

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We write today to bring to your attention to the need to reinstate the Royalty Policy Committee (the Committee) within the U.S. Department of the Interior (the Department). The Royalty Policy Committee was first established in 1995 and was re-chartered by former Secretary of the Department Ken Salazar in 2010 to allow states, Indian tribes, and other stakeholders to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the management of federal and Indian mineral leases and revenues. This Committee is an important tool that allows for the robust participation of states and tribes on royalty management issues and should be formally reinstated.

The Committee has broad congressional and public support. As you know, while you were a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Montana we worked together to introduce bicameral legislation that would have reinstated the Royalty Policy Committee. This legislation, the *Certainty for States and Tribes Act*, was reported favorably out of the House Committee on Natural Resources. Likewise an amendment to the *FY2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill* was unanimously passed in committee that would have called for the prompt reinstatement of the Royalty Policy Committee according to the 2010 Charter.

Now as Secretary of the Interior, we ask that you use your authority to reinstate the Royalty Policy Committee in order to ensure that states and tribes have the certainty they need in mineral royalties and to ensure greater transparency in creating royalty policy for mineral production from federal and tribal lands.

Thank you for your past support for this important committee and we look forward to working with you to bring transparency, fairness, and accountability to the federal and Indian mineral royalty policy-making process.

Sincerely,


STEVE DAINES
United States Senator


MIKE ENZI
United States Senator


JOHN BARRASSO, M.D.
United States Senator