



RICH NOLAN
President & CEO

September 2, 2021

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

I am writing concerning the upcoming markup on the House Natural Resources Committee's reconciliation bill. The National Mining Association's (NMA) coal members strongly oppose the many partisan provisions included in the committee's reconciliation bill text. The inclusion of these harmful policies in a reconciliation bill are clearly the wrong place for thoughtful consideration to occur.

The provisions included in the reconciliation bill create excessive royalties, increase minimum rental rates, alter deferred coal bonus payments, create uncertainty by halving lease terms, establish minimum severance fees, and entirely eliminate royalty relief offered within the federal coal leasing program. These destructive policies will impair the delivery of affordable and reliable electricity at a time when our economy is still recovering from a global pandemic.

Further, these provisions deliberately ignore the continued bipartisan commitment of Congress and the Biden Administration to reduce emissions by growing the deployment and utilization of carbon capture, maintain skilled, high-paying jobs, and deliver an all-of-the-above energy mix to hard working Americans. They also weaken the integrity of the Department of the Interior's (DOI) forthcoming review of the Federal Coal Leasing Program, which has requested information as to whether or not the current regulatory framework should be changed and how the leasing process should work, including when and where to lease.

The federal coal leasing program has been a national energy and economic success story. According to DOI's own recent Notice of Intent, the program has provided more than \$9 billion in federal, state and local revenues over the last decade, while also providing a low cost, reliable source of energy for all Americans.

The NMA remains committed to promoting economic growth and job creation throughout the nation. We would like to partner with you on policies that improve the emissions performance of the electricity generation fleet while also recognizing the realities confronting a much smaller domestic coal industry. As such, I urge you to remove these damaging provisions from the reconciliation bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Nolan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rich Nolan