

And this work, involving thousands of dollars, is done without Federal interference. We know that minerals are found in less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the earth's surface and that these resources are usually in the coldest, the hottest, and the most isolated, or the most densely populated areas.

No property is at a location convenient for economical operation, for access, for beautification or for reclamation, because mineral deposits are simply where they are. We appreciate the nature of our industry and hope that you do also.

If this committee follows its own previous objectives, it should encourage mining on both private property and public domain. You authorized the Public Land Law Review Commission to thoroughly investigate the mining industry and we are cooperating in that endeavor. Why not wait until their recommendations are prepared and distributed before any new laws affecting mining are enacted? And, contrary to the intent of S. 3132, insist that any legislation be based on a national minerals policy affirming the fact that the United States must be self-sufficient in minerals.

We are proud of our ability in Colorado to produce metals sorely needed for national defense; we are not receptive to legislation that prevents self-reliance. Our support of the statement by the American Mining Congress is wholehearted because they believe S. 3132 is not needed.

Our opposition to this bill is firm because the bill condemns and restricts when it should enhance and encourage the mining industry.

Thank you.

(Information referred to follows:)

EXHIBIT 1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., May 24, 1966.

Advisory Inter-11.

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator.

Re study of surface and strip mining.

NOTE: DEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1966

The Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 directed the Department of Agriculture to cooperate in the National study and survey of strip and surface mining in the United States. The purpose of this study is to present recommendations to the President, and he in turn to the Congress, for a long-range comprehensive program for reclamation of such areas.

One of the immediate needs in the conduct of this study is to determine the extent of strip and surface mining activities in the United States. Knowing the acreage of these areas will be helpful to us for other uses also. Among these uses are to assist Soil Conservation Districts in the development of their short- and long-term conservation programs and to supplement the information to be obtained in updating the Conservation Needs Inventory.

Some of these acreage data have already been developed and transmitted to the Working Committee for the Strip and Surface Mine Study by the liaison representative appointed for this purpose by the State Governor. We know that some of you worked with the liaison representative on these data. For a number of States, however, data on *surface mined areas* are either *unavailable* or *incomplete*. Some members of the Working Committee have discussed with us here this fact and the manner in which we may be able to assist in providing more adequate information. Accordingly, we are requesting that you do the following:

1. Contact the Governor's liaison representative (see Mr. Corgan's letter) and