

United Mine Workers of America

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Senator Amy Klobuchar
P.O. Box 18360
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

As a candidate for the Democratic nomination to be President of the United States, you have taken on a tremendous task, one that will require you to demonstrate that Democrats are still the strong voice for working families that has long been the party's tradition. As the last presidential election indicated, there are many areas of the country and workplace sectors where working class voters are no longer sure that tradition still holds.

One of those sectors is coal mining. Although smaller in numbers today, more than 50,000 American coal miners still work 50-60 hour weeks, putting their lives and their health on the line every single day to provide the fuel to produce nearly 30 percent of American energy.

Coal miners are very concerned about their future, and their families' futures. They want to know that those who are running for President share that concern and have some understanding of what they do and why they do it. They want to talk to you, and they have a right to be heard.

Therefore, I am inviting you and every other Democratic candidate for President to meet them on their turf: Underground, in a working coal mine whose miners are represented by the United Mine Workers of America. This way, you can learn how they do their jobs, including operating highly sophisticated machinery and ensuring that what can be a dangerous workplace is, in fact, a safe and productive place to work.

If Democrats are to win back the votes of so many who have deserted the party in the last several elections, it is exactly these kinds of voters who you need to persuade. Come meet them, and most importantly, listen to them. As America moves toward developing policy decisions to revise the way we generate electricity, their voices need to be heard by those who would be guiding that policy. They should hear from you, and you should hear from them.

I sincerely hope you will accept this invitation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Director of Communications and Governmental Affairs, Phil Smith at 703-291-2430 or 571-345-8338 with any questions you may have regarding this or to schedule a mine tour. I am also happy to discuss any other issue with you as you may desire. You can reach my office at 703-291-2440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecil E. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cecil E. Roberts

cc: Levi Allen, UMWA International Secretary-Treasurer
UMWA International Executive Board
Phil Smith, UMWA Director of Communications and Governmental Affairs