Good afternoon. My name is Timio Archuleta. I am a Senior Business Agent and Industrial Organizer with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 111 located in Denver, Colorado. I work with 3,500 local 111 members who are employed in many classifications of work by electric and gas utilities, including co-ops, throughout Colorado.

I am here today to talk about the EPA’s Clean Power Plan Proposal and the negative effects that it will have on reliability and affordability for many States, LIKE Colorado.

Under the Clean Power Plan, the reliability of the electric grid will suffer. 90 percent of the plants that will be closed by EPA’s most recent final rule – the Mercury and Air Toxic Standard (MATS) were needed to provide power during last winter - one of the coldest and snowiest winters on record. Taken together, MATS and the Clean Power Plan will close nearly 100 gigawatts of coal-fired generation, severely compromising grid reliability particularly during winter cold snaps and summer heat waves.

Access to affordable energy is of the most utmost importance to Colorado. Every dollar spent on electricity is a dollar that cannot be spent on groceries, next year’s family vacation, housing or education, to name a few. Local 111’s members are very concerned with the negative impact on electricity prices. Here in Colorado we have considerable experience as to what happens when you remove coal generation from the mix of fuel diversity. Colorado has been shutting-down coal plants as the state transitions to natural gas and renewables. It has not been a smooth or just process. In Pueblo, Black Hills Energy chose to replace almost all its coal generation with natural gas in a very short period of time resulting in a 26 percent rate hike since 2010. Please know that Pueblo is not wealthy; you won’t confuse it with Vail or Aspen. It has a poverty rate of 18.1 percent. Without question, residents have been hurt by the quick transition to natural gas. Whether or not EPA admits it, the quick transition required by the Clean Power Plan will cause pain throughout the country, not just in Colorado.
It is important that the government implement policies that will insure affordable, reliable energy to our families' farms, factories, and small business. 52,000 permanent, direct jobs in the utility, rail, and coal mining sectors and 100,000 indirect jobs will be lost because of this proposal. These are good paying jobs with benefits that sustain the family farm, small business, even the country store. This will ultimately cause ghost towns in parts of rural Colorado.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. In conclusion, I ask that you keep Americans in mind as you promulgate rules that adversely affect us - the WORKING CLASS AMERICANS.