

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

I want to thank Chairman Miller for granting me the opportunity to attend these hearings and provide this written statement. I would also like to thank the United Mine Workers Association for making it possible to be here.

I always felt the mining industry was safe due to the checks and balances of MSHA and the owners of the mines to ensure the safety and well-being of all their employees and other workers in the mine. This belief has been ripped apart by the tragedy that killed Brandon and upon learning of Mr. Murray's mining practices and MSHA's rubber-stamping the practices.

My big question is how can Mr. Murray and MSHA investigate themselves, when nine men are dead under their watch? Mr. Murray and MSHA are to blame yet they are not letting the families participate in the investigation. Obviously, oversight is needed by Congress, the United Mine Workers Association and others.

It is my prayer that this never happens again and that noone else will ever have to lose their daddy like my children lost theirs. Thank you.