

I'm writing to ask a very simple question:

Will Koch oil co. pay a small fine for the same offenses that got Tim DeChristopher 2 years in jail?

Gunnison Energy, Owned by William Koch, and a Texas energy company, SG Interests, got caught making an illegal backroom deal, in writing no less, to agree not to bid against each other at BLM auctions for drilling on public land, so they could get the drilling rights on the cheap. They agreed that only one would bid, and then they would split what was bought. This violates several laws, including the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, which allows for fines up to 100 million and up to ten years in jail for corporate officers. (15 USC sec. 1-4)
Did these companies get sent to jail? No they did not. Instead the Department of Justice's Anti-Trust Division wants each company to pay a \$275,000 fine, and allowed the conspirators to retain their oil and gas leases, without any personal consequences.

Now it is up to the Federal District Court judge in Denver to decide if this outcome is "in the public interest."

Is it? Do corporations get to defraud the federal government when they swore that they were not in collusion with each other or any other company, before bidding? The government sued them for lying to the government under the federal False Claims Act (31 USC sec 3729-33), which is a civil violation, i.e., not punishable for jail time.

But when it came to Tim DeChristopher, the government decided to indict him for making a false statement (18 USC sec 1001). The Justice Department chose to charge Tim with 2 counts of felony, send him to federal prison for a 2-year sentence, and fine him \$10,000—all after refusing to allow his motives to be discussed in court, nor allowing him or his attorneys to mention to the jury that the auction in question was later deemed itself illegal.

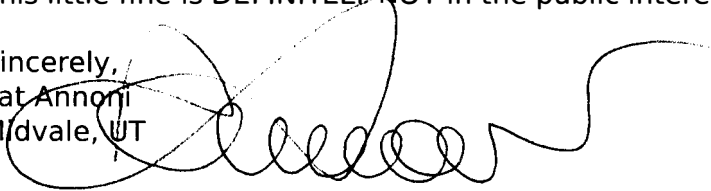
Does that make sense? Multi-million dollar corporations can basically get away with lying for the purpose of defrauding the taxpayer in order to make themselves in more disgustingly rich and drill on our public lands, while Tim has to go to prison for making a false statement in order to stop an illegal auction.

The Department of Justice is charged with representing our rights, who, as members of the public, are the plaintiffs in this case.

The land stolen in this auction belonged to us.

This little fine is DEFINITELY NOT in the public interest!

Sincerely,
Pat Annoni
Midvale, UT

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Annoni', written over the typed name and address.