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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 12, 1975

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DEC 12 1975

By Page

Hon. Robert Krueger
U.S. House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Bob:

I just wanted you to know that I completely support the Kemp-Murtha proposal for an amendment to your bill that would provide incentives for production from stripper wells in the Appalachian Region. Their proposal would also provide for accelerated research and development of natural gas from the Devonian shales in the Appalachian Region.

As a cosponsor of your bill, I continue to have a great interest in it and believe it would be strengthened immeasurably by the addition of the language proposed by our Colleagues Mr. Kemp and Mr. Murtha.

In West Virginia, we have literally hundreds and hundreds of small stripper wells. Singularly, they do not produce large quantities of natural gas. But collectively their production is significant and it is badly needed. Most of these wells are marginal operations, and my latest information shows that the "capping" rate on these stripper wells in West Virginia is three or four times what it was last year because operating costs continue to soar while the selling price remains fixed.

The Kemp-Murtha language is highly important to increasing natural gas production in West Virginia and throughout the Appalachian Region, and I do hope that it will be possible to incorporate it into your excellent bill.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Mollohan

RHM/rmj