

Date submitted (UTC): 4/27/2015 8:11:58 AM

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Comments:

Dear Secretary Tom Vilsack,

Being genuinely concerned about the impact which reopening of the coal mining loophole would have on the environment, I forward you the message composed by the EarthJustice (below) but I do stand behind its content. Please, consider their comments very thoroughly and make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Aleksandr

I write to urge the U.S. Forest Service to not reopen the coal mining loophole in the Colorado Roadless Rule.

Reopening the loophole will apparently benefit just one company--Arch Coal--while paving the way for mining up to 350 million tons of dirty coal. This could unleash more than half a billion tons of carbon pollution--more than three years' worth of carbon emissions from all human sources in the state of Colorado.

Recent research shows that if we want to halt the worst potential damage from climate change, we must keep much of the world's known fossil fuel reserves in the ground. The Forest Service should draw the line here.

By paving the way for more coal mining, this loophole will also undermine President Obama's commitment to reducing climate pollution.

In addition, the loophole will set the stage for dozens of miles of road to be bulldozed across 19,000 acres of roadless forest, destroying habitat for black bear and elk, goshawk and lynx. Valued recreation and hunting areas will be scarred for years to benefit one corporation.

Please keep the Colorado Roadless Rule as it is. Reject the coal mining loophole in the Colorado Roadless Rule.