

COMMISSIONERS

March 8, 2015

Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee
 200 East Colfax Avenue
 Denver CO 80203

Dear Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Committee Members,

The Moffat County Commissioners support SJR15-021, recognizing the importance of coal to the Colorado economy.

Moffat County is a top coal producing county in Colorado and Moffat County houses the largest coal workforce in Colorado which serves Twentymile Mine, Colowyo Mine, Trapper Mine, and Deserado Mine. Our top 10 taxpayers are all energy related industry. Our number one taxpayer is Tri-State Generation and Transmission, the 2nd largest coal fired power plants in Colorado. Trapper Mine and Colowyo Mine are number 4 and 5 on the Top 10 list of taxpayers.

Tri State's power plant supplies power as far away as California and Washington. Community concern with upcoming EPA restrictions and Colorado Clean-Air Clean Jobs Act are causing our citizens employed at local coal companies to relocate employment outside of Moffat County to support their families. We anticipate the decreased property tax valuation in 2016 due to each miner leaving impacting all our taxing districts, the largest of which is the Moffat County School District. The local hospital will also endure a downward spiral due to fewer people needing health care and the ability to attract new providers impacting the health and well-being of the community. The power plant and local coal mines are the economic tax base with the highest assessed valuation generating 28% of combined property tax as of 2014, and provide the majority of primary jobs in Moffat County.

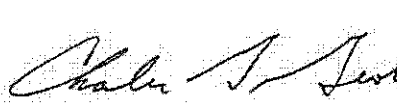
According to Colorado Dept of Local Affairs Colorado Employee Residence Report for fiscal year 2014, out of 1,912 Colorado Coal Employees in Colorado, 627 of those employees reside in Moffat County or 32.8% of the State total. As of December 2014, 807 miners work out of the 4 mines listed above with 77.7% of those miners residing in Moffat County. The 4 mines had 13,022,515 tons of coal in production in 2014. This is a reduction of 2,620,105 tons of coal since 2009.

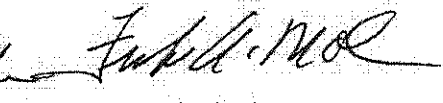
In addition, the number of miners residing in Moffat County decreased 158 from 2009 to 2014. These are high paying wages compared to tourism based communities. The average coal miner earns \$76,532 with \$21,172 of disposable income being spent in Moffat County. A decrease of 158 miners in Moffat County, equates to a reduction of \$3,345,176 in local sales in Moffat County, a negative impact to our local economy. In addition, if those 158 miners had a two child household, its impact on the local school district is \$6,670 per student or \$2.1 million annually.

As you can see by the above statistics any effort to reduce the viability of the coal industry or coal related jobs will have a devastating affect on Moffat County, both socially and economically. We respectfully urge your support of SJR15-021.

Sincerely,


John Kinkaid, Chairman
Moffat County Commissioner


Charles G. Grobe, District 2
Moffat County Commissioner


Frank Moe, District 3
Moffat County Commissioner