



November 19, 2003

SUPPORT PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS - VOTE YES ON H.R. 1

Dear Representative:

Soon the U.S. House of Representatives will consider the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 1, the "Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003." The National Mining Association strongly encourages you to support our nation's seniors and our economy by VOTING YES on H.R. 1.

Today employers throughout the Nation, including those in the mining industry, face the challenge of providing our employees and retirees with benefits to address their legitimate health care needs while maintaining the economic vitality of the businesses that provide the resources to fund these benefits. This challenge is becoming more and more difficult as spiraling retiree health care costs are competing with the capital required to maintain and expand the economic engine that creates jobs for Americans. H.R. 1 will address this situation by:

- reforming and modernizing the health care delivery system that our Nation's seniors rely upon;
- making consumers an active participant in decisions regarding the type of care they receive;
- providing a mechanism for employees to pre-fund accounts to address their retiree health care needs; and,
- encouraging employers to continue offering retiree health care benefits.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the conference report for H.R. 1 when it comes to the floor. If you have questions or we can provide you with additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Jack N. Gerard
President & CEO