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September 19, 2019

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA), the trade association representing the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry, I am writing to respectfully request your support for legislation that would establish a federal tax credit program that would provide financial relief to this industry.

The 10-year program would provide a \$12 per-ton credit for coal refuse removed by an eligible coal refuse reclamation-to-energy facility. The credit would reduce the "breakeven price" to allow plants to operate continuously, maximizing the environmental benefits that the industry delivers at far less cost. This legislation is vital to the continued operation of the remaining plants and provides for the continued environmental reclamation and remediation of coal refuse piles in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

While the coal mining industry has played an important role in Pennsylvania's and West Virginia's industrial heritage, coal refuse from legacy mining activity is a problem that pollutes the lands, air and streams in communities throughout the states. The removal and consumption of coal refuse by these facilities results in cleaner land, cleaner air and cleaner waterways, while also providing a beneficial source of alternative electricity and thousands of family sustaining jobs.

Over the past 30 years, the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry in Pennsylvania alone has removed and consumed more than 225 million tons of coal refuse, reclaimed at least 7,200 acres of previously scarred land, and eliminated a major source of acid mine drainage polluting over 1,200 miles of waterways, but there is still more work to be done. According to Pennsylvania's inventory of abandoned mine land (AML) sites, about 770 coal refuse banks covering 8,300 acres containing nearly 220 million tons of coal refuse are still unremediated. There are also about 92 active coal refuse fires burning in the Commonwealth releasing uncontrolled emissions into the air. It is estimated that it will cost the state over \$5 billion to address the remaining AML problems.

Coal refuse reclamation to energy generators represent the only holistic solution that cost effectively addresses the environmental, health, safety and community costs imposed upon states by their legacy coal refuse piles.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Burns".

Frank Burns  
State Representative  
72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District