

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SHEILA PHILLIPS
MOTHER OF BRANDON PHILLIPS,
TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
October 3, 2007**

First of all I would like to thank Chairman Miller and this Committee for the invitation to speak of my son, Brandon, and to my grandson, Gage. I wish to thank the United Mine Workers of America for its generous assistance in making it possible to be here. I want to speak on how we miss Brandon and how we do not want this to happen to anyone else. It is hard to have hope, only to have your heart broke. It is hard to see your grandson left fatherless.

During our family meetings after the collapse, Mr. Murray was talking about changing where they were going to drill. I asked him why there was only one drill going and why not two. He told us the road up there could not support rigs running at the same time. He also said that he could drill a thousand holes and it would not make a difference. I would like to know – where the thousand holes are? I want to know where my son is even if they never able to get them out of the mine.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here to talk to you.