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Building and Construction Trades Department

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June 17, 2013

Chairman Fred Upton
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Henry Waxman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

On behalf of the 3 million skilled craft professionals who comprise the 13 national and international unions of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, I write in support of H.R. 2218, the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013, which is scheduled for consideration before your Committee this week.

H.R. 2218 is a bi-partisan bill that reflects a significant consensus regarding how coal combustion residuals (CCR) should be managed and disposed of. The bill establishes a reasonable regulatory framework to govern the disposal of CCR. It also ensures that these minimum federal requirements are implemented by enforceable permits issued by the states. Finally, this bill will ensure that the substantial employment and environmental benefits that come from the use of coal ash in transportation, agriculture, housing and building construction are realized.

With continued unacceptable levels of unemployment in the construction sector, which is nearly double the national rate, the use of CCRs will keep our members at work in the utility sector and expand employment opportunities for our transportation construction members. Again, I urge your strong support for this bill as it represents a victory for bipartisanship, for jobs and for a much needed economic recovery and growth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean McGarvey
President

cc: House Energy & Commerce Committee Members