

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 30, 2016

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Representative Pelosi:

As you may be aware, due to bankruptcies and other hardships in the coal industry, thousands of retired coal miners and their families are facing the prospect of losing the health care and pension benefits they spent their lives working for. In fact, more than 15,000 retirees have already received notice that their healthcare benefits will be terminated on December 31, 2016. Before Congress wraps up its work for the year, it is essential that we take action to address this problem and pass the Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act (H.R. 2403).

The Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act offers a solution to an urgent problem facing the approximately 22,000 retirees whose health benefits will run out at the end of 2016 or in 2017. Likewise, the bill also addresses the funding shortfall in the pension plan on which 120,000 miners and their families rely.

The bill continues on the longstanding commitment by the federal government to protect lifetime health and retirement benefits for coal miners. This promise was initiated by the Krug-Lewis Agreement signed by the Truman Administration and re-affirmed by Congress in the 1992 Coal Act and the 2006 amendments to the Coal Act.

With 87 bipartisan co-sponsors in the House (47 Republican, 40 Democratic), this plan has strong support on both sides of the aisle. The Senate companion bill (S. 3470) passed out of the Senate Committee on Finance on September 21, 2016 on a bipartisan vote of 18-8. The bill is fully offset and does not divert funding from mine reclamation projects or annual payments to certified states.

The Coal Healthcare and Pension Protection Act is a responsible, bipartisan solution that will prevent thousands of retirees from being hurt. These men and women spent their lives doing the hard work that powers this country. They deserve peace of mind in their retirement years. We urge you to stand with these hardworking people and pass this bill before the end of this year.

Sincerely,

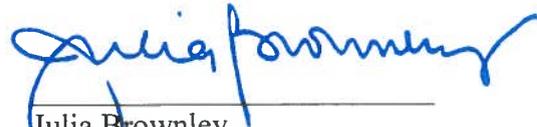

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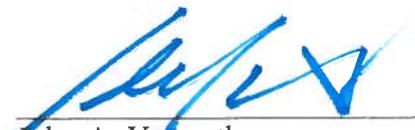

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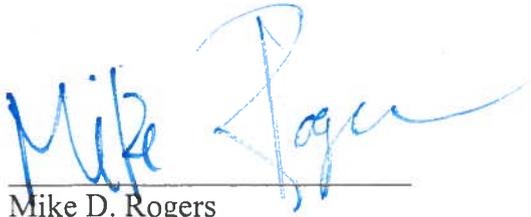

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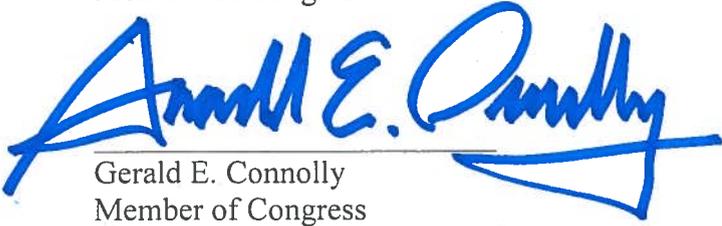

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Gerald E. Connolly
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Andy Barr
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Mo Brooks
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Cedric L. Richmond
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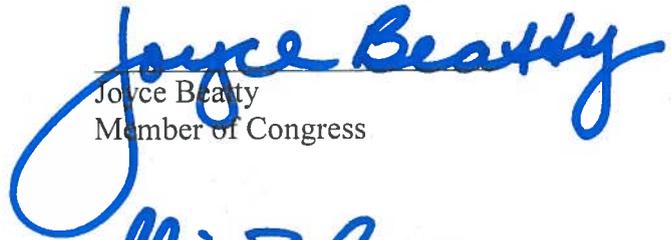
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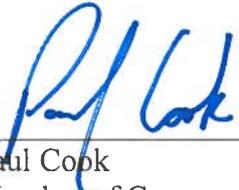
Brendan F. Boyle
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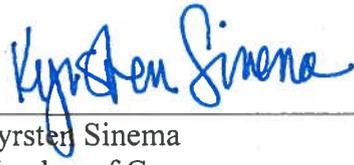
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