



# Montana Association of Oil, Gas, & Coal Counties

Representing Big Horn, Beaverhead, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Liberty, Madison, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wibaux, and Yellowstone

**Est. 1983**

**President**

Richard Dunbar  
Phillips County  
Commissioner

**Vice-President**

Gordon Oelkers  
Roosevelt County  
Commissioner

**Secretary**

Mary Ann Harwood  
Toole County  
Commissioner

**Treasurer**

Roy Rost  
Fallon County  
Commissioner

**At-Large Director**

Loren Young  
Richland County  
Commissioner

**At Large Director**

Bob Lee  
Rosebud County  
Commissioner

**At Large Director**

John Ostlund  
Yellowstone County  
Commissioner

**Executive Director**

Shelby DeMars

**Contact MAOGCC**

[montana-energy.com](http://montana-energy.com)

1820 North Last  
Chance Gulch,  
Helena, MT 59601

May 28, 2024

Members of the 118th Congress,

On behalf of the Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties—an association of 33 county commissions that supports and promotes the development of Montana’s abundant oil, gas, and coal resources—I am writing to urge you to support the *Crow Revenue Act* introduced by Senator Steve Daines.

The 4,660 acres of private subsurface inholdings that the Act would exchange for the 4,530 acres of federal subsurface and 940 acres of federal surface interests stands to benefit all parties involved, while providing a path forward for the Bull Mountains Mine in Musselshell County.

The Bull Mountains Mine directly employs approximately 260 workers in Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties, and indirectly impacts hundreds more. If the Bull Mountains Mine is forced to close due to the lack of a timely permit approval process, hundreds will be left without work—sending an economic shock through the local economy.

But individuals employed by the mine will not be the only ones that suffer if a solution is not passed to allow production to continue at the Bull Mountains Mine. If action is not taken, the schools, local governments, and critical community services that are supported through revenue generated by the Mine will also be in jeopardy.

In just the past three years, Signal Peak has paid over \$211 million in taxes to the state, Yellowstone, and Musselshell counties. This revenue funds Montana’s public education system, provides funding to local governments for critical public safety services, and supports much needed infrastructure improvements. In short, there is not a corner of our state that does not benefit from the Bull Mountains Mine, the high-wage careers it supports, and the tax revenue it provides.

The Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties strongly supports Senator Daines’ *Crow Revenue Act*, the certainty it will provide for the communities that rely on the Bull Mountains Mine, as well as the revenue and economic opportunity it will provide to the Crow Tribe.

We encourage your strong support of this common-sense solution.

Respectfully,

Shelby DeMars, Executive Director  
Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties