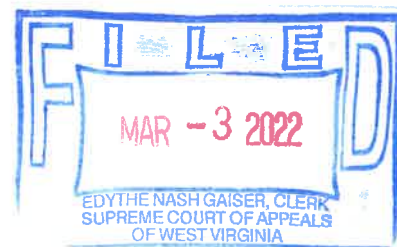


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State of West Virginia  
Office of the Attorney General  
Tax & Revenue, Legislative Claims Commission, and Transportation Division  
State Capitol, Building 1, Room W-435, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25305

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March 3, 2022

22-BCD-03

John A. Hutchinson, Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of Appeals  
State Capitol Complex  
1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Room E-317  
Charleston, WV 25305  
***Via Hand Delivery***

FILE COPY

Re: *Antero Resources Corp. v. Matthew R. Irby, State Tax Commissioner, et al.,*  
Ritchie County, No. 21-P-15 (Sweeney, Judge)

Chief Justice Hutchinson:

This letter is in response to the Supreme Court of Appeal's February 16, 2022, *Notice of Filing of Motion to Refer to the Business Court Division* in the above referenced matter. While the State Tax Commissioner and Assessor of Ritchie County disagree with the factual and legal allegations in Antero Resource Corporation's February 11, 2022, *Motion to Refer* and stand ready to defend the assessment of Antero's property, they do not object to the referral of this matter to the Business Court Division.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Whelan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Counsel for State Tax Commissioner and  
Assessor of Ritchie County

cc: Honorable Judge Timothy L. Sweeney  
Honorable Melanie Wilson, Circuit Clerk  
Business Court Division  
John J. Meadows, Esq. / Ancil G. Ramey, Esq.  
Jonathan Nicol, Esq. / R. Terrance Rodgers, Esq.