

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY,
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION,
Sacramento, Calif., April 18, 1968.

HON. STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. UDALL: Governor Reagan has asked me to reply to your letter of March 15 with which you transmitted a draft copy of the "Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1968".

This proposed legislation speaks to a situation that already has received legislative and executive attention.

In 1967, the Legislature adopted Senate Resolution 134, see copy attached. In response to that, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources has been in close touch with the State Mining and Geology Board for the purpose of determining whether a need exists for controls at the State level.

The introduction of the Federal legislation places a certain degree of urgency in the deliberation of that Board. As a matter of record, the question of surface mining regulations received considerable discussion at the April 8 meeting of the Mining and Geology Board, after members had reviewed the pending Federal bills as well as a digest and commentary supplied by the American Mining Congress.

The Board took the specific action, unanimously, of going on record as not approving any legislation that would permit the Federal Government to dominate surface mining practices and controls. This action, set forth in a position statement, has been approved by the Administrator, The Resources Agency, as representing the State's position at this time. A copy of the position statement is attached for your information. Mr. Edgar M. Gillenwaters, Deputy Director, Department of Finance, stationed in Washington, D.C., also has been informed of this statement in order to advise California congressional representatives.

The operative word in the position statement is "dominate". It is hoped that should the proposed Federal legislation be successful, the actions by the Secretary in reviewing the state plans for approval, particularly the plan that would be submitted by California, will be such as to eliminate any question of Federal "domination" in this field.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES G. STEARNS, *Director.*

By Senator McCarthy:

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 134, RELATING TO AN INTERIM STUDY OF STRIP MINING

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate Committee on Rules is hereby requested to assign to an appropriate committee for study the subject of uniform controls and standards for strip mining and to direct such committee to report thereon to the Senate not later than the fifth legislative day of the 1968 Regular Session of the Legislature.

Referred to Committee on Rules.

Senator METCALF. Letters have been received from interested parties to the legislation. They, along with any additional communications, will be included in the hearing record at this point.

(The letters referred to follow:)

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D.C., May 10, 1968.

HON. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Interior and Insular Affairs Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR JACKSON: The Chamber of Commerce of the United States takes this opportunity to comment on S. 3132, the proposed "Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1968." It is requested that this letter be made a part of the hearings record which was made earlier this month.

The Natural Resources Committee of the National Chamber, of which I serve as Secretary, has been following the developments of this legislation and has had an opportunity to review and study it as well as to study the testimony which has been presented to your Committee. As a result of this continuing study, the National Chamber recommends to you and the members of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee that the bill be rejected.