

PAGNOTTI ENTERPRISES, INC.

144 BROWN STREET
YATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 18640

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Dan Meuser
326 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 4735 - The Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act.

Dear Representative Meuser:

We are a third-generation family business with a long history in the Pennsylvania anthracite region and write in support of H.R. 4735 - The Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act.

As a large landowner in the region, we are well aware that the legacy of this nation's mining industry has been left to our current citizens, who must cope with the myriad of issues posed by abandoned mine lands (AML) and the millions of tons of coal refuse strewn across the landscape of our communities. Coal refuse piles pollute the land, water and air with uncontrolled emissions from burning refuse piles and contamination of land and water resources with acid runoff and sedimentation.

Fortunately, we have seen first-hand how the coal-refuse-reclamation-to-energy industry through the operation of their cogeneration facilities delivers substantial economic and environmental benefits in the effort to address the problems associated with AML sites. We understand that in Pennsylvania alone, these vital energy-producing plants have, in the past 30 years, removed more than 225 million tons of coal refuse, reclaimed at least 7,200 acres of mine-scarred land and restored over 1,200 miles of impaired streams. Despite this impressive record, there is still more work to be done.

The waste coal cogeneration industry also represents a major source of economic activity and family-sustaining employment. The facilities in Pennsylvania alone produce \$615 million in annual economic benefit, supporting 3,000 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs annually. Importantly, these benefits are concentrated in historically depressed coal communities that face existing challenges in generating economic opportunities for residents.

We commend your leadership on this issue by introducing H.R. 4735 - The Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act. This legislation is critical to address the health, safety and environmental costs imposed on local communities by our nation's coal mining legacy and continues a longstanding public-private partnership with coal refuse reclamation to energy facilities that remove polluting coal refuse piles and reclaim AML sites.

We support the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act, H.R. 4735 and urge Congress to pass this legislation.

Respectfully,



David H. Swisher, COO
PAGNOTTI ENTERPRISES, INC.

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YATESVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 18640

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Matthew Cartwright
1034 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 4735 - The Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act.

Dear Representative Cartwright:

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