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From: Curtis Cooley [mailto:curtis.cooley@gmail.com]
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Posted To: Microsoft Office Outlook Embedded Message
Conversation: Comments On the MINER Act PPL
Subject: Comments On the MINER Act PPL

I'm really happy to see the Federal Government getting involved in bettering the lives of our nation's miners. After the events of Crandall Canyon, it is sadly clear that mine owners are more interested in the bottom line than the lives of the people who help generate the mine's revenue.

Unfortunately, it seems the MINER Act is bowing to pressures from those same mine owners instead of protecting the lives and wellbeing of the miners themselves. Implementing the MINER Act in the form of a "Program Policy Letter" instead of as a regulation with real teeth is frankly an abomination to the very ideals the act was intended to stand for. You may as well not have put in the time, effort, and a good deal of my, the tax payer's, money in the first place if you were just going to bow to the mine owners and implement the MINER Act as a "set of guidelines."

I also take issue with the location accuracy. Why would you allow only 2000 foot resolution in the areas that miners are most likely to be: the escape ways. Pardon me, but it seems ludicrous to actually loosen the accuracy requirements for the areas that miners WILL BE post incident! It's like a bank putting high resolution security cameras in the restrooms and the bank owner's nephew's web cam watching the tellers and safe. Would you put your money in that bank?

I do have to thank you for allowing me to peruse the MINER Act proposal. You see, I often get lost in my own little fantasy Nirvana where weird things happen like mine owners spending millions of dollars protecting the safety of their workers instead of using that money to grease the palms of government officials. Reading documents like these help snap me back to the real world.

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Once a programmer had a problem. He thought he could solve it with a regular expression. Now he has two problems.

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