



January 13, 2020

Honorable Eli Bebout
Honorable Bob Nicholas
Joint Appropriations Committee
200 West 24th Street
Capitol Building, E201
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Coal Market Development Program (Letter #2)

Dear Chairman Bebout, Chairman Nicholas and members of the Joint Appropriations Committee,

Events this year highlight the fact that Wyoming's coal industry is under siege. There are market forces, national policies, other states' laws, and even international accords that are all focused on decreasing the amount of coal used anywhere and therefore the coal produced here.

Distressingly, these changes could result in the elimination of good careers while substantially decreasing our revenues, which as you know have gone to support every schoolchild in the state for decades. These are hard times for one of our most stalwart industries and unfortunately times do not look better for the industry anytime soon.

While we cannot control market forces, we can influence the marketability of coal by resisting out-of-state pressures to close coal-fired units early, and by promoting CO2 capture to keep coal a viable, reliable fuel. We have not stood by idly while coal-fired power plants close, putting our hard-working miners out of a job. Together, we have responded with the passage of Senate File 159 and with a first-of-its-kind investigation into a utility's Integrated Resource Plan. We have and will continue to advocate for Wyoming's right to commerce in the courts and elsewhere.

Still, there is more we can do. One of the next steps I propose is adding \$1 million for coal market augmentation and preservation from the Strategic Investment & Projects Account (SIPA) for the BFY2021 budget. This program will be used to defend our energy industry in order to protect the revenues it provides for the state. These funds might also support local communities as they plan for their future.

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Additionally I direct to your attention legislation sponsored by the Joint Minerals Committee which seeks to establish a Coal Marketing Program. I urge passage of that legislation and the inclusion of a minimum of \$1,000,000 in funding in my office to support that program. Thank you for your attention to this important segment of our economy and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Gordon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Gordon
Governor