

3. It will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to establish a nationwide program which will have the flexibility needed to meet the widely varied conditions throughout the nation. The Rocky Mountain Region has entirely different geographical, geological and climatic conditions than do the Middle West and Appalachian states. Even within individual states there are many different conditions to consider. In Wyoming there is a wide variation in altitude, rainfall and soil conditions, and what will prove an effective control measure in one area may be entirely unsatisfactory one hundred miles away.

4. State regulation can be accomplished with much less expense than federal regulation. The separate states can assume the additional responsibilities with a minimum of additional employees. A federal program would require a new agency, or a widely expanded existing agency.

5. Additional research in problems of revegetating lands in the semi-arid areas of the West can be conducted by the several state universities. This research should be a responsibility of the individual states and should not be dependent upon federal subsidy.

6. There is much merit in encouraging the states to accept full responsibility for the rehabilitation for surface-mined lands. The cooperation of the people at the grass roots level to solve a problem is to be preferred over a federal compulsory program.

7. S. 3132 does not adequately protect the state, the mine operator or the land owner from arbitrary decisions or actions by the Secretary of the Interior or his agents.

We in Wyoming would like to respectfully suggest and urge that states with similar problems resulting from surface mining be allowed the opportunity to cooperate regionally in solving their problems in this field. States could cooperate in developing legislative objectives. State regulatory agencies could be recommended. Rehabilitation standards could be adopted. Duplication in research work could be avoided. Above all, by common agreement and action any competitive advantage to one state over another resulting from regulations could be prevented.

Activity in this regard in the Rocky Mountain area, for example, could be coordinated through the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, of which I have the pleasure to serve as chairman. The Natural Resources Council of the Federation would be most eager to work with member states in cooperative efforts leading to state legislation which would establish uniformity among Rocky Mountain states in solving the problems that are common to all of them.

Thank you.

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STATEMENT OF R. W. BEAMER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE WYOMING MINING ASSOCIATION

To the honorable chairman and members of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs: The Wyoming Mining Association is an organization of 32 mining companies, the allied industries, and individuals. It includes all major mineral producers in the State of Wyoming. The minerals produced by these companies include: bentonite, coal, gypsum, iron ore, limestone, trona, uranium, and miscellaneous quarry products. Many of these minerals are produced from surface mines.

Much of our mineral development has occurred during the past 15 years. The mining and processing of minerals has become an important factor in the economy of our State. It provides employment for approximately 4,000 men and adds substantially to the tax base. Its products are utilized in the industrial life of this Nation. The State of Wyoming has endeavored to encourage those developing mineral resources so that its economy may grow and prosper.

Proposed legislation, such as S. 3132 and similar bills, is of concern to our industry. We do not consider it to be the best approach to correcting problems which may result from surface mining operations. We suggest that the several States, with the cooperation of the surface mine operators and other interested parties, can solve any problems with a minimum of administrative costs. It is a function which the States can and should be permitted to perform.

Approximately four years ago, the Wyoming mining industry began working on problems connected with surface mining. It was found that the most difficult problem was the revegetation of disturbed lands. Most of these lands were sparsely vegetated and may be called "sage brush lands" because of limited rainfall and the predominance of sage brush. One mining company granted the Uni-