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Transportation Division

Washington Legislative Office

June 26, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the SMART-Transportation Division (formerly the United Transportation Union), I write in support of H.R. 2218 - the bi-partisan Coal Residuals and Management Act of 2013.

Our union represents operating railroad workers in both the passenger and freight sector. America's freight railroads haul more coal than any other commodity with a full 40% of all freight rail cars being coal cars and 44% of all the tonnage hauled by freight railroads is coal. Rail lines across America have been built and are being maintained with coal revenues.

We support the reasonable regulation of coal and its residuals and H.R. 2218 is just that. It establishes a regulatory framework that governs the use and disposal of coal ash in a way that protects our environment while allowing the continued use of coal ash in transportation, building and housing and in agriculture. This legislation provides a workable alternate to EPA's proposal to regulate coal ash as a hazardous waste, which would put hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk and would drive up electricity and construction costs. This legislation represents a victory for bi-partnership, for jobs and for much needed economic recovery and growth.

H.R. 2218 is good public policy and we urge you to support it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Stem, Jr." in a cursive style.

James A. Stem, Jr.
National Legislative Director