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2006 MINER Act sufficient if upheld

Editor:

If the goal is to improve mine safety, then the report of a congressionally mandated panel delivered to the Mine Safety and Health Administration recently must be taken seriously. Most importantly, the report suggested that belt air usage in mines is safe under proper use and regulation.

This proper use and regulation was called for and implemented under the MINER Act in 2006. The original act is a practical and intelligent approach to continuing the improvement of mine safety, and the MINER Act was and is supported by the mining industry and labor. As the report delivered to MSHA pointed out, the correct and effective implementation of current mine safety laws as opposed to additional rules and regulations is what is needed to make America's miners safer.

Unfortunately, Congress is trying to fix what isn't broken by adding new legislation, the Supplemental MINER Act. S-MINER would pile new, unproven regulations on the process. It will only hurt our communities by resulting in lost jobs, closed mines and it could make our mines less safe - not more.

The S-MINER Act is jumping the gun before the original and successful MINER Act has been fully implemented.

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