

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5051

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring America's coal miners.

WHEREAS, The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postmaster General is urged to recommend for issuance as soon as practicable a United States Postal Service stamp commemorating the vital role of coal miners in the history and economic productivity of the country. The stamp would commemorate a class of American laborers who in their immigrant origins reflect the melting-pot ideals of the nation, who with their manual labor make possible the technological conveniences of modern American life and whose contributions to the nation's welfare are generally unknown to the public. A stamp commemorating coal miners holds the promise of illustrating a colorful and historically rich segment of society for the benefit of schoolchildren, stamp collectors, educators and the public; and

WHEREAS, United States coal miners perform a unique and vital service for the nation because without a man or woman at the controls of a dragline or working in a darkened mine shaft, coal would not tumble into the trucks and barges that crisscross the country to power the boilers that generate over 50 percent of the nation's electricity; and

WHEREAS, Coal miners keep the nation supplied with an energy resource that produces electricity for the lowest cost, when compared to fuels other than nuclear, and which makes possible the country's unmatched productivity and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Coal miners provide a vital pool of labor with the expertise to produce energy supplies from vast national coal reserves which serves to buffer the country from a dangerous dependence on foreign energy fuels; and

WHEREAS, Several hundred shaft mines were constructed and operated in southeast Kansas giving employment to thousands of immigrating, European-born and native-born miners and their descendants, thereby establishing a cultural diversity that remains to this day; and

WHEREAS, Underground mining was instrumental in the historical development of the Cherokee-Crawford coal field, impacting employment, demographic movements, transportation networks, commerce, and settlement patterns in the region; and

WHEREAS, The coal mines developed in southeast Kansas stimulated industrial activity in an otherwise largely agricultural state: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the Legislature of the State of Kansas urges the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring America's coal miners; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, % Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant S.W., Room 5670, Washington, D.C. and to each member of the Kansas legislative delegation.

I hereby certify that the above CONCURRENT RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Adopted by the SENATE _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.