



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) I write to express ATR's strong support for using the Congressional Review Act to repeal the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSM) Stream Protection Rule.

**The OSM's Stream Protection Rule is an egregious and unlawful example of federal regulatory overreach that infringes on the authority of state regulatory bodies, is wholly unnecessary, and will impact the livelihood of millions of Americans.**

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act instructs that States are to be the primary regulators of coal mining. In drafting the Stream Protection Rule, OSM failed to comply with these instructions, instead moving forward without real or meaningful involvement from the public or the relevant state agencies that are tasked with regulating 97 percent of the coal mines in the U.S.

The Department of Interior's own reports show that essentially all coal mines have no off-site impacts, that lands are being restored successfully, and mines are being operated safely and in accordance with existing state and federal regulations. The Stream Protection Rule is simply a regulation in search of a problem.

It is also the case the OSM rule will have far reaching impacts on the American economy. The rule threatens one-third of the nation's coal mining work force and would remove half or more of total U.S. coal reserves from future production. The rule would also drive up electricity costs for American consumers and could reduce state and federal tax revenue by over \$6 billion annually.

I urge you and your colleagues in Congress to use the authority granted under the Congressional Review Act to repeal the OSM's Stream Protection Rule.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist  
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