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August 30, 2019

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Cambria County Conservation District, I am writing to respectfully request your support for federal legislation that would establish a federal tax credit program for the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry similar to what the Pennsylvania Legislature recently passed.

The waste-coal-to-energy industry has been a part of our community for over a quarter of a century, permanently removing over 40 million tons of abandon waste coal in Cambria County. Over the past 30 years, this industry has removed and consumed more than 225 million tons of coal refuse in Pennsylvania alone. This has eliminated a major source of acid mine drainage that polluted our waterways while restoring the land to pre-mining conditions. The removal and consumption of coal refuse by these facilities results in cleaner land and cleaner waterways, while also providing a beneficial source of alternative electricity.

This industry provides a proven solution that cost effectively addresses the environmental, health, safety and community costs imposed upon Pennsylvania and other states by their legacy coal refuse piles. These facilities are taxpayers and creators of family sustaining jobs that help to maintain energy reliability for businesses and citizens throughout the states.

Due to increasing costs related to environmental compliance, maintenance and fuel acquisition, combined with depressed power prices, the existence of these facilities is critically threatened. Proof of this recently occurred in June of this year when one of these facilities, located within a mile of our office, ceased operations due to these conditions. If this industry falters and ceases to exist, the responsibility for this cleanup effort will fall solely upon taxpayers.

A federal tax credit program will support coal refuse reclamation to energy facilities' efforts to provide the valuable environmental, health and safety benefits that are a direct result of the coal refuse to energy process. This legislation is vital to the continued operation of the remaining plants that provides environmental reclamation and remediation of coal refuse piles in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Please support legislation to help this industry continue to address the abandoned mine legacy in Pennsylvania by restoring our lands and waterways, while providing an alternative source of electricity and thousands of skilled jobs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Dryzal".

John S. Dryzal
District Manager