

Washington Update
July 25, 2013

U.S. House Passes Coal Ash Legislation in 265-155 Bipartisan Vote

The U.S. House of Representatives today approved HR 2218, the “Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013,” sponsored by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and 54 co-sponsors. The final vote of 265-155 included 39 Democrats voting yes, sending a strong bipartisan signal as action on the legislation now shifts to the U.S. Senate.

The bill is based on bipartisan legislation that nearly passed Congress last year, but includes several key revisions to clarify the scope and intent of national coal ash disposal regulations that would be created by the bill. The bill is patterned after regulations for municipal solid waste disposal and would establish the first ever national regulatory standards for coal ash disposal. It would create enforceable national regulations under Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and avoid any designation of coal ash as “hazardous waste.”

Below is the list of Democrats voting in favor of the bill, organized by state. The 39 Democrat yes votes is an increase of 2 from the October 2011 vote that approved the original stand-alone bill, HR 2273. The increase in Democrat support came in spite of the fact that 11 of the Democrat members who voted for the bill in 2011 are no longer in Congress. The number of Republicans in opposition declined from 3 to 2 – with only Republicans Petri of Wisconsin and Wolf of Virginia voting no on this year’s bill.

Democrats Voting Yes on HR 2218

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----------|----|----------|----|
| Barber | AZ | Richmond | LA | Doyle | PA |
| Pastor | AZ | Thompson | MI | Brady | PA |
| Kirkpatrick | AZ | Peterson | MN | Clyburn | SC |
| Costa | CA | Walz | MN | Vela | TX |
| Vargas | CA | Nolan | MN | G. Green | TX |
| Perlmutter | CO | Clay | MO | Cuellar | TX |
| Bishop | GA | McIntyre | NC | Gallego | TX |
| Barrow | GA | Owens | NY | Matheson | UT |
| David Scott | GA | Maloney | NY | Kind | WI |
| Loeb sack | IA | Ryan | OH | Moore | WI |
| Enyart | IL | Fudge | OH | Rahall | WV |
| Bustos | IL | Kaptur | OH | | |
| Danny Davis | IL | Beatty | OH | | |
| Visclosky | IN | Schrader | OR | | |