

September 20, 2012

The Honorable  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. :

This week, the House of Representatives is scheduled to debate and vote on H.R. 3409, the *Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act*. The American Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) strongly supports efforts to keep energy prices affordable, to ensure development and utilization of all forms of domestic energy, to streamline the federal regulatory process, and to prevent regulatory initiatives that unnecessarily impede economic growth. Accordingly, Farm Bureau urges all members of the House to vote in favor of H.R. 3409.

Agriculture is an energy-intensive sector, and Farm Bureau members depend on coal for affordable energy to run their farms and ranches. Ensuring there is an adequate supply of coal for domestic consumption is important. H.R. 3409 seeks to address several important policy matters by prohibiting the secretary of the interior from issuing new rules or regulations that would adversely impact mining jobs and our economy; prohibiting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from using the Clean Air Act to impose costly greenhouse gas regulations; providing for an honest accounting of the full cost of EPA regulations; requiring an interagency committee to analyze the cumulative economic impacts of certain environmental regulations in an effort to better understand how these policies affect our economy; and preventing EPA from unilaterally expanding its regulatory reach under the Clean Water Act.

H.R. 3409 represents a sensible, balanced approach to utilizing coal resources while protecting the environment, and Farm Bureau urges all members to support the bill when it is brought to the House floor.

Sincerely,



Bob Stallman  
President