

protection projects and 40 Resource Conservation and Development Projects. They are accustomed to working with and coordinating a variety of organizations and agencies in programs sponsored at the local level with state and federal assistance. They are responsible, under state law, for the conservation and development of land, water, and related resources within their jurisdictions.

The 3,000 Districts now operating include virtually all of the privately-owned land in the United States. In each District, there is a resident staff of professional conservation technicians from the Department of Agriculture and other federal and state agencies providing services in accordance with memorandums of understanding. Included are soil scientists, soil conservationists, engineers, geologists, economists, biologists, foresters, and agronomists. There are also personnel engaged in education and the financing of conservation projects. This vast array of talent, experience, and professional competence is at the disposal of Districts and can be utilized in the reclamation of mined lands.

Using Conservation Districts as local agencies in carrying out a national reclamation program would help ensure the most vigorous, competent, and effective program.

6. We would further recommend that the following considerations apply in any national reclamation program to be established:

(a) That federal assistance be provided only after determination that the federal, state, or local governments do not intend to acquire the lands involved.

(b) That long-term (up to 10 years) agreements between the Secretary of Agriculture and landowners be used to provide for the orderly application of needed measures and practices. This is currently proving highly successful in the Great Plains Conservation Program and is being considered for application in several other programs.

(c) That the share of federal financial assistance in reclamation on private lands ordinarily not exceed 75 percent but that higher rates not be precluded where critical public needs warrant it.

(d) That public investments in this work be protected by state statutes or by agreement between landowners and the Secretary of Agriculture.

(e) That the funds used for the program be new appropriations authorized for the purposes of the act.

The problems we are facing at home and abroad may make it impossible to begin immediately with a program of the magnitude necessary to reclaim our mined lands. But we believe it essential to authorize such a program and begin preparations to attack this problem in earnest once the fiscal situation permits it. And once the program is launched, we would suggest that a definite timetable be established—perhaps 20 years—so that we can look forward to the final completion of this work in an orderly fashion.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views on this important subject.

STATEMENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS

This statement is filed on behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers, a voluntary association of business and industrial enterprises, large and small, located in every State.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on S. 3132. As stated in Section 3 of S. 3132, the "extraction of minerals by surface mining is a significant and essential industrial activity and contributes to the economic potential of the Nation. Surface mining provides vitally needed raw materials and fuel for manufacturing industries.

The economic development of each State has historically resided within the government and the people of the respective State, and this policy has led the Nation to a position of pre-eminent economic strength. S. 3132 would open the door to a large-scale intervention by the federal government in connection with the development and conservation of the natural resources of the respective States, and we respectfully submit that it should be rejected on this ground.

Although Section 7 of the bill would provide each State with an opportunity to formulate a State plan for the regulation of surface mines and the reclamation of surface mined areas located within the State, the Secretary of the Interior would be given a broad power to approve or disapprove the State plan. If the Secretary disapproves the State plan, the Secretary would have the power under Section 8 of S. 3132 to issue federal regulations for the operation of surface mines and for the reclamation of surface mined areas in such State. The bill contains