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General Comment

As a life-long West Virginian, I have been proud to make my living as a coal miner and raise my family here in the Mountain State. I know that my labor contributions have helped to keep the lights on for hundreds of thousands of families across the country. In return, I look forward to retiring and continue to enjoy all the things that our state has to offer. Through careful financial planning, I believe that my family and I will be able to achieve our retirement goals.

As someone who has taken time to ensure financial stability for my family, it concerns me greatly that there could be anything that threatens my retirement savings. It is important to get the maximum return on my 401(k) to attain a secure retirement. I understand that there is a proposed rule through the Department of Labor that would prohibit fiduciaries from sacrificing our financial returns on investments in order to promote social or political goals. I am writing in support of the proposed rule. As a coal miner who works in a field under constant scrutiny, I understand there are many groups who may feel it's important for companies to invest in the agendas that they support.

However, when it comes to investment decisions with my retirement, I feel I am the only person who knows best in that circumstance. Investment managers should not be using other people's money to push environmental or social causes. Funds in retirement plans should be invested to produce the maximum return. Not doing so violates their responsibility as a fiduciary.

I support this proposed Labor Department Rule. I feel that it is important to remember whose interests are most worthy of protecting. In this case, it is investors.