



### **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 03-1028**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES** Miller, White, Rippy, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Briggs, Brophy, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Decker, Fairbank, Frangas, Fritz, Garcia, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Johnson R., Judd, King, Larson, Lee, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, Merrifield, Mitchell, Paccione, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Romanoff, Rose, Salazar, Schultheis, Sinclair, Smith, Spence, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Weddig, Weissmann, Wiens, Williams S., Williams T., Witwer, and Young;

**also SENATORS** Chlouber, Taylor, Tapia, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Groff, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson S., Jones, Keller, Kester, Lamborn, Linkhart, May R., McElhany, Nichol, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, Sandoval, Takis, Teck, Tupa, and Windels.

### **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MINING INDUSTRY IN COLORADO.**

WHEREAS, The state of Colorado was founded primarily by miners returning from California; and

WHEREAS, Mining and mineral exploration have been active in Colorado since 1858 with the discovery of small amounts of gold in Ralston Creek near present-day Arvada and in Dry Creek south of Denver; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was originally organized as the territory of Jefferson in 1859 by miners without sanction of Congress in order to govern the gold fields at a time when there were few inhabitants in the area other than miners and native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Miners were important in the early government of Colorado as exemplified by George Crocker, a miner and speaker of the house who walked 140 miles through the snow to the second meeting of the territorial legislature in Colorado City wearing one old boot and one brogan on his feet; and

WHEREAS, Mining was the principal occupation of the state in the early days and was promoted assiduously even with poetry, such as the poem published by William Byers, the founder of the Rocky Mountain News:

"The gold is there, 'most anywhere  
You can take it out rich, with an iron crow bar,  
and where it is thick, with a shovel and pick,  
You can pick it out in lumps a big as a brick.

Then ho boys ho, to cherry creek we'll go.  
There's plenty of gold,  
In the west we are told,  
in the new Eldorado."

WHEREAS, The importance of mining in the history of the state of Colorado is shown by its 500 ghost towns or former mining camps, which are a major tourist attraction for the state; and

WHEREAS, The mining industry in Colorado grew to include producers of gold, silver, uranium, coal, marble, molybdenum, soda ash, oil shale, gypsum, sand, gravel, and other industrial minerals as well as diamonds; and

WHEREAS, Colorado marble, granite, and gold were used to construct Colorado's state capitol building, a symbol of our state's rich heritage, with members of the Colorado Mining Association donating the gold used to regild the capitol dome in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Colorado marble has been used to construct national monuments, including the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's coal is exported nationwide because of its low sulfur content and superior heat characteristics; and

WHEREAS, Coal meets more than 80% of Colorado's electricity needs, providing low-cost power to homes and businesses throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, The mining industry today continues to be a major contributor to the economy of the state of Colorado with 12 active coal mines and 376 other mines containing metals and industrial minerals; and

WHEREAS, In the year 2000, the production of Colorado's mines was valued at \$1.2 billion and contributed approximately \$180 million in taxes and other government charges; and

WHEREAS, Colorado recently received \$41 million as its share of federal mining royalties from minerals produced on federal lands in the state; and

WHEREAS, The mining industry employs approximately 5,700 people in the state of Colorado, with countless others employed in businesses providing goods and services to the mining industry, including equipment dealers and manufacturers, construction companies, bankers, environmental professionals and geologists, lawyers, and accountants; and

WHEREAS, The average wage of a person involved in the mining industry was \$64,000 in the year 2000, making miners the highest paid industrial workers in the state; and

WHEREAS, Colorado mining companies and their employees play an active role in nurturing the cultural and civic life of their communities through volunteer activities and financial support; and

WHEREAS, The coal mining industry in the state of Colorado has received acclaim for achievements in establishing wildlife habitat and is nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior for its reclamation of mined lands; and

WHEREAS, Numerous mines in Colorado have received national awards for achieving outstanding worker safety records; and

WHEREAS, The mining industry will continue to be a major contributor to the economy and community life of Colorado into the foreseeable future; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

That the members of the General Assembly recognize the mining industry in Colorado for its many contributions to the state in the past, present, and future!

---

Lola Spradley  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

John Andrews  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

---

Judith Rodrigue  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

Mona Heustis  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE