Good morning and welcome to the 41st annual joint meeting of these two organizations.

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I’m David Stetson, Chairman and CEO of Contura Energy, and I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the newly constituted Metallurgical Coal Producers Association. Most of you know our organization as the Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance, which was recently renamed and expanded to become the MCPA.

Together, we seek to expand awareness about the benefits of metallurgical coal—both in terms of the end-uses of this resource and the positive economic impact of its production on the local communities where our properties are located.

I’m proud of the efforts taken to make this new association possible. Our team at Contura, along with leaders at Coronado Coal, RAMACO Resources, and United Coal Company, have joined forces with over 90 additional associate and affiliate members to start up this new association to focus on the future for met coal—and we believe there is a lot of opportunity in that future. Customers both at home and abroad need metallurgical coal to help advance infrastructure initiatives and produce important building blocks of everyday life like cars and kitchen appliances.

The producing members of the MCPA are committed to increasing awareness about the many uses of metallurgical coal and the tremendous positive impact our businesses have in our region, and specifically in Central Appalachia. Yet another benefit to renaming and expanding the Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance is the ability for us to join forces with our friends in West Virginia to continue this good work and advocacy on a larger scale. We have a great team in place, and I am excited about what this organization can achieve.

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Speaking of great teams, I want to thank the organizers of this event and the staffs of both the MCPA and the Southern States Energy Board. You have worked together to overcome the significant challenges of a pandemic and find a way to transition an in-person event that was supposed to be held in Kingsport, Tennessee to instead be held through a virtual platform. This is no small feat, and we appreciate all of your efforts.

You have also put together a great slate of speakers for the day and I know this event—now in its 41st year—will be a success despite the challenging circumstances.

Thank you to the many speakers who have volunteered their time and talents to join this discussion and make presentations to the group today. We look forward to your insights.

Lastly, I want to say thank you and welcome to everyone who has logged in to join this meeting—I hope you find it interesting, informative, and a great use of your time. We are glad you’re here.

And now without further ado, I will hand the program back over to Ken to introduce Senator Capito.

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