



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition

c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated

A PA Non-Profit Organization 501(c)(3)

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To Whom It May Concern,

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC) would like to offer our support of the Federal H.R. 4735 Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act, which would provide tax credit to help support the coal refuse to energy industry. This niche industry provides a unique solution to a serious environmental issue. It is our opinion that this tax credit will help to complete environmental restoration projects and improve water quality while simultaneously generating electricity, providing jobs and therefore economic benefit.

The SRWC is a community-based coalition of local citizens and organizations that live and/or work within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed in western Pennsylvania and who are actively working to restore our watershed which is impacted by abandoned mine issues. Since 1994, we have installed 18 passive treatment systems that are treating over 750 million gallons of acid mine drainage per year. In addition, several land reclamation projects have been completed that have reclaimed over 125 acres in the watershed where coal refuse was removed, trucked to a Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) power plant and the alkaline coal ash brought back to the site. The combination of these types of projects have resulted in fish returning to streams for the first time in about a 100 years!

In our area, the closest CFB plant is the Scrubgrass Generating Plant, which has reportedly been struggling. Scrubgrass is an 85 MW power plant that provides electricity to about 80,000 homes. Since 1993 it has eliminated over 15 million tons of coal refuse at a savings of more than \$20 million to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Passage of this bill may be able to help sustain its operation so that it can continue to help reclaim abandoned mine lands in northwestern Pennsylvania while simultaneously providing jobs which also contribute to the local economy. Passage of this bill will help not only our community, but communities all over the United States that are dealing with these same abandoned mine land issues.

We hope that you will support this worthwhile legislation. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clifford I. Denholm".

Clifford Denholm