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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
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Dear Colleagues,

From July 15-17 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center in Reno, Nevada, the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) sponsored the 2008 Metal/Nonmetal National and International Mine Rescue Contest. The results of the contest are available at the MSHA mine rescue home page (www.msha.gov/MineRescue/rescue.HTM).

The Congressional Mining Caucus extends its best wishes to all of the teams that participated in this year's Mine Rescue Contest and congratulates the Best All-Around Team in the contest, the FMC Red Team from FMC Alkali Chemicals of Green River, Wyoming. Well done!

The National Metal/Nonmetal Rescue and the National Coal Mine Rescue Contest are biannual contests held in alternate years. In years the contest is not held, the teams can compete in regional mine rescue competitions. The last National Coal Mine Rescue Contest was held in 2007.

These contests are designed to sharpen skills and test the knowledge of rescue team members, experienced miners and mine inspectors who would be called on to respond to a mine emergency. The national contest is composed of four individual events, including a Mine Rescue Team competition, an apparatus bench contest, a multi-gas instrument contest, and a first aid contest. Mine Rescue Team members are required to solve a hypothetical problem while being timed and observed by judges according to complex rules.

Nationwide, there are a total of 212 mine rescue teams in 31 states with 3517 team members. On occasion the members of these teams have given their last full measure to rescue those in need of their help. These teams and their members are worthy of the gratitude of their fellow miners, the Members of this House and the general public for their courage and their sacrifices as they continue to respond to mining emergencies.

Sincerely,

Bill Sali
Co-Chair, Congressional Mining Caucus

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Co-Chair

Shelley Moore Capito
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Co-Chair