



William Poundstone Lecture  
Sept. 20, 2018

# MSHA in Review and a Look Ahead

David G. Zatezalo  
Assistant Secretary of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration



# How Many Languages Can You Speak?

Finance & Accounting?

Health Sciences?

IT?

Engineering

Marketing?

Regulatory?

Workforce?

*\*To communicate with key audiences, you must be multilingual!*



# The MSHA Mission

“to prevent death, illness, and injury from mining and promote safe and healthful workplaces for U.S. miners”



# A Shared Objective

Safety is:

- Efficiency
- Profitability
- The right thing to do

President Trump and Secretary of Labor Acosta are committed to mine safety and health. Let's work together to reach the next level.



# MSHA's Tools

- Fair and Consistent Enforcement - mandated inspections (2s and 4s) are core responsibility
- Education and Training
- Compliance and Technical Assistance
- Technological Innovation – working with operators, manufacturers and NIOSH



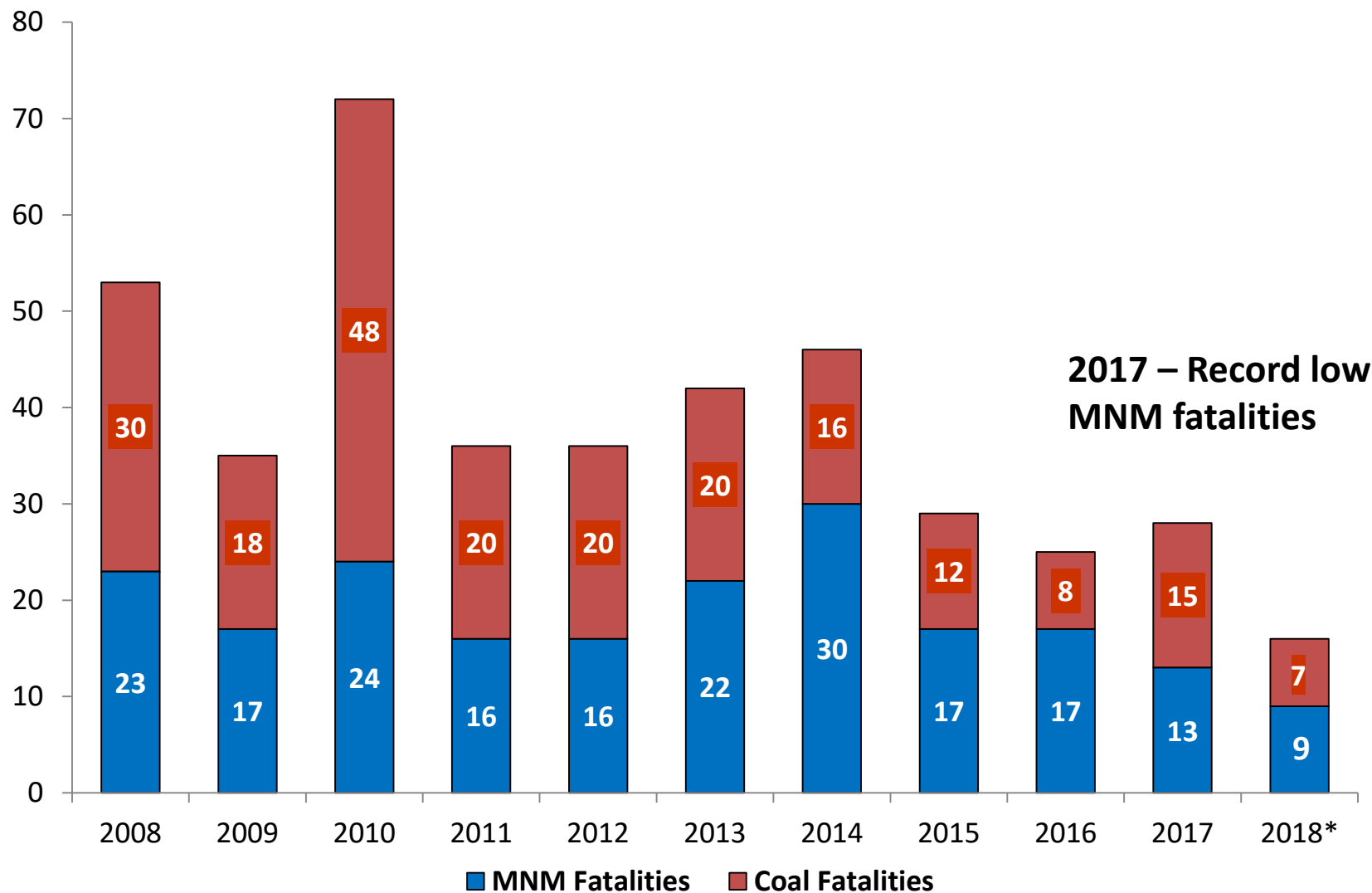
# MSHA Highlights 2017 and mid-2018

	2017	2018 YTD
# of Mines Reporting Employment	13,102	12,257
- Coal Mines Only	1,216	1,099
- Metal/Nonmetal Mines Only	11,886	11,158
Total Employment	321,312	317,364
MSHA Inspections Completed	39,689	22,587
Citations & Orders Issued	104,713	69,065
Dollars Assessed (Millions)	\$55.87	\$27.67

Data run on 9/4/2018



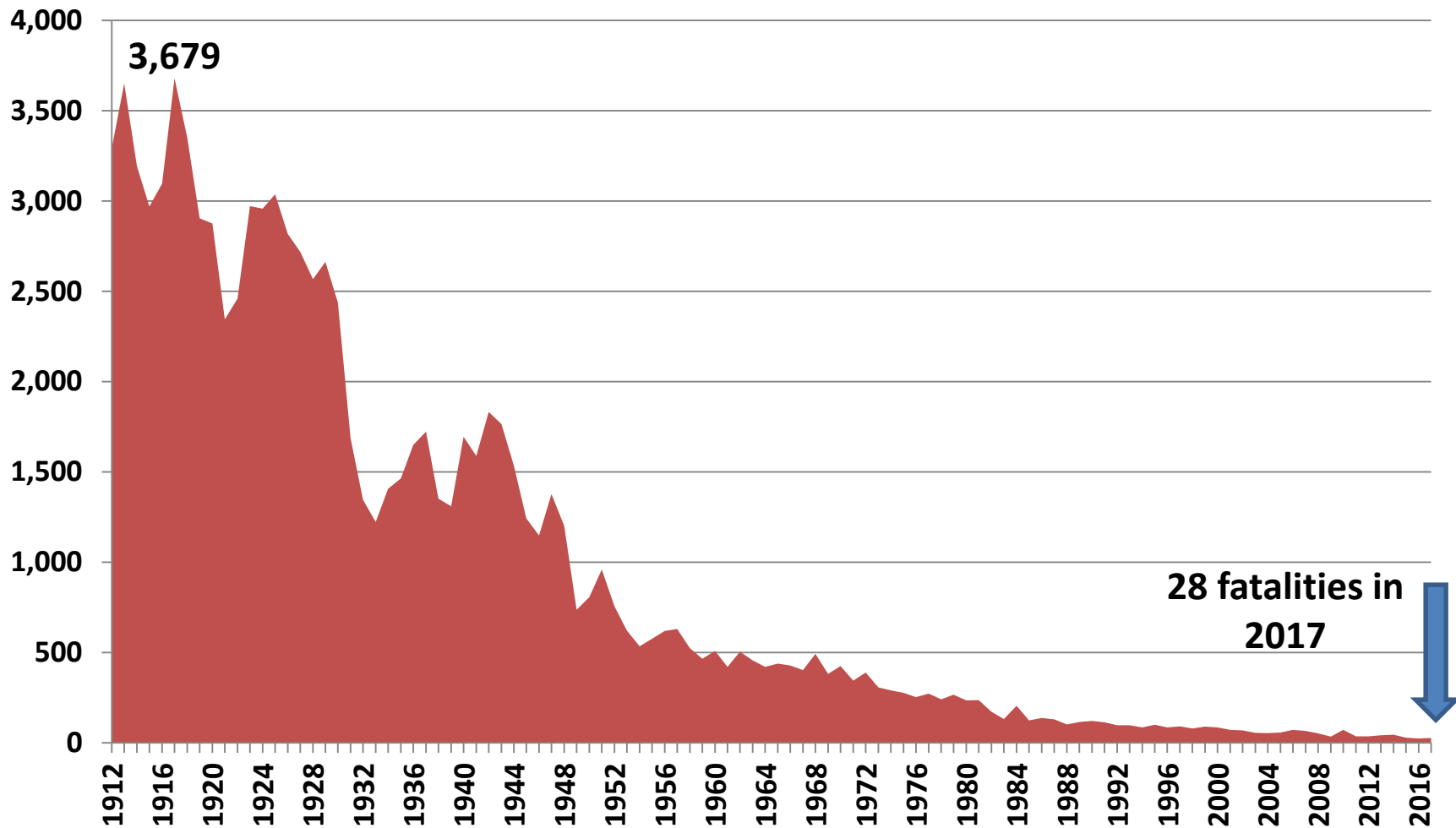
# U.S. MINING FATALITIES COAL and METAL/NONMETAL 2008-2018\*



