



HAL QUINN  
President & CEO

July 25, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Coats  
United States Senate  
493 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coats:

On behalf of the National Mining Association, the national trade association representing the producers of coal, metals and minerals, thank you for introducing the *Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act*. This important legislation would stop the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) from moving forward with an unnecessary job-crushing regulation.

OSM's so-called "Stream Protection Rule" would add grave regulatory uncertainty and inflict substantial economic harm upon the nation's coal industry. Several years ago OSM issued a final regulation updating stream protections and the agency has not explained the need to revise the rules once again.

According to OSM's preliminary assessment, the new rulemaking would destroy thousands of coal mining-related jobs, threaten our energy independence by sterilizing substantial amounts of our nation's coal resources and rob states of vital tax revenues. An assessment of that rule by ENVIRON International Corp. confirms, with more precision, these devastating impacts. According to ENVIRON, the rule would: place as many as 270,000 mining-related jobs at risk; sterilize potentially 42 percent of the recoverable coal reserve base; and, cost Federal and State governments between \$4 and \$5 billion in annual tax revenue.

The states, with several decades of experience as the primary regulators under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), have repeatedly questioned the need and basis for this new regulation.

We commend you and the cosponsors for introducing this important legislation in order to preserve the supply of affordable and reliable energy and to protect the economic prosperity of our mining communities.

Sincerely,

Hal Quinn  
President & CEO