

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4403

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask you to prohibit funds for the Department of the Interior's Secretarial Order 3338, which placed a three-year moratorium on all new coal leases on federal lands, and any successor rule or order.

On January 15, 2016, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell issued this Secretarial Order, imposing an unprecedented moratorium on further coal lease sales pending the completion of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and review of the Federal Coal Leasing Program. The coal industry was already facing an onslaught of destructive government regulations from the Obama Administration, but the moratorium was yet another crushing blow to producers across the South and West.

Mining on federal lands accounts for 40% of the coal production in America and approximately 33% of U.S. coal reserves are located on these lands. By their own admission, Obama's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) estimated that nearly 1.9 billion tons of coal reserves were placed off limits in nine states as a result of the Secretarial Order.

The moratorium not only undermined the integrity of present production potential, but more importantly threatened the very future of coal development on federal lands by signaling to investors that resources will be kept "in the ground" at whatever cost. Most troubling is the impact this decision had on families that rely on jobs tied to the industry. The moratorium and PEIS put nearly 65,000 direct and in-direct mining jobs at risk as well as negatively impacted billions of dollars in revenues to states used to pay for schools, reclamation, construction, and other critical infrastructure projects.

Therefore, we request you include language similar to the following in the respective Appropriations Act:

*“SEC. \_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce Secretarial Order 3338, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on January 15, 2016, or any rule or order of the same substance.”*

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

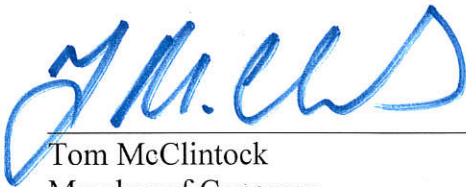
Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



Donald Young  
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, DVM  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress