

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CODY ALLRED,
SON OF KERRY ALLRED,
TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
October 3, 2007**

I want to thank Chairman Miller for the opportunity to provide this written statement, and the United Mine Workers Association for making it possible to attend and observe.

Though my six and one half years of experience in a local Price, Utah coal mine may not possibly compare to the knowledge of MSHA and/or the Murray Companies, my goal in submitting this statement is to urge you to ask “was it proper to consider mining this way, let alone have any men in that section of the mine?”

I also want to comment on the rescue operations done by Mr. Murray and MSHA. I have heard the question, “what could have been done differently?” My answer is that Robert Murray promised us that “cost was not an issue.” Well, prove it to us! Make a 36 inch hole into the mine. This option was never attempted. There are other options out there that are not being considered to retrieve my father’s body.

How is it that the Mr. Murray would promise us that he would “get the men out no matter what”? Retrieval operations have stopped. Mr. Murray has gone home. I know several men, me included, who are willing to continue working to get the men out.

Better technology needs to be developed so that in the future the men can be located promptly. The failure to rescue and now retrieve my father has had a devastating impact on my family and I. I know that for certain from personal experience.