\*Data as of Sept. 13, 2018.

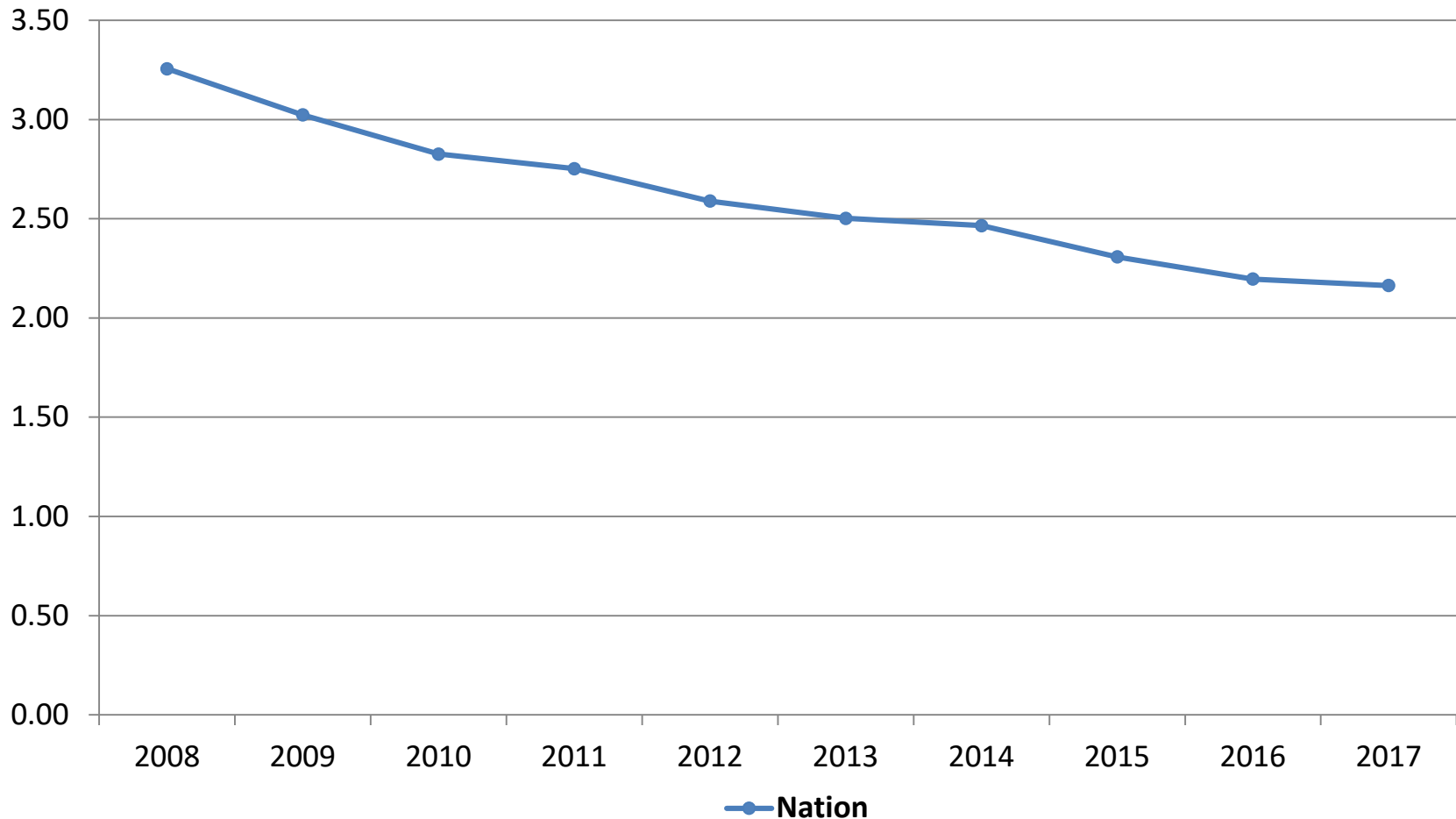


# ALL MINING FATALITIES 1912-2017





# MINING REPORTABLE INJURY RATES 2008-2017



\*The all injury rate represents the number of reportable injuries per 200,000 exposure hours.

NOTE: State employment data reflects operator employment only (contractors do not report employment by state). Therefore, state data only includes operators, while National data includes both operators and contractors.

Data as of April 30, 2018.



# Powered Haulage Safety Initiative

- Powered Haulage classification: 50% of fatalities in 2017; more than 50% of fatalities so far in 2018
- New MSHA initiative to reduce powered haulage accidents
- Focus on large equipment and belt conveyors
- Outreach, training, collaboration with operators and miners
- Seeking input from all stakeholders



# Seeking Your Input

- Request for Information (RFI) open until December 24 – Mobile Equipment and Belt Conveyors
- Submit comments to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
- Final stakeholder meeting:  
Sept 25 – MSHA headquarters, Arlington, VA



# Large Vehicles Striking Others

2017 Nationwide: 4 fatalities from large equipment hitting smaller vehicles

Since 2003: 24 such fatalities – Unacceptable!

Proximity detection for surface mines?





# Large Vehicles Striking Small Vehicles



# Seat Belt Safety

- Three fatalities in 2017, and 35 fatalities since 2007, involved miners not wearing seat belts
- 6000+ MSHA citations issued for failure to wear seatbelts since 2007 (most in MNM mines)



Loader operator saved by wearing seat belt



# Belt Conveyor Safety

- Five miners killed working around conveyor belts since January 2017: four in coal, one in MNM
- Since 2008, total of 18 conveyor-related fatalities and 41 conveyor-related permanent injuries
- Guarding, lock-out tag-out, properly using crossovers, all essential for safety



