

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

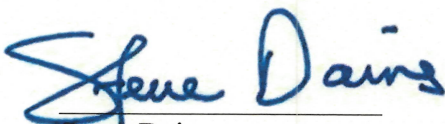
Dear Secretary Haaland,

We write to urge you to appeal the recent ruling in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' *350 Montana v. Haaland*. On February 10, 2023, the Montana District Court ruled against a long-standing Environmental Assessment which authorized Signal Peak Energy to mine federal, leased coal at the Bull Mountains Mine north of Billings, MT. If this ruling is not appealed and ultimately reversed, it will jeopardize high-paying local jobs, lead to economic harm in Montana and lost federal royalties, as well as further threaten our national security by limiting made in Montana energy.

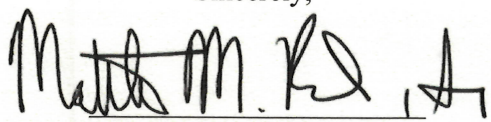
Since September 2009, Signal Peak Energy, has leased federal coal from the Bull Mountains Mine and has operated in abidance with the Department of the Interior and the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement regulations. Should this ruling remain in place, 5 million tons of federal coal will be unable to be mined, resulting in \$20 million in lost royalties for the federal government and \$120 million in lost revenues for the state of Montana. Additionally, Signal Peak Energy will be forced to dramatically alter their operations in order to access state and federal coal and any required modifications must be authorized by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, resulting in further regulatory delay, and may threaten the safety of coal miners and the very survival of the mine.

The United States remains the world leader in mining practices and environmental standards. This ruling threatens to cut dozens of energy related jobs and harm local communities dependent on this vital Montana mine. We urge the Department of the Interior to appeal the ruling, remain in line with regulatory practices from President Obama's administration, and defend the continued mining by Signal Peak Energy for the sake of Montana jobs and national security. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

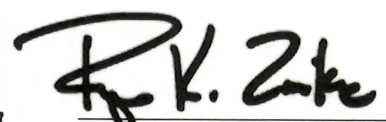
Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Matt M. Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress