

United States Senate

September 8, 2016

Treasure State Resources Association Members,

Montana is full of abundant natural resources that provide our state with quality jobs, tax revenue, and a variety of energy sources—and that includes coal.

Coal is critical to our state's energy portfolio, and I have fought hard to help offset the market conditions that have forced coal prices to recede. I am pushing to incentivize carbon sequestration and have included important provisions to increase carbon capture research in the Senate Energy Bill.

I will continue to work with folks to find new and more efficient ways to use coal—including using the MSE facility in Butte as a coal research facility.

It is also important that we continue to expand our state's growing renewable energy portfolio.

That is why I have pushed to renew important energy tax credits and streamline the permitting process for wind, solar and geothermal development on public lands where development makes the most sense. I also introduced legislation to capture the geothermal potential of our existing oil and gas wells.

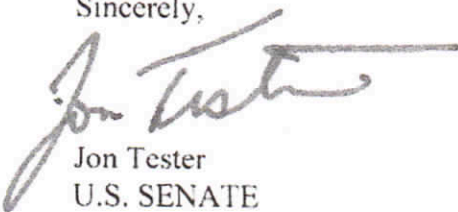
In addition, it is time to break the stalemate that has kept us from increasing timber harvests on our public lands.

I am working with my colleagues to pass real reforms to the way the Forest Service pays to fight wildfires. Currently the agency spends 52 percent of its budget fighting fires, which leaves too little for proactive forest management. That money that should be used putting some of your members to work in the woods and keeping our mills running, and that is exactly what our bipartisan bill will do.

Again, I want to thank you for the great work you all do to improve Montana's economy and expand our role as an energy producing state.

Please keep up the great work.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
U.S. SENATE

United States Senate

Dear Treasure Staters,

Thank you for inviting me to participate in your annual convention. Montana's rich history in natural resources has aptly provided our state with an appropriate nickname: the Treasure State. And as a fifth generation Montanan, I'm incredibly appreciative of your dedication to responsibly utilizing Montana's resources and your work to promote these industries throughout our beautiful state.

Earlier this year I hosted an energy summit in Billings to discuss the future of made-in-Montana energy. Among the more than 500 participants from the coal, oil and gas industries were labor union leaders, tribal representatives, and state and local elected officials. Montana's voice was heard loud and clear: natural resource jobs in Montana are gravely endangered due to federal overreach from Washington, D.C.

President Obama's costly regulations – from the EPA Power Plan which could cut up to 7,000 Montana jobs, to ignoring Montanan's voice in their decision to place a moratorium on coal leases – are threatening our state's ability to develop our vast natural resources and keep good-paying energy jobs in our state. That's why I've been fighting back at every turn to protect Montana jobs and energy and introduced the Certainty for States and Tribes Act.

In addition to the Obama administration's war on Montana energy, we've seen more Montana sawmills shutter their doors and cut over 100 jobs in northwest Montana because of a lack of timber supply from federal lands. Obstructionist litigation and poor federal policy has contributed to poor forest health and an embattled wood products industry. It's critical that we equip the Forest Service with more management tools to ensure a vibrant wood products industry in Montana and for our forested counties.

Montana's mining industry also remains a central focus of my efforts. I have closely followed the permitting developments of the Montanore and Rock Creek projects in northwest Montana and urged the Forest Service and Department of Environmental Quality on numerous occasions to allow this widely supported projects to move forward. We must create an environment that incentivizes responsible companies to operate in Montana and sustain a vibrant industry.

I look forward to continuing to build our working relationships in a coordinated effort to responsibly utilize Montana's treasures and create more good-paying jobs for Montanans.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator

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

Treasure State Resources
2016 Annual Meeting
Helena, MT 59601

Directors and Members,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting me to participate in the 2016 Treasure State Resources Association Annual meeting.

Your organization does important work bringing together a broad range of Montana citizens who represent industry, labor, agriculture and recreation. The commitment you demonstrate to Montana's economy is no small undertaking. I congratulate you on the fine work you do to make Montana a better place to live work and do business.

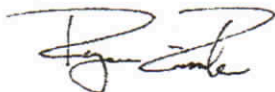
From the beginning, I have been pleased to cosponsor legislation to build the Keystone XL Pipeline and introduce legislation to ensure the completion of two hydroelectric facilities in Montana. When you look at Montana's economy and our business community, the one thing that is overwhelmingly apparent is the strength of small businesses powering our economy. You have equipment dealers supporting agriculture, manufacturers shipping parts around the world, and shops and restaurants supporting our tourism industry. They may be different in product but they all need the same things to prosper: a competitive and predictable tax code, affordable energy, a smart regulatory environment, reliable infrastructure, and a highly-skilled workforce. All of these things I happily voted for in Congress.

I remain committed to do everything I can to end the Obama Administration moratorium on coal and stop the administration from altering the royalty and valuation system in a way which hurts coal producers like the Crow, and oil and gas developers.

Our Montana infrastructure is vital to our local communities and I will continue to work hard to protect our livelihoods that depend on these revenues.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of my state staff if we can do anything to assist your organization, we are here to work together with you to keep Montana the wonderful place that we all call home

In God We Trust,



Congressman Ryan Zinke