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General Comment

I am a coal miner since late 2006, before that I was a gold and copper miner, since 1995.

In my past experience with unreasonable increases to taxes on gold which led to several thousand people being out of work at multiple companies in another state the devastating loss of income to all the folks that support the mining industry and the people that lost their jobs as a result left the local areas and their governments that were counting on the tax money from gold production devastated with shortfalls to fund new schools and all the great things the money was being used for, an income source that did not exist in this state without mining.

If it isn't grown it must be mined. An abundance of cheap electricity provided by coal and other natural resources in the United States allows for economic growth and prosperity and a better standard of living for our entire society.

You don't speed up an economic train by slowing down the engine; cheap raw materials for building things and cheap energy for use in building them makes the outstanding prosperity America has enjoyed a reality without coal mining being profitable the very prosperity of America will suffer.

Putting a rule in place that allows coal sales to be taxed by any method deemed correct by the D.O.I. can stifle the profitability of coal mines which means reductions in good high paying jobs with excellent benefits, something the State of Montana and the United States sorely needs in these economic times which have been lean at best for many.

A rule put in place that may stifle coal mining profitability will be a rule that works against the taxpayers, miners, and all the industries that support the mining industry and the economic health of our nation as a whole.

We are willing to pay our fair share of tax but a rule that will not allow you to plan for what that amount is makes it risky to invest in further mining which leads to further prosperity.

Please consider that putting a rule in place that hurts coal mining can hurt a lot of people and restrict or remove access for many to the prosperity and happiness America promises to deliver.

Respectfully,

Mark L Rader