

My name is Joy Staveley, and I'm a small business owner from Flagstaff, Arizona. I want to thank our Republican Congressional members for holding this forum and providing us an opportunity to address some of the important issues facing our state and our country. I live in Arizona's First Congressional District, and I wish my Congresswoman was here to hear about how the Obama EPA is strangling our rural communities.

My husband Gaylord and I own Canyoneers, the oldest Colorado river rafting company in the Grand Canyon. We are an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, offering both motorized and oar trips, ranging from 3 to 14 days, in the Grand Canyon. My husband has had the business for over 50 years now. I started working in the business with him 35 years ago, after meeting him on a Canyoneers river trip. Over that time span, I've done pretty much everything in the company except pilot a raft and fix a motor.

I'm dismayed by the EPA's attacks on the Arizona economy. The troubles our state is having with the Administration that have been discussed here today defy logic. The regional haze situation in particular blows my mind. The EPA is forcing billions of dollars of mandates on coal-fired power plants in a supposed effort to reduce non-existent haze at our national parks. But even the federal government's own studies say it will have a negligible impact to the naked eye. They were wrong about the Mojave Generating Station, and they are wrong now about our Navajo Generating Station. What's really upsetting is-- I believe they know it!

I met my husband at the Grand Canyon. I was married on the rim of that Canyon. I conduct business at the bottom of that canyon all season long. I do not believe the Navajo Generating Station is causing a regional haze problem at the Grand Canyon. The Navajo Generating Station and our other coal-fired power plants play a critical role in our local economy. They provide a large amount of low cost, base load energy, that is critical to keeping our utility costs low.

Arizona has its own coal, but not natural gas. We have affordable water and power in AZ because of our utility capacity. Coal is cheap, affordable and available in the U.S. Arizona's coal is clean! Here in Arizona, we do not want a voluntary rolling blackout program like California has! We want reliable power.

We have to keep our overhead costs under control to ensure we are a profitable business. Our office utility bills, our river truck and boat gas prices, as well as the transportation costs getting our guests to and from the river, are a huge part of that. If the Administration continues to attack our affordable electricity and fuel sources, it will put our small business, and many other small businesses, at risk.

My business depends entirely on people's ability to vacation and recreate. When the economy is struggling and people are forced to tighten their belts, leisure activities like canyon tours are the first thing people cut out of their budget. Arizona is a big tourism state. I'd like to add that Canyoneers is one of 16 Grand Canyon rafting companies based in AZ. Together, we carry over 19,000

passengers each year and bring in combined revenue of over \$35 million per year, and this doesn't even include what our out of state passengers spend in AZ pre and post trip on lodging, meals, gifts and other activities. We pay over \$2.5 million in franchise fees to the U.S. Treasury and employ over 600 people per year. The seasonal payroll alone for AZ based employees is over \$4 million. We cannot afford the Obama Administration's anti energy policies.

The Arizona economy, and my business in particular, is dependent on Arizona's natural beauty. We all want to protect it. I am proud to say that our company received the Take Pride in America stewardship award from President Reagan. But the Obama Administration is doing little to protect our treasure, and doing a lot to hurt our pocket books and reduce our quality of life by slowly dismantling our coal operations. We've got to reign in the EPA, because right now, it's truly running wild!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and please keep up the fight!