

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Armand Southall, Regulatory Specialist  
Office of Natural Resource Revenue  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25165, MS 61030A  
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform  
Docket No. ONRR-2012-0004; DS63610000  
DR 2PS0000.CH7000 156D0102R2

Dear Mr. Southall,

We at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church in Portland Oregon are committed to doing the most we can to help care for our God-given Creation and to preserve it for all its inhabitants and their descendants. We are also committed to combating climate change as a critical social and environmental justice issue.

It is our understanding that the Office of Natural Resource Revenue is allowing private coal companies to minimize their payment of royalties for mining coal on federal lands. This process amounts to subsidizing the coal companies and is urgently in need of reform. We believe that these subsidies are unfair to taxpayers and only encourage dependence on one of the most polluting forms of fossil fuel. Most importantly they are incompatible with the nation's efforts to combat climate change.

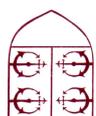
Regardless of the royalties they pay to government, we object to allowing coal companies to sell our nation's coal, a commodity that resides on federally owned land. The fact that they can then export it to Asia at a vast profit is fundamentally unfair. To begin with, the mining process is intensely damaging to our land and water. Then, when the coal-based pollution floats back over us here in Oregon, damaging our air and our health, "unfair" becomes a truly terrible idea.

As Christians and Episcopalians who care for Creation and seek environmental and economic justice, we believe that you should end the federal coal-leasing program altogether and do everything in your power to keep publicly owned coal in the ground.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Christopher Craun, Rector  
St. Michaels & All Angels Episcopal Church

cc. Secretary Sally Jewell  
cc. Senator Ron Wyden  
cc. Senator Jeff Merkley



We the community of St. Michael's & All Angels are committed to educating ourselves about climate change and reducing our carbon footprint. We understand the federal coal leasing program is currently being reviewed. This program sells coal from publically owned lands to markets in Asia where it is sold for a huge profit to corporations which in turn shield themselves from royalty payments. It's not fair to the U.S. taxpayer and it's not economically just because it doesn't distribute wealth from our natural resources evenly.

Most importantly use of coal is a huge contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and undermines efforts to curb global warming. It makes no sense to send coal to Asia now and pay for the cost of climate change remediation later. We urge you to keep dirty coal in the ground where it belongs.

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