November 17, 2025

Dear Representative:

The 14 organizations below write on behalf of our millions of members and supporters to strongly oppose H.J. Res. 130/S.J. Res. 89, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval to rescind the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Buffalo Field Office's 2024 Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) that ended new coal leasing in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. This CRA offers no solutions for Wyoming coal communities or the public lands that have already been destroyed by the coal industry, only gifts to corporations and continued false promises to those who will be left to suffer its consequences. We urge you to oppose this resolution.

Efforts to prop up the coal industry continue to fall flat. Earlier this year, Congress passed a CRA resolution targeting a similar RMPA that ended new coal leasing in the portions of the Powder River Basin in Montana. And before that, Congress passed and the administration began implementing a suite of unprecedented giveaways to the coal industry through the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA), including slashing the royalty rate from 12% to 7.5% and opening more than 13 million acres of public lands for coal leasing. The Miles City RMPA CRA and OBBBA handouts are not reversing decades of market contraction in the coal industry. Instead, they have increased private profit for the handful of companies still trying to squeeze as much as they can out of coal, regardless of the impacts on local communities, ecosystems, and our climate. But even those policies have been unable to reverse the industry's decline. On October 6, BLM held a lease sale for 167 million tons of coal on public land next to the Spring Creek mine in Montana: the only bid for one-tenth of a penny per ton of coal was rejected because it did not meet the fair market value of the coal being offered as required by the Mineral Leasing Act.[1] A lease sale for 6 million tons of coal next to the Skyline Mine in Utah also held in October saw another lone bid rejected for the same reason. A third proposed lease sale – this time for 440 million tons of coal at the Antelope Mine in Wyoming's Powder River Basin – was indefinitely cancelled. Now is the time to ensure a just transition away from coal, not hand it another false lifeline.

Nevertheless, H.J. Res. 130/S.J. Res. 89 seeks to legislatively undo a 2024 RMPA governing coal leasing in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming. More than 43% of all coal produced in the U.S., and more than 85% of all coal extracted from public lands, currently comes from this region stretching across eastern Montana and Wyoming.[2] The RMPA targeted by this CRA ended new coal leasing in the region because it would be both harmful to the climate and public health and unnecessary given decreasing demand. At the same time, the plan permitted existing mines to continue their operations through the end of their current leases. One such mine covered by the RMPA is the Antelope Mine, the same mine for which a new lease sale was just canceled. Rescinding this RMPA could enable the expansion of a few existing mines or even leases being offered for new mines. The consequences of those mines would be significant, including additional greenhouse gas emissions at a time when the planet cannot afford them and public lands and water resources destroyed. But it will not save the coal industry from its own demise.

This CRA resolution is also yet another attempt to inject partisan politics into the management of our public lands for the sole benefit of the fossil fuel industry. Like several other CRAs targeting land management plans passed by this Congress, this resolution would substitute the whims of politicians in D.C. for the expertise of federal land managers, the input of stakeholders, and the perspectives of Tribes.

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[1] Matthew Brown. "US rejects bid to lease coal from public lands in Utah as sales in western states fall flat." *Associated Press*. October 16, 2025. https://apnews.com/article/trump-coal-lease-sales-rejected-3c1588816b6543f15d513f91c75c6f8c

[2] Rosalyn Berry and Mark Morey. "Sixteen mines in the Powder River Basin produce 43% of U.S. coal." *U.S. Energy Information Administration.* August 26, 2019. https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=41053

The CRA is a blunt-force, anti-regulatory tool with far-reaching, unforeseen consequences that should not be used to gut protections for our public lands.

As the former Republican Speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives stated about coal policy in an October 15 op-ed after the recent failed lease sales in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming: "It's time to take off the aluminum foil hats filled with wishful thinking, and make some real decisions based on responsible predictions."[3] Congress should reject this CRA resolution and instead focus on ensuring a just transition away from coal for all of the communities and places that have been impacted by this harmful industry.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.J. Res. 130/S.J. Res. 89.

Sincerely,
Center for Biological Diversity
Climate Hawks Vote
Conservation Lands Foundation
Earthjustice Action
GreenLatinos
League of Conservation Voters
Montana Environmental Information Center
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
The Wilderness Society
Waterkeeper Alliance
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Wildlife for All

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[3] Tom Lubnau. "What Can We Learn From The Failed Federal Coal Sale?" *Cowboy State Daily.* October 15, 2025. https://cowboystatedaily.com/2025/10/15/tom-lubnau-what-can-we-learn-from-the-failed-federal-coal-sale