



## ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION

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### **Alaska Miners Association Applauds Disapproval of Anti-Coal Rule**

(Anchorage, Alaska) - For the first time in many years, the coal mining industry scored a major victory this week. Thursday, U.S. Senate passed H.J. Res. 38, the Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval annulling the Obama administration's anti-coal mining regulation which they had labeled the "stream protection rule." The rule, however, had nothing to do with protecting streams, but was yet another attempt by the former administration to end coal mining in America. The U.S House passed the measure Wednesday.

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) worked to defeat this rule by submitting written comments, testifying at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee field hearing last year, and working closely with Alaska's Congressional Delegation, as well as meeting with officials from federal agencies. In conjunction with the National Mining Association, Alaska Coal Association, the Resource Development Council, and Alaska Governor Bill Walker and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, AMA worked to bring to light the nefarious process used to craft the rule.

"Most offensive to AMA was that the federal government did not work in consultation with the states to develop the rule. Alaska, for example, is a state with primacy over its coal program, yet Alaska regulatory experts were shut out of the rulemaking process," said Deantha Crockett, Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association. "The states are the regional experts on their specific coal mining circumstances, not employees living in Washington D.C., and exclusion of States' input is beyond inappropriate." she added.

If the rule would have been allowed to take effect, it would have put the nation's coal industry in jeopardy, with significant job losses as well as loss of revenues. "At a time when the country needs greater economic diversification, a rule such as this would have put us farther behind," Crockett said. "Alaska, especially, relies on its coal mining industry to provide a reliable and affordable fuel source to Interior Alaska, which provides heat and power to residents, businesses, the military bases, as well as the University of Alaska, Fairbanks," she added.

President Trump is expected to sign H.J. Res. 38 within the next ten days.

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