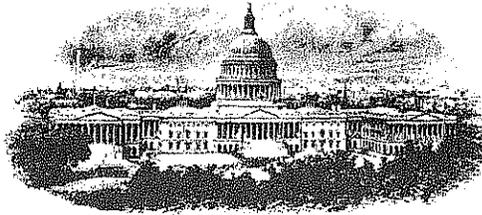


DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2111 RAYBURN BUILDING
TELEPHONE 202-225-5765



COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

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

January 18, 2011

Chairman John Mica
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC
20515

Dear Mr. Chairman

As we begin the 112th Congress and you develop priorities for the committee, I ask that you make oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a top priority.

As you may know, the EPA took the unprecedented step of revoking a 404 permit that was issued by the Corps of Engineers for Mingo Logan's Spruce No. 1 surface mine. Although the mine was issued the permit three years ago, the EPA mistakenly believes that it has the authority from section 404(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to revoke it. Never before has the EPA ever made such a determination. If the EPA successfully usurps this unprecedented authority, projects around the country will be in danger and the Corps of Engineers will have a diminished role in issuing these dredge and fill permits.

I introduced a bill, H.R. 5992, in the last Congress that I plan to re-introduce again that eliminates EPA's veto authority over the Corps of Engineers. The bill has the support of the National Mining Association. I ask for your support in moving this legislation forward and would appreciate an oversight hearing concerning EPA's recent actions. I have attached a letter on this issue from the Waters Advocacy Coalition for your reference and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Young".

DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska

DY/jp
Enc.