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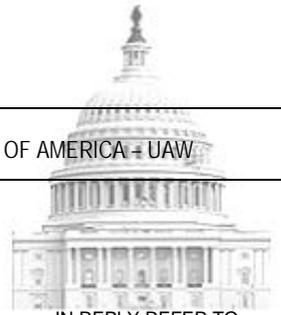
INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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RON GETTELFINGER, President

ELIZABETH BUNN, Secretary-Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENTS: GENERAL HOLIEFIELD • BOB KING • CAL RAPSON • JIMMY SETTLES • TERRY THURMAN



IN REPLY REFER TO

January 15, 2008

1757 N STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036  
TELEPHONE: (202) 828-8500  
FAX (202) 293-3457

Dear Representative:

This week the House is scheduled to take up H.R. 2768, the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act ( "S-MINER Act"). The UAW strongly urges you to vote for this important mine safety legislation.

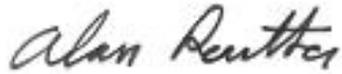
This bill builds on the MINER Act, which passed in 2006 after Sago and other fatal coal mining disasters graphically demonstrated severe shortcomings in the response to mine emergencies. Whereas the MINER Act focused on emergency response, H.R. 2768 is designed to *prevent* fatal events, injuries and illnesses. The need for this legislation is clearly shown by the fact that, since the Sago disaster of January 2, 2006, eighty-one coal miners have been killed on the job.

The S-Miner Act would take several important steps to protect the health and safety of miners, including:

- requiring plans for retreat mining to receive pre-approval and focused attention from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). In addition, miners would have to be educated in the inherent dangers of retreat mining before they would be permitted to engage in such work; and
- increasing protections against black lung and other pulmonary diseases by reducing permissible exposures to coal dust, silica, asbestos and other hazardous materials found in mining. The bill also provides an on-going process for updating exposure limits for these and other hazardous materials found in mines as new science becomes available. Moreover, it incorporates many of the recommendations recently issued by the independent Technical Study Panel, which the 2006 MINER Act created to study air and belt flammability.

In our judgment, these protections in the S-Miner Act (H.R. 2768) will help to stem the tide of illness, injury and death in our nations mines. Accordingly, the UAW urges you to vote for this bill, and to oppose any motion to re-commit. Thank you for considering our views on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Reuther".

Alan Reuther  
Legislative Director

DS/AR:lb  
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L8407