

**Opening Statement of David G. Zatezalo**

**Nominee for Assistant Secretary – Mine Safety & Health  
Administration – US Department of Labor**

**October 4, 2017**

**Thank you Mr. Chairman;**

**Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon. I want to thank you and your staff for the manifold courtesies shown to me as I have prepared for this hearing.**

**Before I begin I would like to recognize my wonderful wife Jo Lynn who is with me today for her help, support, patience, supervision and the three outstanding children we have been blessed with.**

**I would also like to express thanks to my parents, who are no longer with us, and extended family, and the many great people I have been privileged to work with during my forty-one years in the mining industry. Their friendship, trust, and allowance of my leadership has been more important to me than they will likely ever realize.**

**It is a great honor for me to be nominated by the President Trump and supported by Secretary Acosta, and if confirmed, I**

**will support and advance their agenda for the health and safety of America's miners.**

**I began my mining career as an underground general laborer at the Blacksville #2 mine, worked my way through school to become a mining engineer and later was able to become a registered Professional Engineer. I worked as a certified foreman in nearly all areas of mining and later, after completing an MBA, moved into senior management roles before retiring in 2014 as Chairman of Rhino Resources. During my working career, I have managed and operated thirty-nine mines, in both the United States and Australia.**

**The mining industry in the United States is safer and healthier than at any time in our history; however, further progress needs to be made. I look forward to working hard to make this a reality.**

**Though I have not been involved in Government service previously, I am confident that the many good people at the Mine Safety and Health Administration, Congress, and other state and Federal groups will bear me the courtesy of working to further enhance and progress more consistent enforcement across MSHA districts, adopt technologies which promote safety, and safer mining and health behaviors.**

**Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to answering your questions.**