

IRL F. ENGELHARDT
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

November 20, 2003

Fax: 202-225-8798

The Honorable William Thomas
United States House of Representatives
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Congress will soon be considering the Conference Report on H.R. 1, the "Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003." This vote presents Congress with the opportunity this year to do something very good for the American people and the American economy.

Most employers, including those in the coal mining industry, face the challenge of providing our employees and retirees with health care coverage. As the cost of health care continues to increase at double-digit rates, it greatly affects the pocket books of all Americans and impedes America's businesses in their efforts to invest and grow.

H.R. 1 reforms and modernizes the health care delivery system and allows employers to continue to provide affordable health care coverage to their employees and retirees. Peabody Energy strongly encourages you to VOTE YES on H.R. 1.

Sincerely,



Irl F. Engelhardt
Chairman and CEO