

August 4, 2022

Senator Daines:

This new tax bill would have a disastrous effect on Rosebud County as well as the State of Montana. The Coal industry, in my opinion, is already at an unfair tax advantage compared to renewable energy.

This new tax bill could have a crippling effect on our coal mines as well as our power generation facilities. I am aware that is precisely what this administration wants, however, with the recent developments with the Russia/Ukraine war, we are proving to the world we cannot survive without fossil fuels. This bill will cause energy prices to increase, as well as, the price of every commodity made with coal or petroleum. It doesn't just stop with fossil fuels. Mining for raw materials to produce wind turbines and solar panels will also be affected. I believe this will add to inflation rather than reduce it.

I am also worried this could create a gap in power reliability on the grid. We can't continually grow demand faster than supply. I worry that we are not far away from rolling blackouts and shortages that will create situations where people will actually lose their lives because they can't get power for the lifesaving equipment they need.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Martens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Martens, Rosebud County Commissioner