap renewables. We can we can talk about
15	climate change and we can continue to debate about that,
16	but that is not the big driver of what's happening in
17	West Virginia.
18	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you. I'd
19	MS. IRELAND: Could I also respond I'm
20	sorry. He did ask me a question, and I wanted to answer
21	that more fully.
22	SENATOR CAPITO: Okay. Go.
23	MS. IRELAND: Congressman, you mentioned the
24	\$84,000-a-year jobs, and I understand that that's a good

1	living. But those jobs have been on the decline for a
2	long time, and the Clean Power Plan's not even been
3	enacted. So as a city official, yeah, I will take good
4	jobs that pay between 30 and if you look at the \$44
5	an hour \$80,000 a year and the support that goes
6	along with them marketing, legal, engineering, sales.
7	So that's my answer to that.
8	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you. All right.
9	Now, I want to say something. We have
10	before us on the in a conference committee right now
11	an energy bill. It doesn't address much of what we've
12	talked about today, but it does address one of the
13	topics that's been brought up as a solution to some of
14	our issues in West Virginia. That's energy efficiency.
15	I think all three of us believe and, again, I'm
16	speaking for them but I'm pretty sure we all agree
17	energy efficiency is a goal that we should all be trying
18	to achieve both in the county businesses, in our own
19	homes, in our vehicles and everything.
20	So we are working on this as a Senate at the
21	federal level to push energy efficiency initiatives
22	throughout the entire country, so I agree with that.
23	Mr. Trisko, let's talk about economic
24	impact. My understanding of the Supreme Court came

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back and disallowed the MATS rule on the premise that --1 2 which for those of you who don't know was the previous rule that was -- that has caused a lot of our power 3 4 generation to go by the wayside -- and they turned it 5 back because the EPA had not considered appropriately the economic impact that that rule would have and that 6 7 regulation would have on certain communities. Is that 8 in short the reason? 9 MR. TRISKO: Senator, that is exactly the 10 The historical context is this goes back to the reason. Clinton administration -- the last days of the Clinton 11 12 administration when EPA issued a determination regarding 13 the health impact of mercury. And EPA did not make any 14 findings at that time on the implications of controlling

16 electric generating sector. And that's what the Supreme 17 Court found to be --

mercury -- the cost of controlling mercury from the

SENATOR CAPITO: So in the Clean Power --MR. TRISKO: -- inconsistent with the law. SENATOR CAPITO: In the Clean Power Plan, does not the EPA have the same parameters -- that they have to consider what the cost is? When you look at a small state like West Virginia -- \$47 billion of economic output, 11 billion of household income, 229,000

1	job years by the year 2040.
2	Now, you know, on the other side, there
3	you might say well, it's all going to be worth it
4	because of what we see, you know, moving forward. But
5	we're trying to get a balance here to try to figure out
6	how do you balance the economic and environmental
7	impacts. Was were these economic impacts considered
8	in their regulatory assessment? I'm not satisfied
9	MR. TRISKO: No.
10	SENATOR CAPITO: they were. In short?
11	MR. TRISKO: No.
12	SENATOR CAPITO: No.
13	MR. TRISKO: No. Those calculations are
14	based at root upon changes in the price of coal and
15	changes in the amount of coal that will be shipped and
16	sold as a consequence of the Clean Air
17	SENATOR CAPITO: And these metrics
18	MR. TRISKO: of the Clean Power Plan.
19	SENATOR CAPITO: were not considered?
20	MR. TRISKO: No. No. And there was a
21	cursory look at job impacts. And the agency determined
22	that the overall Clean Power Plan would cost for
23	implementation to utilities on the order of 3 to \$4
24	billion a year. I mean, not as large as the MATS rule

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1	which had been estimated at \$9 billion a year.
2	SENATOR CAPITO: Right. Right.
3	Commissioner, let me ask you this
4	MR. TRISKO: Pardon me. Senator, just
5	add one more point.
6	SENATOR CAPITO: Okay.
7	MR. TRISKO: Since we are talking about the
8	Clean Power Plan which is ostensively the centerpiece of
9	the administration's climate change agenda, EPA did not
10	make any attempt to estimate the climate-related
11	benefits of the Clean Power Plan. All of its benefits
12	assessments were based upon co-benefits from reductions
13	of criteria pollutants such as ozone, sulphur dioxide,
14	PM 2.5.
15	SENATOR MANCHIN: More economic.
16	MR. TRISKO: We've seen it so many times.
17	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you.
18	Mister Commissioner, I think I just read
19	just the other day that one of your neighboring counties
20	here in West Virginia has had a lot of lost a lot of
21	people. Their school system, suffering the same
22	budgetary constraints that you are in Wayne County, were
23	unable to buy science books. Did you read that article.
24	MR. PASLEY: Yes.

1	SENATOR CAPITO: For I think they got
2	them for the middle school but they didn't couldn't
3	get them for either the younger or the high school. I
4	can't recall that.
5	What kind of impacts are you seeing? You
6	mentioned about the business partnerships with your
7	schools. But in terms of being able to run a school
8	system, what are you seeing in Wayne County?
9	MR. PASLEY: Well, now, that department is
10	across the street from the courthouse, and I don't
11	intend to speak for them except the news headline was
12	last week they had a \$1.7 million deficit. Then they
13	were in the news because they could not provide
14	substitute teachers in classrooms, and there were doubts
15	that the children were getting a good education because
16	they herd them all into a commons area because they
17	didn't have the substitute teachers to fill the
18	classrooms.
19	And then they were looking at other they
20	are looking at other ways to cut expenditures, but
21	they they're under so many mandates, both state and
22	federal, that there's only a certain number that they
23	can cut. So they're facing a \$1.7 million loss now,
24	and according to the paper and that doesn't appear

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1	to be anything that's going to change next year even.
2	SENATOR CAPITO: Let me ask you Karan or
3	Ms. Ireland sorry, excuse me you're on city
4	council in Charleston. Charleston is in on the cusp
5	of moving below that critical 50,000 population
6	number
7	MS. IRELAND: Right.
8	SENATOR CAPITO: Right for eligibility
9	for CDGB and other federal benefits. And I know the
10	Mayor. I've talked with him a couple times about it,
11	and it is I think it could be difficult for you as a
12	councilwoman and others to cope with that. Part of the
13	population loss I'm sure is tied to what's gone on
14	even though I couldn't document it
15	MS. IRELAND: Absolutely.
16	SENATOR CAPITO: I'm certain is what's
17	gone on in the coal mining situation.
18	So I guess my question to you would be I
19	think here, again, I'll speak for all of us were
20	all for solar energy. I mean, yeah, that would be
21	great. But as Senator Manchin says, that's not going to
22	replace the 30 percent base load. Sun doesn't shine all
23	the time, and I was just down in McDowell County where
24	it's pretty steep down there. And if you're down in the

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1	hollow, you can't
2	SENATOR MANCHIN: Couple hours.
3	SENATOR CAPITO: It takes a while to find
4	the sun even on a sunny day like today. And so and I
5	know that you don't believe that, you know, this is
6	going to be the replacement for a whole energy.
7	MS. IRELAND: Right.
8	SENATOR CAPITO: You talk about employment
9	as well. Is your business you're in a nonprofit.
10	You're then coordinating
11	MS. IRELAND: Right.
12	SENATOR CAPITO: manufacturers with
13	installers for personal homes. Does somebody call you
14	on the phone and ask you? I mean, does that bring
15	you mentioned in your things that more people are
16	employed in this 300 than have been in the past.
17	MS. IRELAND: Right. So the what we're
18	seeing across the country and West Virginia does have
19	85 percent of the sun that Miami, Florida, has, so we're
20	in a we're well-situated to have people go solar
21	but as we see demand and there are all kinds of
22	reasons that people want to go solar. They might want
23	to save on their electric bills. They might want energy
24	independence. I think someone talked about being off

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1	the grid, so with battery backup you have the ability to
2	have more self-reliance.
3	And as people become more interested and the
4	prices have dropped, we're seeing an upswing in jobs
5	across the country. But it's been slower to come here
6	to West Virginia, and I think I think we're starting
7	to see more of that demand. And so my job is to help
8	those homeowners, small businessowners, farmers
9	someone someone talked about the USDA. They have a
10	great grant program to help those people and connect
11	them with installers.
12	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you.
13	Mr. Copley, let me just ask you a question.
14	This might be I hope this isn't too personal for you.
15	But when you were being informed that you were as you
16	put it, your services were no longer needed, did you
17	receive a warn notice at the time before that?
18	MR. COPLEY: No, ma'am.
19	SENATOR CAPITO: Was that because of the
20	position you held or
21	MR. COPLEY: No. I'm not sure. I actually
22	received a severance package in lieu of a warn notice,
23	so I was compensated somewhat.
24	SENATOR CAPITO: Yeah. Okay. And I'm sure

1	you now and there are probably some in the audience
2	here who have received those warn notices many people
3	that you know. Could you describe for us for the
4	folks that you know you didn't personally experience
5	this but you've I'm certain talked with folks what
6	that feeling is to get that warn notice and know that
7	in 60 days you may or may not lose your job?
8	MR. COPLEY: We see it a lot, especially in
9	our church. We have a lot of people who work for
10	different organizations, people who work union jobs,
11	people who work non-union jobs so a wide array of people
12	in the industry. And I've heard them talk about their
13	warn notices. I've seen spouses who have worried
14	themselves, fretted and talked to their husbands about
15	well, we need to move. We need to leave. We need to do
16	things because I can't wait around for two months to
17	find out if I'm going to have a job or you're going to
18	have a job. What are our kids going to do? What are
19	they going to be facing? We've seen it quite a lot in
20	our communities.
21	And fortunately some of those in our church
22	were spared that, and they were able to continue
23	working. But a lot of them received the same fate that
24	I did. They were went ahead and given their or

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1	not given their notice but actually losing their jobs
2	and being laid off.
3	SENATOR CAPITO: Well, thank you. I would
4	say just and I'll turn it over to Senator Manchin
5	after this the experience that I've had in talking
6	with folks who find themselves in the same position that
7	you're in and the experience that I've had in talking
8	with communities that are affected, the faith community
9	in West Virginia the churches if we didn't have
10	such a strong church and belief system and you
11	pointed this out in your statement to really fill the
12	gaps to help these families, these children that are
13	affected so I know your church has been very active,
14	but I think it's important for us to realize what a role
15	our community our religious community has played to
16	keep us going.
17	Senator Manchin.
18	MR. COPLEY: It's everything for us.
19	SENATOR CAPITO: Thank you.
20	SENATOR MANCHIN: Gene, first of all, Gene
21	Trisko, if I may ask you, this question is asked of me
22	quite a bit about West Virginia has an environmental
23	target on its back by the environmental community not
24	just the environmental community, the State of West

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1	Virginia or in the United States but let's say
2	globally right, wrong or indifferent. Do you think
3	that target is placed because of our mountaintop mining,
4	underground mining, combination of both or people just
5	don't like mining at all?
6	MR. TRISKO: Senator, I don't believe that
7	it has to do with the type of mining that is practiced
8	in West Virginia.
9	SENATOR MANCHIN: So you don't believe
10	mountaintop
11	MR. TRISKO: Mountaintop
12	SENATOR MANCHIN: brings any more
13	attention?
14	MR. TRISKO: No.
15	SENATOR MANCHIN: Okay.
16	MR. TRISKO: Mountaintop removal gets some
17	media and headline attention, and there are some groups
18	who've focused upon that particular issue. The driving
19	force that is impacting West Virginia's longer-term
20	future in terms of its coal industry is climate change
21	and the perception that the utility industry under the
22	Paris agreement eventually will need to move in the
23	direction of decarbonization. And that's a rather
24	frightening prospect.

