

# International Union of Operating Engineers

Affiliated with AFL-CIO

## Local 400

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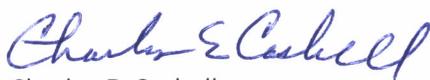
4 February 2013

Mr. Keith Regier  
Chairman  
House Energy and Telecommunications  
Committee

Re: House Joint Resolution 9

Chairman Regier, Mr. McNiven, other committee members,

My name is Charles Cashell. I am the Business Manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 400. I represent over 1500 members of our Union in the state of Montana and approximately 400 of those members work in the coal industry at mines located near Colstrip, Hardin and Savage Montana. I am here today to testify in support of House Joint Resolution 9. I would like to remind the committee just how important the continued development of our natural resources is to all of us. The jobs that mining coal creates are long term, well-paying jobs with higher than average wages. If you are a Union Coal miner in Montana you also have benefits such as; paid vacation, paid sick leave, holiday pay, paid holidays, health insurance for you **and** your family, and a pension. A defined benefit pension you can count on to be there when you retire. A pension that is also there for your spouse when you die. These jobs help to create the bedrock that our economy is based on. Coal is going to be needed to fuel power plants around the world for the foreseeable future. Until such time as there is a new technology that can reliably, cheaply, and cleanly replace coal, we should be making every effort to provide the wherewithal to companies to create jobs in this industry. Thank you for allowing me to be here today to present this testimony.

  
Charles E. Cashell  
Business Manager  
IUOE local 400