

Representative Steve Pearce, Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals

Legislative Hearing on H.R. 2661, 2907, 3565

September 6, 2017

I would like to commend Representative Cheney for introducing H.R. 2661, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of Interior to restore the original cost sharing agreement under the MLA of 1920. Originally, states and the federal government split mineral revenues fifty-fifty. Recently, the federal government began taking an extra 2% from the states.

In New Mexico, we rely on natural resource production, and the royalties they provide, for jobs and revenues to support state government programs. This includes funding for essential services like public schools, teacher's pay, hospitals, and law enforcement departments.

Part of this revenue has been unfairly taken by the federal government for "administrative expenses." States like New Mexico should not be penalized for the federal government's mismanagement of money and I will continue to work to make sure this wrong is remedied.

I thank Representative Cheney for introducing this bill and am happy to be an original cosponsor.