

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To provide for a study on retreat room and pillar mining practices.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—110th Cong., 1st Sess.**

**H. R. 3043**

Making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. HATCH (for  
himself and Mr. BENNETT)

Viz:

1       At the appropriate place in title II, insert the fol-  
2       lowing:  
3       SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) The amount appropriated under the  
4       heading “DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING”  
5       under the heading “CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
6       AND PREVENTION” in this title is increased by  
7       \$1,000,000.

1 (b) The amount appropriated under the heading  
2 “GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT” under the  
3 heading “OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY” in this title is in-  
4 creased by \$1,000,000.

5 (c)(1)(A) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
6 ices (acting through the Director of the National Institute  
7 for Occupational Safety and Health) shall conduct, and  
8 shall invite the University of Utah and West Virginia Uni-  
9 versity to participate in conducting, a study of the recov-  
10 ery of coal pillars through retreat room and pillar mining  
11 practices in underground coal mines at depths greater  
12 than 1500 feet.

13 (B) The study shall examine the safety implications  
14 of retreat room and pillar mining practices, with emphasis  
15 on the impact of full or partial pillar extraction mining.

16 (C) The study shall consider, among other things—

17 (i) the conditions under which retreat mining is  
18 used, including conditions relating to—

19 (I) seam thickness;

20 (II) depth of cover;

21 (III) strength of the mine roof, pillars, and  
22 floor; and

23 (IV) the susceptibility of the mine to seis-  
24 mic activity; and

1           (ii) the procedures used to ensure miner safety  
2           during retreat mining.

3           (2)(A) Not later than 1 year after beginning the  
4 study described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-  
5 mit a report containing the results of the study to the  
6 Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives and the Committee on Health, Education,  
8 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

9           (B) The report shall include recommendations to en-  
10 hance the safety of miners working in underground coal  
11 mines where retreat mining in room and pillar operations  
12 is utilized. Among other things, the recommendations shall  
13 identify means of adapting any practical technology to the  
14 mining environment to improve miner protections during  
15 mining at depths greater than 1500 feet, and research  
16 needed to develop improved technology to improve miner  
17 protections during mining at such depths.

18           (3) Not later than 90 days after the submission of  
19 the report described in paragraph (2) to Congress, the  
20 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall publish a  
21 notice in the Federal Register describing the actions, if  
22 any, that the Secretary intends to take based on the re-  
23 port.