



WHEREAS, The Pittston Coal strike was an Organized Labor strike led by the United Mine Workers Union (UMWA) against the Pittston Coal Company.

WHEREAS, this strike that lasted from April 5, 1989 to February 20, 1990, resulted from Pittston's termination of health care benefits for approximately 1,500 retirees, widows, and disabled miners.

WHEREAS, at its peak in June 1989, the strike involved approximately 2,000 miners daily staying at Camp Solidarity with thousands more sending donations and holding wildcat walkouts that involved around 40,000 people.

WHEREAS, a key turning point was the takeover of Pittston's Moss 3 plant by UMWA members. Moss 3 was the third largest coal preparation plant in the world at the time and central to Pittston's operations. This occupation at Moss 3 was set up to be an unexpected mass nonviolent sit-down strike within the preparation plant. The 99 strikers walked into the plant peacefully and sat down inside the plant to halt production. This takeover led to a four-day occupation of the plant that was widely supported by the local community and it shut down the company's coal production in Virginia for nearly a week.

WHEREAS, a key part of this Moss 3 action was "Camp Solidarity," located a few miles from the plant. The camp continuously held gatherings of more than 1,000 people, and it became a place to house

and feed strikers and visitors. Two union women's groups that developed during the strike were the Freedom Fighters who helped organize and staff Camp Solidarity in Castlewood VA, and the other were the Daughter's of Mother Jones who helped provided communications for strikers as well as food and lodging on this land that was donated by a retired UMWA miner.

WHEREAS, Russell County is considering the establishment of a landfill on the grounds of the old Moss 3 Mine. The entities proposing this landfill are Nova Company of Virginia and he Russell County Reclamation.

WHEREAS, Residents of Russell County have established the "Say No to the Moss 3 Landfill" group and have joined forces with the United Mine Workers to stand in opposition to this proposal at the Moss 3 Mine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke City Democratic Committee agrees to stand in solidarity with these opposition members in this fight. We agree that the Moss 3 Mine is an integral part of Labor Union History in Southwestern Virginia. We believe in the principles of organized labor and that an "Injury to One, Is an Injury to All" We are willing and able to share this message and it's historical meaning to all Virginians to inform and educate others in this fight.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED-

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Labor Caucus Chair – Roanoke City Democratic Committee
*Composed and Printed In House

APPROVED, April 18, 2024 by vote of RCDC—Mark Lazar, Chair