



News from the United Mine Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC

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### **Say No to the Moss 3 Landfill**

[TRIANGLE, VA] – United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement today:

"It has come to my attention that Russell County is considering the establishment of a landfill on the grounds of the old Moss 3 Mine. For anyone acquainted with the profound history of the United Mine Workers, the Moss 3 Preparation Plant was a pivotal site in the Pittston Coal Strike of 1989. A strike, I believe, marked a turning point in the fight for workers' rights in America.

"The Moss 3 Preparation Plant witnessed a four-day takeover by UMWA members during the strike, a bold move that galvanized the labor movement across the country. Local community members formed a human shield around the plant, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the cause and embodying the spirit of solidarity. Just a short distance away was 'Camp Solidarity,' housing over 1,000 supporters who provided shelter and sustenance for strikers and visitors.

"The lessons of this historic strike, particularly the Moss 3 takeover, extend far beyond the borders of southwest Virginia. It is etched into the broader labor movement's narrative, serving as an example of unity and resilience. This strike, marked by its length and the sheer magnitude of civil disobedience, set a modern template for protecting the rights of working families across the world.

"To even contemplate placing a landfill on this historic site is not only disrespectful to UMWA's legacy and the labor movement but an outright travesty against the community that rallied during the strike to safeguard their families' well-being

"We adamantly oppose the Moss 3 Landfill, and we call upon every member of our community to stand firm in saying NO to this outrageous proposal. Join us in preserving the sanctity of our history and the legacy of those who fought tirelessly for workers' rights.

Click [here](#) to watch a video on the Pittston Strike.