

# United Mine Workers of America

CECIL E. ROBERTS  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



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22172-1779

July 22, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources  
304 Dirsken Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources  
304 Dirsken Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) strongly supports advancing the nomination of Lanny Erdos as Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) at the U.S. Department of Interior.

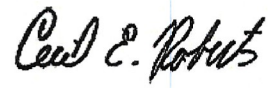
The UMWA is an International Union that represents the most miners in the U.S. mining industry. Thousands of union miners depend on the UMWA to be their voice before Congress, the federal agencies, the judiciary, and the media, advocating for public policies that will improve the lives of working miners across the nation.

OSMRE's mission is vital to ensuring the long-term physical, economic, and environmental well-being of mining communities nationwide. The agency also oversees state coal mine regulators and administers the multi-billion dollar Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program which the UMWA hopes can create tens of thousands of new jobs in the coalfields nationwide and help revitalize those communities which have been hurt the most in the downturn of the coal industry in the past fifteen years.

The UMWA has had a good working relationship with Mr. Erdos while working in the coal industry in Ohio and during his time in the first Trump administration where he served as OSMRE's acting director and principal deputy director exercising the authority of the director of OSMRE. The UMWA believes that it is imperative that OSMRE has a strong and experienced leader who will work with both industry and unions to ensure OSMRE's goals. Mr. Erdos has extensive background in regulatory and compliance issues. We believe that his confirmation will bring strong, informed leadership, and will strengthen collaboration efforts between the government, industry, and unions to drive the best outcomes for the department and the miners who depend on it.

We encourage the Committee to support Mr. Erdos's nomination and move it out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. We look forward to working with the Committee throughout the confirmation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cecil E. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C' and a prominent 'R'.

Cecil E. Roberts

cc: All U.S. Senators

BCC: Brian Sanson, UMWA International Secretary-Treasurer  
IEB Members  
Phil Smith, Executive Assistant to the President  
Mike Phillippi, Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer  
Adam Banig, Legislative Director  
A Medley  
Erin Bates, Communications Director