

RESOLUTION 2000-11
BOROUGH OF WEST NEWTON
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST NEWTON URGING THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO WORK TOGETHER TO REFORM THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE COAL ACT TO ENSURE THAT RETIRED MINERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS THEY WERE PROMISED AND RIGHTLY DESERVE.

WHEREAS, West Newton Borough has benefited tremendously from the hard, dangerous work of retired coal miners; and

WHEREAS, the United States government entered into a contract with the coal miners in 1946 that created the United Mine Workers of America Health and Retirement Funds; and

WHEREAS, this contract was signed in the White House in a ceremony with President Harry Truman; and

WHEREAS, a federal commission established by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole concluded in 1990: "Retired coal miners have legitimate expectations of health care benefits for life; that was the promise they received during their working lives and that is how they planned their retirement years. That commitment should be honored"; and

WHEREAS, this promise became law in 1992 when Congress passed, and President George Bush signed, the Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act (the Coal Act); and

WHEREAS, the Coal Act reiterated the promise of lifetime health benefits for retired coal miners and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, Congress intended the Coal Act to:

- (1) remedy problems with the provision and funding of health care benefits with respect to the beneficiaries of multiemployer benefit plans that provide health care benefits to retirees in the coal industry;
- (2) allow for sufficient operating assets for such plans; and
- (3) provide for the continuation of a privately financed self-sufficient program for the delivery of health care benefits to the beneficiaries of such plans; and

WHEREAS, certain court decisions have eroded the financial structure that Congress put in place under the Coal Act; and

WHEREAS, these court decisions have placed the continued provision of health benefits to retired coal miners in jeopardy:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Council of West Newton Borough in the state of Pennsylvania urges the Executive Branch and the Congress of the United States to work together to reform the financial structure of the Coal Act to ensure that retired coal miners continue to received the health care benefits they were promised and so rightly deserve; and be it further;

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Pennsylvania, the President of the United States and to each member of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation and members of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent portions of Westmoreland County.

Adopted this 26th day of December, 2000.

BY: Armand N. Luzi
Armand N. Luzi, President

ATTEST:

BY: Pamela M. Humenik
Pamela M. Humenik, Secretary

Approved by me this 26th day of December, 2000.

BY: Arthur Berarducci
Arthur Berarducci, Mayor

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST NEWTON HELD THIS/26TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2000.

By: Pamela M. Humenik
Borough Secretary