

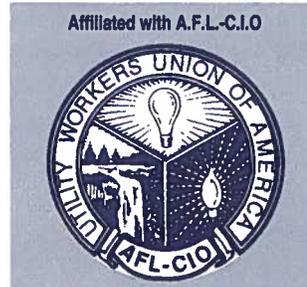
UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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June 18, 2013

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

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

John D. Dingell, Jr., Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 2218, The Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013

Dear Representatives Upton, Waxman and Dingell:

The Utility Workers Union of America represents workers in the Electric Generation Industry throughout the United States and we are writing in support of H.R. 2218, the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013, which was introduced on a bipartisan basis on June 3. The committee passed similar legislation during the last Congress and has since worked to refine the bill through bipartisan Senate discussions and consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

H.R. 2218 accomplishes several very important objectives and reflects a significant consensus regarding how coal combustion residuals (CCR) should be managed and disposed. The bill:

- Establishes a non-hazardous regulatory framework to govern the disposal of CCR – a framework EPA has acknowledged is appropriate, and that applies groundwater protection standards set by EPA;
- Ensures that the minimum federal requirements established by the bill for the disposal of CCR are implemented through enforceable permits issued by the states, thereby filling a statutory gap in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and,

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- Ensures that the nation can continue to receive the substantial employment and environmental benefits that come from the beneficial use of coal ash in transportation, agriculture, housing and building construction, and other uses.

We believe that the states are in the best position to implement and enforce a permit program for CCR disposal. H.R. 2218 establishes an environmentally protective framework that includes a key role for EPA to ensure state programs are properly developed to implement CCR disposal requirements. Under H.R. 2218, the public can have confidence that the central components of an effective regulatory program will be implemented at facilities across the country. Even more important, they can have confidence that a facility that does not meet environmental and safety standards will be closed.

We believe H.R. 2218 is the best and most effective path to resolve the regulatory uncertainty surrounding the disposal of CCR. Accordingly, we urge you to support H.R. 2218.

Sincerely,



D. Michael Langford
National President

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