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Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform

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General Comment

The proposed rule has entirely too much uncertainty. When the proposed tax benefits the Federal Government it is fine, but when the coal is being sold at a loss they don't want to use the same philosophy. Basically we will tax you on what monies we think you made on a product, not the actual money you did earn. I am glad that language isn't in my individual taxes. If you want to use a figure to base taxes on it should be universal, if the coal was sold for \$1 a ton or \$15 a ton. If that gives a coal company a credit, or negates any taxes owed, so be it.

This proposed rule seems to ignore the democratic process completely. The Department of the Interior gets to determine this? This process takes the democratic process and disregards it. Taxes without representation will be next, will we need another Boston Tea Party. This decision should not solely be in the hands of the Department of the Interior.

This will punish coal companies and those companies that provide services to the coal companies. If your coal companies stop exporting coal, how much tax revenue will you see than? Can you also see the massive impact this will have to the economic stability of towns and cities where coal miners live, attend school, church and shop? The words ghost town are coming to mind. If there are no jobs for people at these mines, the cities and towns will be negatively impacted. The taxes the coal companies already pay fund much of the states education and other expenses. This would have a major impact on the budget the states have. In the current budget crisis, I don't think we can afford to have more monies taken away from the budget.

There needs to be more study and review by more than one department. One person can not draw a rule for the federal government and just so happen to be the same person who would write the law

Montana. That to me seems to be a conflict of interest.