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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *RF*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Senator Howard Baker (R-Tenn.)

DATE: December 20, 1974

RECOMMENDED BY: Tom C. Korologos *TK*  
Patrick E. O'Donnell *POD*

PURPOSE: Senator Baker called Tom Korologos this morning urgently to request the President call him on the subject of strip mining and general environmental legislation (telephone number 615-663-2321).

BACKGROUND: Baker has strongly urged that the President sign the strip mining legislation (see his attached letter of December 18 and O'Donnell's interim reply of December 18).

The Senator is also deeply interested in general environmental legislation and would like to give you an over view of his posture in this regard before you approve or disapprove any related legislation.

TALKING POINTS:

1. Howard, Tom Korologos informs me that you felt it essential we discuss strip mining immediately, and I wanted to fulfill that request.

2. I have anguished over my decision in this matter and in all good conscience I am compelled to (pocket?) veto the bill. I appreciate your interest but I am sure you will understand this is an exercise of my responsibility which, though very difficult, leaves me no alternative.

3. I understand you would like to discuss general environmental legislation. What can I do for you in that regard?

Date of submission: December 20, 1974

ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

*RF-7. 12/20/74*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1974

Dear Senator:

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of today's date to the President in which you share your views with him regarding S. 425, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1974, and you urge that he sign it into law.

You may be assured that your letter will be called to the President's early attention. I will also make your views known to his advisors who have the substantive responsibility in this area.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Patrick E. O'Donnell  
Special Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

12-18

14.

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# United States Senate

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M. BARRY MEYER, CHIEF COUNSEL AND CHIEF CLERK  
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December 18, 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

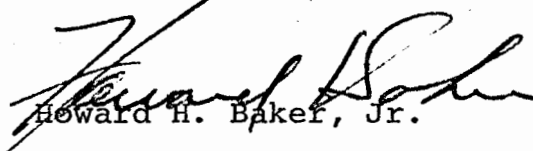
I thank you for including us in the Christmas party last evening. I believe it was the best White House party I ever attended.

During the course of the evening I had the opportunity to discuss with Secretary Rogers Morton the recently passed Strip Mine Bill. He indicated that he thought it would not be amiss for me to write you and to urge you again to sign the bill instead of vetoing it, notwithstanding your previous public statement on the subject. Both Secretary Morton and Administrator Train have, I believe, indicated a similar point of view to you.

I hope you will reconsider your previous statement with respect to the bill and sign it. I think the stiff environmental restrictions of the bill are necessary. I believe the price impact will be less than 10 percent, and possibly nonexistent in view of the present level of coal prices in this country. I believe that such a Federal law would remove the uncertainty from this field and encourage new production by environmentally acceptable techniques.

I strongly urge you to sign the bill into law.

Yours very truly,



Howard H. Baker, Jr.

HHBJr:dl