



Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
United States House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

May 5, 2025

Dear Chairman Westerman,

The American Coal Council (ACC) is writing in support of the reconciliation text presented by the House Committee on Natural Resources supporting American mining, specifically coal. The ACC uniquely represents the entire coal supply chain, a vital industry and way of life for millions of Americans.

Coal supports economic prosperity, but renewable energy mandates, fossil fuel restrictions, and power plant closures threaten grid reliability and our economic future. Utilizing coal resources to address global energy competition and modernize infrastructure is essential.

We must foster a regulatory environment encouraging investment and innovation in the coal sector, guided by reliability, resilience, and security. With supportive policies, technological advancements, and a commitment to energy dominance, coal will remain vital to America's energy strategy.

The coal industry in the western states is important for state economies. For example, Wyoming employed 5,118 individuals in 2023 with an average salary of \$103,000. Additionally, for each individual employed at the mine, there are two additional workers employed in support of mining activities. These numbers were lower compared to 2011 when Wyoming coal employment was at 7,004.

American Coal Council Federal Policy and Legislative Priorities are aligned with the House Natural Resource Committee as referenced below.

The ACC supports the modernizing the federal coal program by adjusting the federal coal royalty rate to reflect the current state of the industry. Supporting a reduction to 7% per ton of coal from the current 12.5%, which will increase the coal supply, reduce the cost of coal-based energy and products, and increase aggregate Federal revenues.

Support permitting reform legislation that provides long-term regulatory certainty. Addressing the NEPA requirements should be part of any permitting reform legislation.

Repeal the decisions in Buffalo, Miles City, and Rock Springs Resource Management Plans (RMP), thus increasing coal resource access by lifting all federal coal leasing moratoriums and restoring balance to federal RMP's.

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Support Bonus Bid Reform on federal coal to ensure access to economically viable federal coal.

This reform would allow operators to mine coal as they pay the bid and establish an accurate market price for the cost per ton.

Support the authorizing the mining of all Federal coal reserves leased under Federal Coal Lease MTM 97988 in accordance with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification.

The ACC is committed to advancing a future where coal continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for coal and America.

Kind Regards,

Emily Arthun

CEO, American Coal Council