



WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY WHIP
STATE CAPITOL
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CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305
(304) 340-3249

March 4, 2015

MIKE CAPUTO
MINORITY WHIP

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin:

I have been a coal miner since February 22, 1977 and a legislator for 19 years. I am saddened and angry that for the very first time during my tenure the Legislature has passed a bill to roll back mine safety. I am writing today to strongly urge you to veto this legislation- Senate Bill 357, the so-called Creating Coal Jobs and Safety Act of 2015. This is a bad bill. It is a bill that strips away necessary and life-saving mine safety regulations. **The statute changes included in this legislation put coal industry profits over coal miners' lives.**

The so-called "Creating Coal Jobs and Safety Act of 2015" will not create jobs. The so-called "Creating Coal Jobs and Safety Act of 2015" will not make mines safer for our miners. I urge you to put the safety of the men and women working in our mines above increasing profits for the coal industry by vetoing this bill. The majority of the members of your party voted against this legislation in both chambers of the Legislature. I encourage you to stand with the majority of Democrats in the Legislature and veto this legislation.

In closing, please do not leave as part of your gubernatorial legacy being the first Governor in modern day history to sign a bill that takes West Virginia backwards in mine health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Caputo".

Mike Caputo
Minority Whip

cc: Cecil Roberts, President, UMWA