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May 16, 2011

US. Department of Labor's Mine and Health Administration:

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Dear Sirs:

My name is Ralph Varney. I live at 765 Grassy Road. Raccoon Ky. 41557

I worked as a coal miner at numerous mines in Ky. Inside & outside.

We always tried to follow the proper safety procedures at the mines. We tried to control the coal dust. We hung ventilation curtains & we used water sprays to control the dust. Despite our efforts to control the dust, I got black lung. I now have severe breathing impairment. I use portable oxygen to breathe. I am totally disabled because of black lung.

More must be done to protect miners from black lung disease. MSHA's proposed rule is needed.

(over)

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Too many miners are still working in too much dust and getting black lung.

Ending black lung disease is very important. MSHA should act as speedily as possible. MSHA needs to prevent young miners from getting black lung. These young miners are healthy and they think ~~that~~ black lung will not be a problem for them. They do not realize the danger working in coal mine dust. The harm from the dust is invisible and the disease progresses slowly. It gradually causes the miner to feel short of breath until one day he cannot get enough air to do his work. After the miner stops work black lung continues to cause injury and eventually it causes the miner to become like I am now, with constant shortness of breath and not enough air to climb a flight of stairs or walk a

short distance on level ground.
I urge MSHA to adopt the proposed rule changes and end black lung.

Sincerely,
Ralph Varney
P.O. Box 302
Raccoon Ky 41557