

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT  
FOR H.R. 2824  
OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH OF KENTUCKY**

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.**

2 (a) **LIMITATION.**—Subsection (e) of section 503 of  
3 the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977  
4 (30 U.S.C. 1253) shall not apply before the date the Sec-  
5 retary of the Interior certifies under subsection (b) of this  
6 section that surface mining to which subsection (e) of sec-  
7 tion 503 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation  
8 Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1253) applies does not pose a pub-  
9 lic health threat.

10 (b) **HEALTH STUDIES.**—The Secretary of the Inte-  
11 rior, in consultation with the Administrator of the Envi-  
12 ronmental Protection Agency and the heads of such other  
13 Federal departments and agencies as the Secretary deems  
14 appropriate, shall—

15 (1) conduct or support comprehensive studies  
16 on the health impacts, if any, of surface mining on  
17 individuals in the surrounding communities; and

18 (2) submit to the Congress and publish—

1 (A) a report on the results of such studies;  
2 and

3 (B) a certification of whether surface min-  
4 ing to which subsection (e) of section 503 of the  
5 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of  
6 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1253) applies presents any  
7 health risks to individuals in the surrounding  
8 communities.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING.—  
11 The term “mountaintop removal coal mining” means  
12 surface coal mining that uses blasting with explo-  
13 sives in the steep slope regions of Kentucky, Ten-  
14 nessee, West Virginia, and Virginia.

15 (2) STEEP SLOPE.—The term “steep slope” has  
16 the meaning that term has under section 515(d)(4)  
17 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act  
18 of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1265(d)(4)).

19 (3) SURFACE MINING.—The term “surface min-  
20 ing” includes mountaintop removal coal mining.

