

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2009

Mr. Brett Harvey
President
Consol Energy Incorporated
1800 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15241-1405

Dear Brett,

We were very concerned to hear the news that Consol is considering the possibility of idling their mining operation near Bickmore, resulting in potentially as many as 500 miners being laid off. You know that the loss of even a single job in West Virginia is a serious matter, and very troubling. Mining jobs such as these have long been the lifeblood of West Virginia's economy and it is vital we do all we can to retain these jobs.

The idling of the Fola and Little Eagle mines could have a devastating impact on the economy of Clay County and surrounding communities. We know that you appreciate how difficult this will be for the 500 miners who will be faced with the uncertainty of unemployment, just before the holiday season, during these already troubled economic times.

Brett, please know that we understand that Consol and your miners need certainty and stability. We can appreciate the decisions that you as a CEO are faced with making, but we trust that you will continue to examine every option and fully pursue any avenue that allows these layoffs to be avoided. We have also written to the Army Corps of Engineers and strongly urged them to consider all possible options that would allow these miners to stay at work while the legal case is resolved. Please feel free to be in touch if we can be at all helpful to these miners over the next few months.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


John D. Rockefeller IV


Robert C. Byrd