



**Aric Newhouse**

*Senior Vice President  
Policy and Government Relations*

February 1, 2017

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H. J. Res. 38, providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Interior known as the Stream Protection Rule, introduced by Reps. Bill Johnson (R-OH), Evan Jenkins (R-WV) and David McKinley (R-WV).

In December 2016, the Department of the Interior (DOI) finalized the Stream Protection Rule (SPR) over the objections of states who are the exclusive regulators for mining under federal law. The DOI did not show a deficiency in the existing laws and regulations governing mining to justify a new regulation, and it failed to take adequate input from states and other regulated stakeholders. While this rule directly impacts coal mining in the United States, its repercussions will be felt throughout the economy. As much as 25 percent of rail cargo is coal; utilities rely on coal to produce electricity; heavy-duty equipment manufacturers provide mining equipment; barges transport coal along waterways; and manufacturers rely on coal directly as a feedstock and a fuel.

Manufacturers strongly support environmental protection, but policies must be applied in a manner that balances reasonable environmental objectives with the need to have a diverse fuel portfolio, including continued cost-effective coal use. The SPR does not meet that standard. H. J. Res. 38 would strike the SPR and ensure that it does not take effect, restoring the previous buffer rule that has protected streams since 1983. It would save manufacturers from hundreds of thousands of potential job losses and ensure that streams are protected while the mining industry and its supporting manufacturing sectors can continue to operate.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H. J. Res. 38, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aric Newhouse'.

Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote