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November 5, 2018

President Donald Trump
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Letter of Appreciation

Dear President Trump:

Nearly two years ago, America elected you to the office of the president. In that time, your administration's policies have sparked growth and helped support America's workers, including coal miners right here in Indiana. From 2011 to 2016, the nation's coal industry saw unprecedented job losses—more than 62,000 coal miners lost their jobs, much the result of onerous regulations from the Obama administration.

But, thanks to your administration's support, the coal industry has turned around. Although the Midwest might not immediately come to mind when it comes to coal, Indiana is amongst the top ten coal-producing states in the country. Since your election, three coal mines in Indiana have reopened, new mines are being planned, and hundreds of miners with salaries of more than \$80,000 per year have gone to work or back to work. Overall, coal production in the state went up almost 10 percent in 2017. And across the country, countless coal jobs came back, and coal production grew 6 percent.

Through legislation and sensible regulation, your administration has cut red tape and made it easier to get miners back to work. For instance, you signed a law repealing a rule that would have added duplicative and unnecessary mine-site regulations to those already in-place. As a result of executive order, your administration has proposed a replacement rule for President Obama's job-killing Clean Power Plan.

Your administration's progress in easing unnecessary regulatory requirements will continue to make coal the fuel of choice for Indiana. But in southwest Indiana, Vectren is considering prematurely shutting down the majority of its coal facilities and is proposing a new natural-gas plant in its place, with a price tag of almost \$1 billion. The cost for this will be recouped by dramatically raising rates on tens of thousands of Hoosiers. But with leaders like you supporting coal's future, now is not the time to prematurely close any coal facilities. Vectren and other utility companies considering moving away from coal should reconsider these closings in the interest of Indiana's economy, customer rates, and with your pro-coal stance in mind.

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I know I speak for the thousands of Indiana coal miners and for the thousands of employees of companies providing goods and services to our industry in saying thank you for all you have done and all you continue to do to revive our industry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce A. Stevens" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce A. Stevens, President
Indiana Coal Council