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## **White House Report Reveals that Increasing Royalty Rate on Coal will Benefit Communities**

*Washington, DC* - Creation Justice Ministries applauded a report released Wednesday by the White House Council of Economic Advisers which analyzes current royalty rates for coal mined on our nation's public lands.

The White House analysis details that increasing the royalty rate on coal can benefit both the environment as well as local communities. Research shows that you can substantially increase the royalty rate and reduce coal production, while returning more money to the states, communities, and taxpayers.

"The report affirms what Creation Justice Ministries has advocated all along: that we can reform the outdated federal coal program in a way that benefits communities and the environment," said Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director. "I am glad the White House issued this report and hope they take the next step and increase the nation's outdated royalty rates."

For the first time in since 1986, the Department of Interior is undertaking a careful review of the federal coal program. Public hearings are being held across the nation, including one June 23 in Grand Junction, Colorado.

As pricing and decision-making surrounding coal undergo changes, we must ensure communities most dependent on fossil fuels aren't left behind. Philippians 2:4 reminds us, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." Any evaluation of the federal coal program must include plans for just economic transitions for workers.

For a more information about Creation Justice Ministries' faith-based perspectives on reforming the federal coal program, please visit our website.

*Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations throughout the United States. We work in cooperation with 37 national faith bodies including Protestant denominations and Orthodox communions as well as regional faith groups, and congregants to protect and restore God's Creation.*

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