

our local and national economies. The Bureau of Mines reports that something like 80 percent of our Nation's mineral production, tonnage-wise, is from surface mining.

The report states that more than 50 minerals are produced in very substantial part by surface mining, including gold, iron ore, copper, and uranium as well as the huge tonnages of coal, and the sand, gravel, and stone, all of which are so basic to construction and roadbuilding.

We also recognize and pay tribute to the progressive action that already has been taken by the industry itself, and by the States, to meet the problems this legislation seeks to solve.

At the same time, we face the fact that in many areas very real problems do exist with respect to effects on our environment, present and future, of surface mining. The environmental report points out that about 20,000 active operations are disturbing the land at a rate estimated in excess of 150,000 acres annually. Data submitted by the surface mining industries indicate that in 1964 the amount of land partially or completely reclaimed was equivalent to only 31 percent of the area disturbed that year. Surface mining activities are expected to expand rapidly in coming years.

The report concludes:

Some damage from surface mining is inevitable even with the best mining and land restoration methods. But much can be done to prevent damage and to reclaim mined lands.

"Elementary principles of resource management dictate that our Nation put a stop to unnecessary damages from future mining, and begin an orderly program to repair damage from past mining."

It is for this purpose that Senator Jackson introduced S. 3132, and that we are considering it here today.

(The data referred to follows:)

[S. 3132, 90th Cong., second sess.]

A BILL To provide for the cooperation between the Secretary of the Interior and the States with respect to the future regulation of surface mining operations, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1968".

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 2. For the purpose of this Act, the term—

- (a) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior;
- (b) "reclamation" means the reconditioning or restoration of an area of land or water, or both, that has been adversely affected by surface mining operations;
- (c) "commerce" means trade, traffic, commerce, transportation, transmission, or communication among the several States, or between a State and any other place outside thereof, or within the District of Columbia, or a possession of the United States, or between points in the same State but through a point outside thereof;
- (d) "surface mine" means (1) an area of land from which minerals are extracted by surface mining methods, including auger mining, (2) private ways and roads appurtenant to such area, (3) land, excavations, workings, refuse banks, dumps, spoil banks, structures, facilities, equipment, machines, tools, or other property on the surface, resulting from, or used in, extracting minerals from their natural deposits by surface mining methods or the onsite processing of such minerals;
- (e) "surface mined areas" means any area on which the operations of a surface mine are concluded after the effective date of a State plan or the regulations issued under section 8 of this Act, whichever is applicable;