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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UBBMMG STATEMENT ON THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE UBB DISASTER

WHITESVILLE, W.Va. – Today our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the men lost at the Upper Big Branch Coal Mine three years ago, the survivors and their families who face a difficult road to recovery in the years to come and the many people in our community still struggling to cope with the enormity of the disaster.

We offer our most sincere thanks and appreciation to the dedicated first responders and mine rescue teams that rushed from near and far to aid the fallen miners and to the thousands of people who donated to multiple relief efforts to support the families immediately after the disaster.

We are encouraged by the recent news that mine safety legislation in Washington, which would address the failures that led to the UBB disaster, is being reworked and proposed again this year after past attempts in 2010, 2011 and 2012. We remind the West Virginia state delegation of the content of their speeches at the UBB Memorial Dedication last July and urge them to work diligently to follow through on those words.

This morning we laid wreaths near the miner's monument on the UBB Memorial Plaza in Whitesville. Instead of a public ceremony to mark the third anniversary of the disaster, we encourage the public to visit the memorial on their own time today to remember the men lost and reflect on that day's events in their own way.

May God bless the families of the men taken from us at Upper Big Branch and the West Virginia coal miner, our state's greatest resource.

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