

to match Federal funds fifty-fifty in training personnel in this administration to suit the Secretary of the Interior—otherwise the Federal Government takes over. It is a bad bill for Montana.

Far better let the States do their own regulating on mines and the mining industry, so that each area can pass laws suitable to its environment. There are other objectionable features of this upon which I will not comment as I know others in this State are doing so. I wish to keep this statement brief enough so that, perhaps, some notice might be taken of it.

Sincerely,

UUNO M. SAHINEN,
Associate Director, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, and Director,
Montana Coal Resources Research Council

MINING ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA,
Butte, Mont., April 29, 1968.

HON. HENRY JACKSON,
Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Mining Association of Montana would like to comment on Senate Bill 3132.

This bill, which was introduced on March 11 as S. 3132 provides that a state will come under federal control if it fails to submit an acceptable state program for mined land reclamation to the Secretary of the Interior within two years after the effective date of the Act. Although the states are given the opportunity to devise their own plans, such state plans must comply with fairly detailed federal requirements spelled out in the Act. Thus, the choice is between federal regulation by federal officials, or federal regulation by state officials.

The mining industry accepts the idea that mining should be carried on so as not unreasonably to damage other resource values. However, because of the extreme diversity of land use, land values, surface area disturbed in relation to value of minerals extracted, and esthetic standards, it is usually recognized that national standards governing mined land reclamation are impractical. Regardless of whether or not the proposed law provides for recognition of local conditions, we can reasonably expect standards to be imposed on the mining operations in the semiarid western states based on the experience of Department of Interior officials more familiar with the problems of other areas.

Most of the abuses which have occurred and which have been well publicized, have occurred in the Appalachian areas in eastern United States and involve the consequences of surface mining of anthracite coal. The problems of mining and reclamation here in the West are so totally different that they almost defy comparison.

We strongly urge the defeat of S. 3132. It is our opinion that any necessary regulations for mined land reclamation should be enacted at the state level. The 1967 Montana Legislature enacted a law providing for the reclamation of strip coal mined lands. This Act is a suitable vehicle for amendment to provide for the reclamation of all mined lands.

S. 3132 provides only token state participation in solving this important problem. We urge genuine state initiative and independence in approaching and solving this problem.

Any federal participation in this area should be limited to federal grants for the purpose of financing the reclamation of old mined areas. As far as the current mining and reclamation activities are concerned the states can do a better job on their own.

Very truly yours,

PETER J. ANTONIOLI,
Secretary-Manager.

STATEMENT BY HON. STANLEY K. HATHAWAY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
WYOMING

The State of Wyoming is vitally concerned and interested in proposed Federal legislation to regulate surface mining, with special reference to S. 3132 and also to any similar legislative proposals. Wyoming is concerned because of such important factors and considerations as (1) the economic impact on our state and our mining industry, (2) the conservation of the surface natural resources