<u>United Mine Workers of America</u>

CECIL E. ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



TELEPHONE (703) 291-2420 FAX (703) 291-2451

UNITED MINE WORKERS' HEADQUARTERS 18354 QUANTICO GATEWAY DRIVE, SUITE 200

22172-1779

July 26, 2010

Dear Representative:

The House Education and Labor Committee recently passed H. R. 5663, the Robert C. Byrd Miner Safety and Health Act of 2010. The United Mine Workers of America supports this legislation and we urge you to also support it when it comes before the full House.

This legislation represents an important advance for the health and safety protections for the Nation's miners. With workers being killed in horrific disasters like the Upper Big Branch explosion in April, we are reminded of how very dangerous mining can be, and how callous some coal operators are who ignore existing health and safety laws.

We must do more as a Nation; the government has a responsibility to take swift action. Miners need your help now, before we bear witness to even more needless disasters. As long as miners continue to die in the Nation's mines we cannot be satisfied with the status quo.

In advance and in anticipation of your help, on behalf of all coal miners and their families the United Mine Workers of America thanks you.

Sincerely,

Cecil E. Roberts