

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** MSHA-2018-0014  
Dust Retrospective Study

**Comment On:** MSHA-2018-0014-0007  
Retrospective Study of Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule

**Document:** MSHA-2018-0014-DRAFT-0020  
Comment from Stock, Rider

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## General Comment

I am a resident of southeast Ohio and I have seen the negative impact that coal mining has had on my community and the Appalachian region. Multiple neighbors and members of my community have fallen victim to coal dust related sicknesses such as Black lung, silicosis, and various pulmonary diseases. I am writing to urge the Mine Safety and Health Administration to continue to retroactively study the impact that the Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule and to extend the comment period. Extending the comment period would give those suffering from occupational injuries related to coal dust the opportunity to give their insight and opinions on this rule. The Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule is working and should not be weakened in any way. Amendments to this rule should strengthen the policies put in place by this rule and make testing for coal dust and related injuries more accessible to miners. Miners and their families have given their lives to companies that have little regard for their welfare. Workers in this industry deserve protections that will benefit their livelihood.

Not only will protections such as the Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule benefit miners and their families, but it will benefit the entire nation. According to the Department of Labor, in 2021 there were 30,375 individuals receiving compensation related to black lung. Additionally, coal dust related injuries add to the total cost of healthcare paid for by American taxpayers. Not only is the decision to uphold the Respirable Coal Mine Dust Rule a moral and ethical decision it is an economic one as well.