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LINKS

WEATHER

Weather Alert



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Coal Expenses Surpass Profits in Illinois



1

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1

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WBGZ Radio 6/29/2013

By Claudia Johnson - Illinois Radio Network



Illinois coal costs the state more than it brings in, according to a new report. An analysis of the coal industry during Fiscal Year 2011, conducted by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and the West Virginia environmental company Downstream Strategies, says the coal industry is depleting the Illinois economy.

"In the 2011 fiscal year, the coal industry drained nearly \$20 million from the Illinois state budget in subsidies and expenditures related to supporting the coal industry," said Emily Rosenwasser, Illinois regional secretary for the Beyond Coal campaign. One way the report says revenue from the coal industry can be enhanced is by implementing a severance tax.

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"If Illinois had had a severance tax in 2011, that would have brought in about \$100 million of new additional revenue to the state," said Amanda Kass, research and policy specialist for the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.

The report is called The Impact of Coal on the Illinois State Budget.

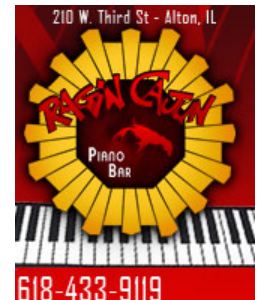
http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/documents/reports_publication/downstream-strategies_illinois_impact_of_coal_6-27-13.pdf

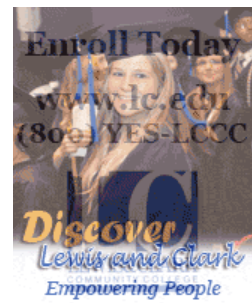
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