

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 19, 2018

**Resource councils' statement on appeals court decision on study of coal leasing program**

Bob LeResche, WORC Board Member and Vice Chair of Powder River Basin Resource Council, issued the following statement on the [ruling](#) by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on a lawsuit seeking a study of the effects of the federal coal leasing program on climate change. WORC is the lead plaintiff in that suit. LeResche ranches near Clearmont, Wyo.

“We have just begun reviewing today’s ruling, and although its conclusion is disappointing, we remain convinced that the federal coal program is ripe for reform. The realities of climate change and shrinking markets for coal are undeniable, and the Bureau of Land Management had begun considering them until Interior Secretary Zinke canceled the initiative last year. For a federal agency to ignore all the new facts about climate change and new market realities is dangerously short-sighted. BLM owes it to us as the American people, owners of federal coal, to resurrect its programmatic review of the federal coal program.”