

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We write to encourage you to visit and hold a community meeting in northwest Colorado regarding the potential closure of the Colowyo Coal Mine. The Federal District Court for the District of Colorado issued an order on May 8, 2015, determining that the Office of Surface Mining's ("OSM") plan for the Colowyo Mine failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act in 2007. The Court stated that if OSM does not meet compliance within 120 days, they will vacate the mine plan, and shut down the mine.

We are very appreciative of your willingness to consider all options to keep Colowyo operational and grateful for agency officials' attention to this pressing matter. While these actions have been helpful, northwest Coloradans are, understandably, still very concerned. An estimated 800 participants attended a town hall on June 3, 2015, held by Moffat County and Rio Blanco County representatives. These community members voiced their concern with the decision and their doubts with whether OSM will be able to meet requirements with the Court deadline quickly looming.

Colowyo is vital to the regional economy, employing over 200 people at the mine and providing coal for electricity generation to our states. These employees, the surrounding communities, and businesses should be made aware of the agency's plans and whether or not OSM will appeal the decision alongside Colowyo. As such, we encourage you to hold a community meeting in the region to start a discourse and ensure concerns are addressed.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your actions thus far and request that you appeal the Court's decision. Thank you for your time and attention, and we look forward to hearing back whether you will hold a community meeting in this region.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



John Barrasso  
United States Senator



Mike Enzi  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator