



H.Res. 631 - Honoring the sacrifice and courage of the six missing miners and three rescuers who were killed in the Crandall Canyon mine disaster in Utah, and recognizing the rescue crews for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of the tragedies

Floor Situation

H.Res. 631 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT) on September 5, 2007, and was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, but was not acted on.

H.Res. 631 is expected to be considered in the House of Representatives on September 5, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 631 resolves that the House of Representatives:

Recognizes Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez, Jose Luis Hernandez, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimbler, and Dale `Bird' Black, for their sacrifice in the Crandall Canyon, Utah coal mine;

Extends the deepest condolences of the Nation to the families of these men;

Recognizes the many volunteers who participated in the rescue efforts and provided support for the miners' families during the rescue operations; and

Honors the long national heritage of coal mining families and supports their tradition for the future.

Background

On August 6, 2007, six miners, Kerry Allred, Don Erickson, Juan Carlos Payan, Brandon Phillips, Manuel Sanchez, and Jose Luis Hernandez, were trapped 1,800 feet below ground in the Crandall Canyon mine in Utah. Federal, State, and local rescue crews worked relentlessly in attempts to locate and rescue the trapped miners and in the processes three rescuers, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimbler, and Dale `Bird' Black lost their lives during a rescue attempt.

On August 30, 2007, the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) announced the appointment of a team to investigate the accident at the Crandall Canyon mine, instructing the team to “evaluate all aspects of the accident, including potential causes and compliance with federal health and safety standards.”

Utah is one of the largest coal producing States in the Nation, producing over 21 million tons of coal in 2005.

Cost

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) does not have a cost estimate available for this legislation.

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