

## Greg Lopez on the Future of Coal Mining in Colorado

Colorado's coal mining industry has dealt with economic ups-and-downs for a long time. *Too long*, in my opinion. As I've campaigned across our state, I've repeatedly emphasized how important it is to make sure every county and every Main Street should be kept vibrant, bustling, and open for business. And when I say, "open for business," I mean open for good. A risky regulatory environment does nothing for our citizens. The various economies in each of our counties need stability, sustainability, and predictability.

One of the industries of which I am most proud is Colorado's coal mining industry. It is rich in our state's history, provides a great benefit to our state's energy goals, and has been unfairly treated by bureaucrats who likely never stepped foot in our state. I voted for President Trump, and have expressed my willingness to work with him, especially when it advances our state's talents and interests.

When it comes to coal, I can't say it any better than the Colorado Mining Association: "**If it's not grown, it's mined.**" Coal is the most widely used, cost effective source of electricity. It supplies more than 60% of Colorado's electricity needs. And believe me, when defending coal, I've reminded many that it's a coal-fired plant that dutifully waits at the other end, when an electric car is plugged-in at night!

Colorado's coal production rose during President Trump's first year in office, and our state's data shows for the first 10 months of 2017, coal production totaled about 12.7 million tons, just shy of the 12.8 million tons for all of 2016. Production is up at the two top-producing mines, with Arch Coal's West Elk Mine in the North Fork Valley producing more than 4 million tons last year through October, and Peabody Energy's Foidel Creek Mine in Routt County producing 3.3 million tons. These are the trends that are necessary and valuable to keeping the Main Streets of our counties open for business! Colorado – we're just warming-up!

Rest assured, when I am Governor, I will be a vocal and proactive proponent for President Trump's decision to lift job-killing rules wherever they exist. Furthermore, I will welcome any debate involving our state's valuable industries, their role in our prosperity and communities, and their contribution to future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Lopez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lopez".