

We recommend these specific strong points as part of the federal legislation:

- (1) a strong preplanning requirement;
- (2) the protection of "esthetic" values;
- (3) the minimum bond of \$500-\$1000 per acre as required by the Pennsylvania statute;
- (4) the zoning regulations as provided in the West Virginia law;
- (5) the special fee per acre for a reclamation fund for orphaned land such as in the West Virginia statute;
- (6) the treble drainage requirement in West Virginia law where damage has been done to others' property;
- (7) the requirement in Pennsylvania law that a permit be obtained from the water resource agency in addition to the mining permit;
- (8) the degree-of-slope restriction now in effect in Kentucky which restricts mining on slopes greater than 28°;
- (9) strong regulations controlling dredging operations;
- (10) the inclusion of haulage roads as part of the operation area to be bonded;
- (11) the requirement for a prospecting permit as in the West Virginia law;
- (12) the requirement that reclamation must be kept current with mining operation;
- (13) the refusal to allow mining by an operator whose permit was previously revoked or bond forfeited without correction as stated in the West Virginia law;
- (14) the "high wall" and "back filling" treatment required by the Pennsylvania law;
- (15) and finally the important provision to protect unique and scenic areas and particularly wilderness areas from the effects of surface mining operations.

We realize the magnitude and importance of the problem you are considering and recommend the adoption of the legislation based on Senate Bills S. 217 and S. 3126 including the provisions described above with emphasize on the protection of unique scenic and natural areas.

We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon.

STATEMENT OF SAM S. STUDEBAKER, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

I am Sam Studebaker of Tipp City, Ohio, President of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NACD). Our Association is composed of over 3,000 individual Conservation Districts, which are independent subdivisions of state government, and their associations in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Since the inception of our program some 30 years ago, the conservation, reclamation, and development of land has been a fundamental purpose of our work. We are currently assisting over two million farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in controlling and preventing soil erosion and in using land more wisely and productively.

In areas where surface mining takes place, our Districts have taken steps to reduce the damage which results from inadequate restoration of mined sites. With assistance from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and other agencies, approximately 500 of our Districts in 31 states have provided services to over 5,000 landowners in reclaiming and improving mined areas. In some states, such as West Virginia, Soil and Water Conservation Districts have extensive programs in this field that are most successful.

A truly effective program of surface mine reclamation, however, will not be possible without adequate standards established by law—preferably state law—and a comprehensive long-range program of technical and financial assistance. The scars on our landscape left by past surface mining activities are contributing to flood and sediment damages to roads, streams, water supplies, fish production, farms, and urban areas. Current surface mining operations are damaging and rendering unsightly vast acreages of land.