1	But I would note this, Senator, because you
2	mentioned earlier concerns about electric reliability
3	and the EIA data. The EIA data that I used to construct
4	these estimates of the impact of just going to a 45
5	percent reduction target, which is little more than
6	halfway toward the 80 percent Paris target, those
7	projections by EIA showed that coal nationally would
8	decline from one-third of the supply of electric
9	generation today to 13 percent in the year 2040.
10	Now, most of the difference would be made up
11	by natural gas and renewables. I think it's appropriate
12	for the Congress to initiate to request an inquiry
13	into the impacts not only on electric reliability but
14	on our economy generally and particularly of jobs for
15	the unions that I represent.
16	The impact of a future in which coal is
17	consigned to 13 percent of total U.S. electric
18	generation and that represents only about 200 million
19	tons of national production from a billion tons five
20	years ago because it has very profound implications.
21	And let me cite a historic precedent that is extremely
22	relevant in the climate context.
23	The Clinton administration before going to
24	Kyoto for the negotiations in 1997 for the Kyoto

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1	Protocol, commissioned an interagency task force to
2	evaluate the economic job and environmental impacts of
3	the then considered U.S. commitment which was
4	stabilization of U.S. CO2 emissions at 1990 levels. The
5	administration engaged the Department of Energy, the
6	Department of Commerce, FERC, EPA, all of the relevant
7	agencies, hired a slew of consultants to analyze what
8	will happen to this economy if we go down the road of
9	the Kyoto Protocol.
10	The consultants produced their studies in
11	good faith. The interagency task force evaluated them.
12	Produced a report. Now, the bottom line is this: That
13	that interagency task force commissioned by President
14	Clinton found that the implementation of the Kyoto
15	Protocol would result in the loss of 1 million American
16	jobs.
17	As a consequence of that analysis, President
18	Clinton had the good sense never to submit the Kyoto
19	Protocol to the Senate for ratification. It was then
20	subject to the terms of S. Res. No. 98, the Byrd-Hagle
21	amendment, and President Clinton knew that that
22	agreement could not be ratified.
23	Well, here we are again in the context of a
24	Paris agreement allegedly a voluntary, nonbinding

1	agreement but that nonetheless which contains very
2	ambitious emission targets that are being taken as if
3	they were legally binding upon this country. It is
4	timely for the Congress to request an assessment on the
5	impacts of a second Paris commitment period.
6	EIA used this number 45 percent reduction in
7	this analysis. What kind of number should the United
8	States put forward if we do put forward a number and
9	what are the impacts? In short, we need to look before
10	we leap.
11	SENATOR MANCHIN: Let me say this though
12	I've been saying all along, I said, you know if in
13	China right now it's not CO2 that's killing people; it's
14	SO2. It's particulates. All of us are old enough
15	remember that you couldn't hang your you couldn't
16	hang your laundry on the line what would happen back
17	from the plants being closed or if you went to
18	Pittsburgh and drove through the Fort Pitt tunnels, you
19	couldn't see on the other side.
20	We have cleaned up the environment in the
21	United States more in the last two to three decades then
22	ever in the history of the world. We've done more.
23	SOx, NOx, mercury. Then all of a sudden they hit us
24	with the CO2 and just about shut us out of so I'm

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just saying real quick if I may.
Bo, if I may ask you. If you're talking to
the laid off miners that we have right now and you're
talking to the families that are affected, do they
believe that all of this is because of the overreach of
the Federal Government, EPA and the Obama administration
or do they also recognize that low-price energy such
as so much abundant reserves of natural gas have been
unleashed on us or which ones how would you say they
weight it?
MR. COPLEY: Well, for the most part, the
people that I communicate with, we talk about those
things. We talk about the EPA's overreach more than
anything, and we understand there's an abundance of
natural gas as well. But coal can compete when it's not
regulated as much as it is.
From our understanding, coal is regulated
far more greatly than natural gas is which makes it
harder to produce at an affordable price.
SENATOR MANCHIN: So basically you all would
say if you're talking to your family and friends and
people in that industry, dependent on that industry,
it'd be most of the policy political policies more so
than the market-driven forces.

1	MR. COPLEY: Yes.
2	SENATOR MANCHIN: That's what they believe.
3	Okay. I needed to know that.
4	For the record, Bob, I want to make sure
5	people understand. This severance tax, you're not
6	saying put a new tax on?
7	MR. PASLEY: No.
8	SENATOR MANCHIN: You're saying keep the tax
9	that's been there forever just about the 5 percent.
10	MR. PASLEY: They had served a purpose.
11	SENATOR MANCHIN: Severance.
12	MR. PASLEY: It sent some money back to the
13	coal-producing counties
14	SENATOR MANCHIN: Right.
15	MR. PASLEY: to do the things that we do
16	with them which were good things for our people. I
17	think that's
18	SENATOR MANCHIN: For the record, I'd like
19	to say also so you know that when you do any type of
20	mining on BLM which is the Bureau of Land Mines which
21	is the United States owns this property they charge 7
22	percent. 7 percent severance on coal from the Federal
23	Government's land. We charge 5 percent.
24	But I want to say this also. If it wasn't

1	for the coal industry, we would not have ever privatized
2	workers' comp. We would not have moved forward because
3	it was a .56 cent surcharge that the miners and the coal
4	companies paid that took care of a \$4 billion deficit we
5	had, and we could have never gotten out of that hole
6	without it. So credit has to be given where credit is
7	due.
8	MR. PASLEY: Well, and when it was paid, it
9	was removed.
10	SENATOR MANCHIN: That's exactly that
11	came off. I think we paid it off early, so we showed a
12	good stewardship. Thank you. I know we've gone over.
13	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Thank you, again.
14	SENATOR CAPITO: Yes, Congressman Jenkins.
15	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Bo, one more
16	follow-up. You've articulated very clearly about the
17	plight of those like in your own situation that's been
18	put out of work. One of the things that I hear
19	oftentimes and I've been underground a number of times
20	and talking to coal miners is what they call job scare.
21	So somebody's actually going into the mine today to
22	work. Job scare is you're worried about whether or not
23	you're going to get a layoff slip or a warn notice or
24	pink slip when you come out at the end of the day.

1	Is that on your mind as an active, working
2	coal miner job scare and can that impact your
3	ability to work, work safely, focus on what you're doing
4	or are you thinking about how am I going to provide for
5	my family if because of job scare, I'm going to come
6	out and be put out of work?
7	MR. COPLEY: That's definitely on everyone's
8	mind. I mean, even though we talked about it, like I
9	said, in my statement we were told we would be okay
10	till the beginning of 2016. Every day we sat down and
11	had a meeting to go over our maintenance plans for the
12	day. We would talk about how we were going to do what
13	we had to do and do it safely. Before our managers
14	would come in and we would already be sitting there,
15	everyone was talking about well, what will you do if
16	they come in and tell us we're having a layoff. What
17	will you do if, you know, they tell us at the end of the
18	day, hey, don't come back?
19	So it's on everybody's mind. And whether
20	you want it to be or not, it will cloud your judgment.
21	It will make you lose concentration on the things that
22	you do every day that keep you safe.
23	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Thank you.
24	Gene, you've sat in on the D.C. Circuit

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1	Court to a hearing. One of the aspects of this that I			
2	don't understand is that this current administration is			
3	advancing rules based on laws that were put on the books			
4	40, 45 years ago. And in the rules that are being put			
5	into place today, based on that decades old law, nobody			
6	in the past has ever thought even conceived that what			
7	they're trying to do by rules today was actually			
8	authorized by the law 40, 45 years ago.			
9	Am I off base on that? Because, you know,			
10	part of my feeling is that this administration is not			
11	only using tools in their toolbox, but they're trying to			
12	use tools that aren't even in their toolbox and they are			
13	taking this interpretation of a law from decades ago in			
14	a way that nobody ever conceived of, but they're doing			
15	it to advance their ideological agenda.			
16	MR. TRISKO: Congressman, you're spot on.			
17	The provision that the administration is relying on in			
18	the Clean Power Plan, Section 111(d) of the Clean Air			
19	Act is an oddball provision that does not apply either			
20	to hazardous air pollutants regulated under Section 112			
21	or to criteria air pollutants regulated under 108, 109			
22	and numerous other provisions of the Act.			
23	EPA has used Section 111(d) on only five			
24	occasions in its history mainly for municipal			

1	landfills and unusual kinds of situations. And 111(d)
2	has been used only once since the enactment of the 1990
3	Clean Air Act amendments. And that's indicative of its
4	rare status among Clean Air Act provisions.
5	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: I have a very strong
6	feeling about this another tool that the
7	administration is using in its war on coal, and that is
8	the use and adoption of what they're characterizing as
9	this social cost of carbon. And in my opinion and
10	tell me if I'm off base they have crafted up this
11	concept of a social cost of carbon to justify
12	economically their what I characterize as very
13	onerous regulations that have this economic impact.
14	So they're what can you tell me about
15	this concept of social cost of carbon? Is it in the
16	law? Is it something they've just cooked up to justify
17	their regulations? And it's my understanding that the
18	OMB has even pointedly told the administration with some
19	of their factors you're not even, you know, using the
20	right numbers. What do you know about that issue?
21	MR. TRISKO: Congressman, it is largely a
22	regulatory invention and not a creature of statute.
23	There are numerous conceptual problems with the social
24	cost of carbon which typically is applied in terms of a

1	dollar value per ton of CO2 avoided and based upon a			
2	variety of estimates of avoided damages associated with			
3	climate change sea level rise, temperature increase,			
4	forestry impacts, so and so forth.			
5	And all of those underlying estimates of			
6	future damage function and avoidance miss one			
7	unavoidable fact and that is that this planet is facing			
8	a steadily increasing concentration of greenhouse gas			
9	emissions led largely by emissions by developing			
10	nations not us; not the EU. Those concentrations			
11	will continue into the foreseeable future, not			
12	withstanding the Paris agreement.			
13	Because the facts on the ground in most of			
14	the world and I'm not talking about rich, industrial			
15	nations like the United States or the EU the facts on			
16	the ground are that people need energy in order to			
17	improve their economic conditions, to alleviate poverty,			
18	to provide basic education, healthcare, clean water			
19	services. And they will rely on coal as a mainstay of			
20	that energy future, and that will increase over time CO2			
21	concentrations.			
22	Our social cost of carbon estimates are			
23	purely a fiction of damage avoidance based upon a house			
24	of cards of assumptions of damage avoidance. You need			

1	to be focused upon what's going to happen in the real
2	world, and the rest of the world is more focused upon
3	putting food on the dinner table at night as a primary
4	objective than they are upon reducing their carbon
5	footprints.
6	CONGRESSMAN JENKINS: Thank you.
7	Thank you, Madame Chair.
8	SENATOR MANCHIN: Well, thank you all. I
9	think we've had a great discussion here. I want to
10	thank the panelists particularly. Many of you traveled
11	long distances so thank you for that.
12	I would like to say for the record that my
13	ranking member on the subcommittee, Senator Tom Carper
14	from Delaware, expressed his regret that he was unable
15	to attend today. But he's a he was actually born in
16	West Virginia, but he represents Delaware. So I wanted
17	to make sure that officially we recognize that Senator
18	Carper did try to make this hearing today.
19	And with that, we'll adjourn the hearing and
20	thank you all.
21	(Hearing concluded at 2:58 p.m.)
22	
23	
24	

1	CERTIFICATION
2	
3	This is to certify that the attached EPW
4	hearing held before Senator Shelley Moore Capito on
5	October 5, 2016, was held according to the record, and
6	that this is the original, complete and true and
7	accurate transcript that has been compared to the video
8	record.
9	
10	
11	
12	Manly A. Mand
13	Marilyn Highland
14	Court Reporter
15	
16	
17	
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