

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

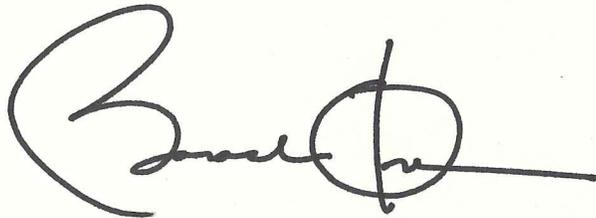
March 23, 2010

I send greetings to Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and all those commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act (Coal Act).

In communities across America, the dangers of mining have been exposed through disasters and terrible losses of life. These tragedies were once all too common in our country, revealing the need for occupational safety measures to protect miners.

Since becoming law in 1969, the Coal Act has improved working conditions, reduced fatalities, and addressed pressing health concerns faced by miners such as black lung disease. Guarding the health and security of our workers preserves the long-term health of our citizens, our economy, and our Nation.

I thank the employees of the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration for their dedication to America's workers. As you mark this important milestone, I wish you all the best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered on the page below the text.