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**** News Release ****

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**OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL COMPROMISES AMERICA'S ENERGY
FUTURE; WON'T PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE
Rules Threaten Loss of 224,000 Jobs**

Denver, CO – The Colorado Mining Association (CMA) today condemned the Obama Administration's proposed regulations mandating the reduction of carbon dioxide from existing generating stations, saying that the new rules will cause extensive job losses and economic harm to America. They will also hurt coal dependent states like Colorado, which generates 65% of its electricity from clean coal.

"The so-called 'compromise,'" Stuart Sanderson, CMA President, said, "only compromises America's energy security and damages its economy." "As with the regulations proposed last year for new generating units, these new rules are designed to write clean coal from Colorado and other states out of the energy mix," he added. "The rules will also cause extensive economic harm," he further stated, quoting a recent study by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce showing that the new rules would result in the loss of 224,000 jobs and cost the economy a total of \$50 billion.

"Sadly, the rules will result in no measurable reversal of so-called man made climate change," Sanderson noted, as EPA's own analysis of the temperature and sea level effects of reducing carbon dioxide emissions show that even a complete shutdown of coal-fired power plants in the United States would only reduce ocean levels by the less than the width of a penny

and reduce temperatures by less than 1/20th of one (1) degree F. “Even that almost undetectable reduction in climate change is unlikely to occur,” he emphasized, “because worldwide greenhouse gas emissions are increasing substantially, and are expected to increase by more than 40% in the coming decades.”

Ironically, U. S. carbon emissions have declined 21% since 2005, and emissions of criteria pollutants like sulfur dioxide have fallen by more than 87% since the 1970s. Overall emissions of carbon from U. S. power plants now account for only 4% of the world total of anthropogenic (human caused) sources. Yet emissions from power plants in China have increased by 170% while those from India are up 90%, erasing any gains that will be produced by the costly Obama EPA rules.

“The world is turning to coal and to economic prosperity,” Sanderson said. “Coal is the fastest growing source of electricity worldwide and will lift nations out of energy poverty. Thus, it makes no sense for the United States to weaken its economy on policies that will produce nothing in the way of corresponding benefits to the environment.”

The rule is also unclear as to the extent to which states will receive credit for actions already taken, many of which have caused or will result in negative economic impacts. Coal production was down nearly 20% last year in Colorado, resulting in some job losses while federal and state royalty payments, much of which support public schools, fell substantially. If the states do not get credit, Sanderson added, there will be even more pressure to write affordable, reliable coal out of the energy mix in favor of higher cost and highly subsidized sources like wind and solar.

The Colorado Mining Association is an industry association whose more than 1,050 members include the producers of coal, metals and other minerals throughout Colorado and the west, as well as individuals and companies that provide services and supplies to the industry. Coal accounts for nearly 23,700 jobs in Colorado’s economy, according to a study recently completed by the National Mining Association.