

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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July 22, 2025

Senator Steve Daines
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Congressman Ryan Zinke
512 Cannon House Office Building
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Senator Tim Sheehy
124 Russell Senate Office Building
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Congressman Troy Downing
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Members of the Montana Congressional Delegation:

I write today in support of S.J.Res.61 and H.J.Res.104, which express congressional disapproval of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) amendment to the Miles City Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA). This amendment, if implemented, would put the future of Montana coal in the Powder River Basin at risk with disastrous consequences for energy reliability and national energy security.

The RMPA is the result of a four-year attack on traditional, made-in-America energy by the previous administration. Instead of supporting American energy sources, the Biden administration left no stone unturned in its attempt to weaponize government against fossil fuels, like coal. The actions taken by the previous administration drove up the cost of energy during a time of historic inflation that made it harder for families across Montana and the United States to put food on the table and gas in their vehicles. Thankfully, under President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, and the Republican Congress, those days are over, and an era of American energy dominance has begun.

The Biden administration's RMPA would remove more than 338 million tons of federal coal in Montana from leasing consideration and would isolate 100 percent of Montana's State trust land coal reserves, equating to 1.54 billion tons. That amounts to a loss of \$4.32 billion in future revenue to State trust land beneficiaries, which include K-12 public education in Montana. This would have a drastic and direct impact on the availability of reliable energy production in Montana as well as the job security for hundreds of Montanans who are employed by our coal industry.

Putting the Biden administration's misguided policy blunders aside, the RMPA also violates the law set by Congress. The Biden-era RMPA runs afoul of the multiple use mandate set for BLM in the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). FLPMA directs BLM to manage lands and subsurface minerals "in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic

sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber.” This RMPA clearly violates that directive by restricting all future coal leasing in the Powder River Basin.

As you know, the need for more energy is increasing dramatically. According to a recent report from the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, electricity demand in western states is projected to grow more than 20 percent in the next 10 years, double the rate of growth projected only three years ago. President Trump and the administration recognize that new technological advancements, including the development of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, will require a drastic increase in energy production and baseload power to meet energy needs over the coming decades. The President’s Executive Order 14261 entitled “Reinvigorating America’s Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241” outlines the necessity to expand coal production to meet growing energy demands. Utilizing the Congressional Review Act to overturn the RMPA is another step in restoring American energy dominance and allowing Montana to meet current and future energy needs.

In conclusion, overturning the Miles City RMPA will result in increased capital investment into in eastern Montana; more revenue for Montana schools, roads, and public safety; and ultimately protect the jobs of hardworking miners, who help fuel our economy. Thank you for your swift action and leadership in preserving Montana’s coal and mining industry. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me for anything. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Gianforte', followed by a large, stylized blue star.

Greg Gianforte
Governor