



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 21, 2019

Congressman Richard Neal  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Neal:

I wrote in August to urge the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to join in support for the creation of a federal coal refuse tax credit program to help address the nearly 300 square miles of abandoned unreclaimed mining areas across Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has more abandoned mine land and more miles of streams impaired by abandoned mine drainage than any other state in the nation. While in recent years I signed legislation creating a state tax credit to tackle this challenge, it is clear that a long-term solution will require resources beyond what the state can provide.

Therefore, I am requesting your support for the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act, H.R. 4735, which was introduced by Pennsylvania Congressmen Dan Meuser and Matt Cartwright to establish a federal coal refuse tax credit program. Not only will their legislation relieve the Pennsylvania state budget of a \$20 million per year environmental remediation cost but could provide the state an additional \$5 million per year in funding for riparian buffer restoration in affected communities.

I commend the Congressmen's effort to put this program where it most appropriately belongs – at the federal level. These coal refuse piles are the remnants of more than a century of coal mining in Pennsylvania that powered the growth of our nation as a military and industrial superpower. Now the residents of Pennsylvania are burdened with the pollution and remediation costs of an industry from which our entire country benefited. In my view, the United States should step up and share these costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to protect the Pennsylvania taxpayers and environment by supporting the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF  
Governor