

State cooperation is mere adherence to Federal standards, all to be "judged" by the Secretary, then there is no practical latitude or incentive for individual State action.

In essence, the Federal Government would command all the States—regardless of the need of the particular State—to adopt a specific plan for the regulation of surface mining, all based upon the issuance of permits and enforced through criminal penalties.

It would be a serious mistake to attempt Federal regulation of such a diverse industry under any circumstances. It would be a particularly serious mistake when that regulation assumes the form and approach outlined in S. 3132.

In opposing this legislation, we do not dismiss the Federal interest in the problem. The Federal Government has an appropriate role to play in mined land reclamation and that is in the field of research. As the Interior report states:

A modest amount of research has been conducted by agencies of State and Federal Governments, universities, industry, and conservation groups. However, a more thorough coordinated research effort is needed * * *

The Department of Agriculture, in its report on "Restoring Surface-Mined Land," issued just last week, urges that Federal research programs, studies, and field demonstrations be expanded.

We agree with this proposition. Research efforts by the Federal Government to aid and supplement the research of the mining industry will far better serve the public interest than the vast system of Federal regulatory control as envisioned in S. 3132. Cooperative research is an appropriate use of Federal resources. Such an approach makes infinitely more sense and will prove far more beneficial than a massive Federal regulation and control program, a program certain to bog down in a morass of costly, inefficient, and unreasonable direction—direction which should be left to the skills and wisdom of the State and local people who know and understand the real nature of the problem in their own areas.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, we are opposed to this legislation because we do not believe it is needed, and because it could impede production of vitally needed mineral resources in our country. We are opposed to this legislation because the costs to the Federal Treasury, even with financial contributions by the States, will be staggering and far out of proportion to the benefits derived, and because such a contemplated extension of Federal control to land use raises serious constitutional questions.

The States, the local communities, the mining industry are fully aware of the problem. The effectiveness of these efforts will continue to increase.

Thank you.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much, Mr. Abdnor, for a persuasive, forceful, and vehement statement.

Senator JORDAN.

Senator JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I appreciate getting the views of the American Mining Congress. The statements, I think, are significant here.

You say that the high-grade ores generally are mined first. As the mining goes forward throughout the Nation, we are more and more required to use low-grade ores which call for the handling of increased