

## **Quote Sheet for Coal Leasing Provisions in Reconciliation**

“For over a century, the coal industry has caused real harm to Montana’s water resources, agricultural producers, public lands, and the climate. This proposal gives the industry a free pass to continue polluting water and our climate and forcing agricultural producers off their land. Propping up an uneconomic industry that causes such harm is more than misguided, but will harm Montanans in the form of water and air pollution, public health impacts, and more expensive electricity.” - **Derf Johnson, Deputy Director, Montana Environmental Information Center**

“This bill will radically cut royalty rates for publicly owned oil, gas and coal. This giveaway to corporate interests will prevent American taxpayers from getting a fair return from our public lands and resources and [slash revenues to state and local governments](#). It's a slap in the face to Americans in the West, and ignores [decades of major waste, fraud and abuse scandals](#) that have plagued the federal coal, oil and gas programs from the beginning.

“But this bill doesn’t only screw American taxpayers, it will rubber stamp oil, gas and coal leases and permits, and remove the chance for people like me who live close to drilling or mining to comment. We experience impacts like water contamination, dewatering of aquifers and air pollution that can be major threats to our families, homes and livelihoods. Under this bill, we would be cut out of the process, with no chance to reduce these risks.” - **Dr. Barbara Vasquez, Board Chair, Western Organization of Resource Councils**

“Signal Peak Energy’s Bull Mountain Mine has repeatedly caused significant damage to water sources essential to the livelihoods of ranchers and local landowners. Private land has also been damaged, causing safety risks to people and livestock. This pattern of dangerous behavior culminated in Signal Peak's criminal conviction by the federal government for environmental and safety violations.

“All we’ve ever wanted is for a hard look at the mine’s impacts, and we know that Signal Peak has enough coal to keep their operations running for some time. Why is the U.S. Congress rushing through legislation that benefits a criminally-convicted corporation while risking further damage and safety risks to our community? We’re tired of politicians spending all of their time bending over backwards for corporations while ignoring the concerns of everyday people like me and my neighbors simply trying to protect our land and water.” - **Pat Thiele, Roundup, Montana resident and Vice-Chair of Bull Mountain Land Alliance, a grassroots conservation and family agriculture group**

“The Trump administration and congressional Republicans are attempting to prop up the coal industry at the expense of our public health, clean water, and public lands. These provisions are a blatant giveaway to coal companies, from ripping off taxpayers by reducing the royalties coal

companies pay to weakening environmental laws so projects to develop the dirtiest energy source available are fast-tracked. We cannot meet 21st century energy needs on a 19th century fuel source. Politicians and corrupt CEOs continue to fight to keep coal alive, but it is time to turn the page and avoid further harm from this industry.” - **Cameron Walkup, Associate Legislative Representative, Earthjustice**

“The Republican party doesn't have real solutions to the affordability crisis people are facing. Coal is an extraordinarily polluting and expensive power source costing us more on our utility bills than the clean energy sources they seek to cut. The expansion of coal mining, coupled with the deregulation of coal plants nationwide shows that Trump is purely aligned with the interest of massive fossil fuel corporations no matter the number of asthma attacks and premature death caused by coal air pollution.” - **David Merrill, Montana Sierra Club Climate and Energy Organizer**