

28. MINED LANDS

We support:

1. Working with private, county, state, and federal groups and agencies in the development and strict enforcement of regulations for mined and undermined lands which will give proper consideration to needs and priorities of agriculture as well as energy and which will protect and restore agricultural lands.
2. Working with other interested groups in developing reasonable solutions to problems of subsidence and means to minimize subsidence in future mining operations. The landowner shall receive fair compensation for any subsidence which occurs.
3. The Office of Mines and Minerals to include irrigation and other agricultural wells in the protection clauses under Illinois regulations concerning subsidence from underground mines.
4. A bonding requirement for coal companies that receive fly ash from coal combustion plants to address groundwater concerns and cleanup.
5. Developing an educational program on mineral and subsidence rights for landowners and support mining methods that maintain property values.
6. The review of the impact of mining activity and how it affects the market value of property. Should this effect be negative, we will seek legislation to compensate landowners for this loss.
7. Requiring mine operators to compensate landowners and tenants for production losses.
8. Requiring mine operators to compensate landowners and tenants for increased cost of federal crop insurance when the farmland has been rerated due to mining operations.
9. County Farm Bureaus becoming involved in reviewing proposed reclamation plans prior to the issuance of mining permits and to closely monitor such reclamation plans after mining to see they are being properly implemented.