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The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

On behalf of the Lignite Energy Council (LEC), please accept this letter in support of the joint resolution of disapproval to overturn the Stream Protection Rule (SPR). The primary mission of the LEC is to enhance, preserve, and protect the development and use of lignite coal as an affordable and reliable energy source.

This misnamed rule, released on December 19th, was developed over six years behind closed-doors with only 90 days for industry and other stakeholders to submit comment. What technical expertise the LEC and its members were able to offer during the limited comment period appears to have been ignored as we continue reviewing the final 1,648 pages of regulation. Further, the administration denied opportunity for North Dakota elected officials to provide their input as the rule was being reviewed by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Ultimately, this rule could prevent 600 million tons, or 40-60 percent, of the current coal reserves in North Dakota from being mined, resulting in the loss of millions in tax revenues and federal coal royalty payments, and could cost electric customers served by our power plants an estimated \$50 million annually. Adding insult to injury, this rule would have zero environmental benefit. The North Dakota Public Service Commission already holds mined land reclamation to a standard of “as good or better” before land can be released from bond. The LEC requests that Congress promptly pass a resolution of disapproval on the SPR, as authorized by the Congressional Review Act.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

LIGNITE ENERGY COUNCIL

Jason Bohrer
President & CEO

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