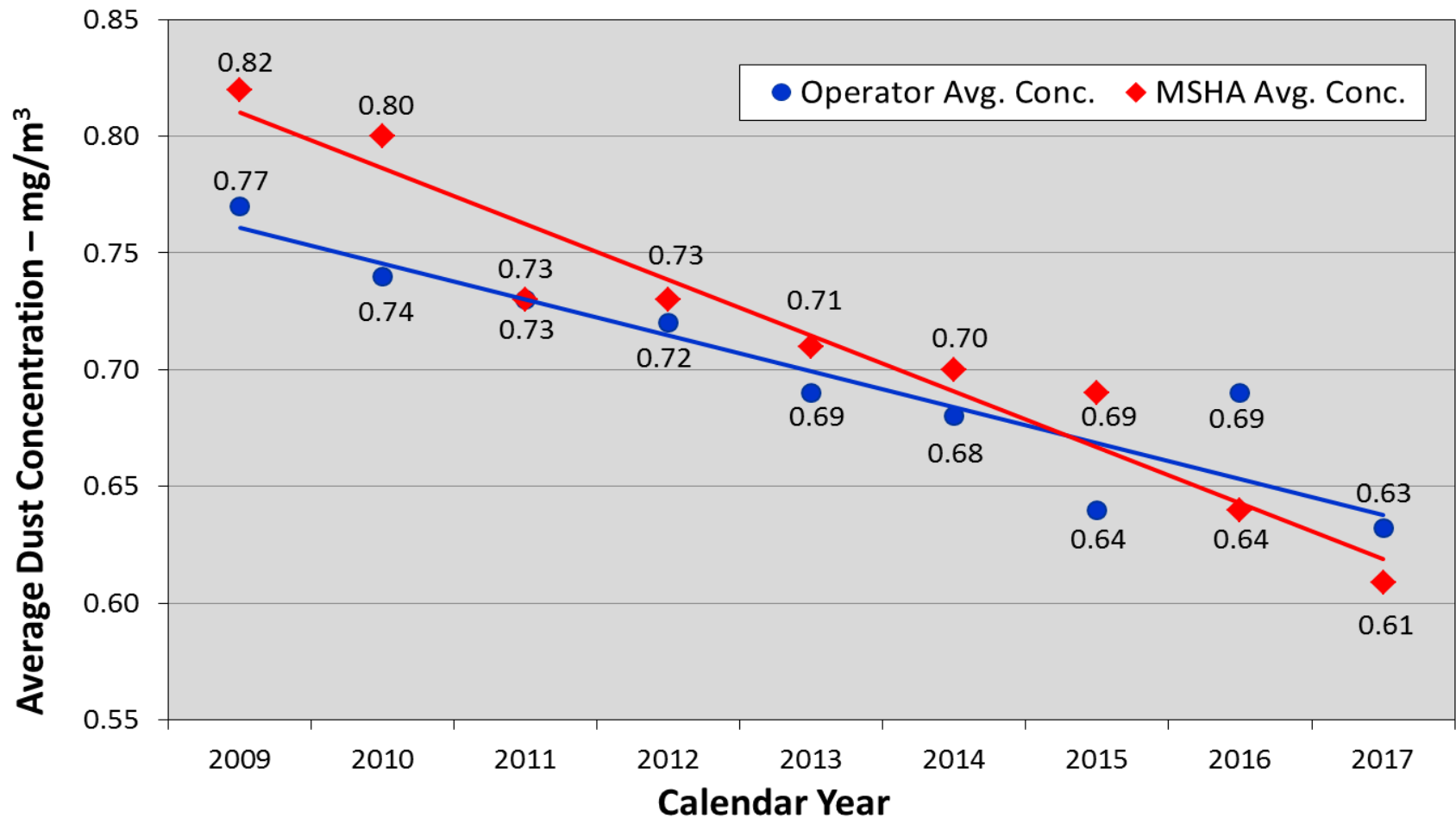
# Policy Update

- Diesel Particulate Matter
- Retrospective Review of Dust Rule
- Refuge Chamber Updates
- Silica and Dust Standards
- Blurring of Distinction Between Coal and Metal and Nonmetal Enforcement





# Average Dust Concentration in Underground Coal Mines, by MSHA and Operator Samples



# Scofflaw Initiative

- Small share of operators are chronically delinquent and have poor safety records
- Monthly batches of letters to worst violators
- Payment plans proposed/established with total commitment of \$4.8 million
- Seven mines paid in full for \$490,000
- 25 104(a) orders issued; nine 104(b) orders issued; all but two operations now open, some pending payment plans





# Questions?

*"Daddy  
© Way*

