

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 7, 2011

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

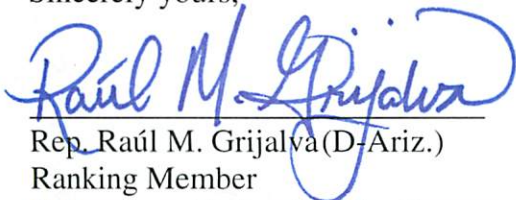
The U.S Department of the Interior manages approximately 700 million acres of subsurface federal minerals on public land and 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf. These minerals include hardrock minerals – such as gold, silver and copper – that are available without having to pay a royalty, as well as leasable minerals – such as coal, oil, gas and phosphate – that are available through various leasing systems that assess royalties, rents, and bonuses on the operator extracting the mineral.

It is vitally important that the American taxpayer receives a fair return for the mineral resources extracted from federal land. Therefore, we are requesting that GAO undertake an examination of the value of minerals extracted and the amount of revenues collected in fiscal year 2010 for minerals obtained from federally managed lands and waters under the General Mining Act of 1872, and the other various mineral leasing acts. The examination should include the following:

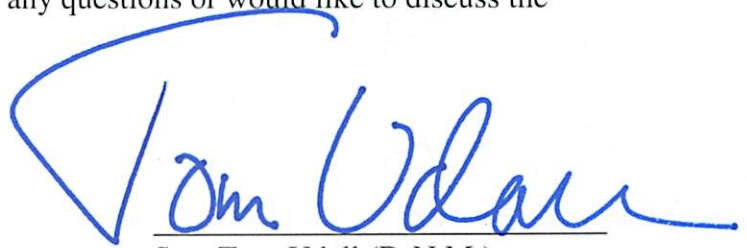
- What was the amount of minerals extracted from federal land and the Outer Continental Shelf and what was the estimated dollar value of these minerals?
- How much did the federal government collect for these minerals, including royalties, rents, and bonuses, and how was this amount determined?

Please contact Adam Sarvana on Rep. Grijalva's staff at (202) 225-2435 or Jeanette Lyman on Sen. Udall's staff at (202) 224-6621 if you have any questions or would like to discuss the specifics of this request.

Sincerely yours,


Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.)
Ranking Member

Subcom. on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
House Committee on Natural Resources



Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.)
Member
Senate Committee on Environment
& Public Works

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