



September 14, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop
U. S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

On behalf of the Kentucky Coal Association (KCA), we are writing in support of the House Resolution 1644, which is the "Supporting Transparent Regulatory and Environmental Actions in Mining Act," or the "STREAM Act."

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSM) proposed Stream Protection Rule (SPR) is a rule in search of a problem. What OSM originally described as a minor regulation confined to one coal region has grown into what OSM now calls "a comprehensive, nationally applicable rule" that will add to our industry's job losses, which are currently at more than 40,000 coal miners who have lost their jobs since 2011. OSM's own internal analysis of an earlier and comparably more modest version of the rule showed more than 7,000 coal miners would lose their jobs in 22 states. An independent analysis showed far worse impacts, with job losses approaching 80,000 workers.

The proposed SPR is economically damaging, redundant and serves no environmental purpose. Based on an independent analysis, OSM's previous draft proposal showed recovery coal reserves would plummet by 30 to 41 percent, an annual loss in coal production valued at \$14-20 billion, and losses in federal and state revenues of \$4 - 5 billion. Additionally, OSM is attempting to take over the job of the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and states regulatory programs in protecting water quality that is already protected through existing Clean Water Act programs. OSM's own Annual Evaluation Reviews of state regulators routinely show outstanding environmental performance with 90 percent of active operations free of any off-site impacts.

Alden Resources, LLC ^ Alliance Coal, LLC ^ Alpha Natural Resources, LLC ^ Arch Coal, Inc. ^ Armstrong Coal Company, Inc. ^ Blackhawk Mining, LLC
Booth Energy ^ Hazard Coal Corporation ^ Jamieson Construction Company ^ Locust Grove, Inc. ^ Mountainside Coal Co., Inc.
Murray Energy/KenAmerican Resources ^ Nally & Hamilton Enterprises ^ Patriot Coal Corporation ^ Peabody Energy Corporation ^ Rhino Energy, LLC
Teco Coal Corporation ^ Walter Energy ^ Western Kentucky Minerals, Inc.

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Page two

At KCA, we thank the Natural Resources Committee for working to advance this important piece of legislation that will protect Kentucky's coal jobs and our access to affordable, reliable electricity. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we might be of any assistance during the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Paul Horn, Chair
KCA



Bill Bissett, President
KCA

Dave Moss, Vice President
KCA