



Industrial Energy Consumers of America

The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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May 23, 2013

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 861, Coal Jobs Protection Act

Dear Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we support passage of S. 861, the Coal Jobs Protection Act. IECA supports providing greater certainty to permitting of coal mining projects by requiring the EPA to either approve or deny the permit in 270 days. IECA companies and our electricity providers are dependent upon these coal resources to fuel many of our boilers and greater regulatory certainty is sound public policy.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 1,500 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.7 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemical, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, brewing, and cement.

IECA supports responsible regulations that are cost-effective and protect the environment, while allowing U.S. industries to benefit from our abundant supply of coal resources. This legislation is consistent with these beliefs.

IECA companies are mostly energy-intensive trade-exposed industries. As a whole, the industrial sector consumes 7% of the country's coal and is used as a fuel for our boilers and for the production of steel. The industrial sector also uses about one-third of U.S. electricity, where coal plays an essential role of producing reliable and low-cost electricity that is critical to our global competitiveness.

Coal is a vital component to the diversity of our nation's fuel mix. This legislation will help the industrial sector secure the supplies of coal and electricity needed to keep our factories operating at competitive costs while creating high paying jobs. Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President

cc: The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate