



September 17, 2012

Dear Chairman Upton:

On behalf of the members and supporters of Let Freedom Ring, a national grassroots organization that includes American energy independence on its list of priorities, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 3409, Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act.

Our national headquarters is located in Pennsylvania, a place where coal mining has been a way of life for many generations. The current administration is engaged in an ongoing war on coal that not only places America's national security at risk, it threatens the livelihoods of tens of thousands hard-working people throughout the coal industry. The Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act will help liberate their productive power from the shackles of government over-regulation and help bring the nation closer to the day when it will finally be free of the need to seek energy sources from regions of the world that are politically unstable and in constant turmoil.

There is no excuse for America to turn its back on its ability to produce coal as an energy source. Advances in technology that continue even today have made it a cleaner resource, so much so that one must now balance the health risks associated with its continued use against the health risks that will result from continuing increases in the price of energy. We are now not only experiencing "pain at the pump"; we are also experiencing "pain at the plug," with higher electricity rates squeezing family budgets even tighter.

There is no "one size fits all" solution, but H.R. 3409 is several giant steps in the right direction. We strongly urge members to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colin L. Hanna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Colin Hanna  
President  
Let Freedom Ring