



CITY OF GILLETTE

Mayor's Office

P.O. Box 3003 • Gillette, Wyoming 82717-3003
Phone 307.686.5203 • Fax 307.686.1593
www.gillettewy.gov

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Energy Capital of the Nation, I write to support the Congressional Review Act Resolution to repeal the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSM) Stream Protection Rule.

Our region is located between Yellowstone National Park and the Black Hills of South Dakota, near the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming. Our counties -- Campbell, Converse, Johnson, Sheridan, Crook and Weston -- hold 298 mines altogether and are located in the Powder River Basin, the single largest source of coal deposits in the world.

The top 10 producing coal mines in the country are located in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin. These mines produced about 275 million short tons in 2012 – roughly three times the production of second-place West Virginia.

Further, the Powder River Basin's coal contains 15 times less sulfur than eastern coal, so it burns cleaner, releasing fewer greenhouse emissions. That has made it a top choice to use in coal-fired power plants, which generate about half of the nation's electricity. Wyoming's cleaner-burning, low-sulfur coal provides nearly 33 percent of the coal used in these plants.

The December 2016 OSM Stream Protection Rule significantly changed hundreds of regulations threatening our nation's coal mining workforce. The states and their agencies that are responsible for enforcing federal mining regulations were not even included during the previous Administration's rulemaking process; nor were Wyoming's successful state regulations considered.

We are confident our coal mines have no off-site impacts, and we would very much like to show you that our mined lands are being restored successfully under existing federal and state regulations.

Wyomingites live amongst coal mines and lead active lifestyles in the outdoors. We would not allow our major industry to contaminate the water we drink and the air we breathe, and we are absolutely confident in our state's current regulations. Therefore, I respectfully request your full support for the Congressional Review Act Resolution to repeal the OSM's Stream Protection Rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Carter-King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise Carter-King
Mayor