

Coal Mines - Safety Standards

FOR the purpose of requesting that the U. S. Secretary of Interior amend certain mandatory safety standards for Maryland coal mines.

The Secretary of the Interior of the United States is vested with authority to promulgate nation-wide mandatory safety rules and regulations dealing with coal mines.

Certain safety regulations require expensive water systems and electrical equipment to prevent mine explosions due to gas.

[[In Maryland, these regulations serve no purpose because of the non-gaseous nature of our coal mines.]]

In Maryland, the arbitrary application of these regulations has caused great hardship which will effect future energy conscious generations.

Before the implementation of these regulations, Maryland had 28 operating mines with 129 underground employees, producing 236,986 tons of coal.

Now, due to these regulations, Maryland has one remaining deep mine with 18 employees, producing only 67,880 tons of coal.

It has become more difficult to attract and train young men as miners.

As Maryland's coal requirements increase, we will be more dependent upon other states to fill our needs during the energy crisis, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the [[House of Delegates]] General Assembly of Maryland, That the Secretary of Interior of the United States if he determines that there is no risk to minors should amend the mandatory rules and regulations pertaining to mine safety in order to allow Maryland to resume deep coal mining without the necessity of installing prohibitively expensive water systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the [[Chief Clerk of the House]] Secretary of State send copies of this Resolution to the U. S. Secretary of the Interior, the Federal Bureau of Mines and the Maryland Congressional Delegation, in the U. S. Congress.

Approved April 9, 1974.

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