



**Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

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November 16, 2019

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

Representative Matt Cartwright  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 4735, the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act**

Dear Representatives Meuser and Cartwright:

Pennsylvania, by far, has more legacy problems from the unregulated days of coal mining than any other state. Significant among those problems are the thousands of waste coal piles throughout Pennsylvania's coal regions. These piles pose many hazards to health and safety of local communities and, more often than not, are prolific producers of acid mine drainage, often containing metals, which pollute neighboring streams and rivers.

The coal refuse reclamation-to-energy industry plays a major role in abandoned mine reclamation as a vital partner, providing environmental benefits by removing these waste coal piles and reclaiming abandoned mine lands in our region. In Pennsylvania alone, over the past 30 years, this industry has removed over 225 million tons of coal refuse from our land, reclaimed at least 7,200 acres of mine-scarred land, and restored over 1,200 miles of impaired streams. Their work must continue.

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 long-standing public-private partnership with coal refuse reclamation-to-energy facilities that remove polluting coal refuse piles and reclaim AML sites.

My organization, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) is a non-profit, non-partisan, local, state, federal, and industry partnership dedicated to improving water quality and endorsing the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in the region. WPCAMR supports the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act, H.R. 4735 and

***“Take a stand for reclamation”***



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urges the United States Congress to pass this legislation to encourage the continued efforts of coal refuse reclamation-to-energy facilities.

H.R. 4735 will help the industry continue to be a valuable ally in abandoned mine reclamation and an important part of the community, providing jobs and energy to the region.

Sincerely,

Andrew McAllister  
Regional Coordinator

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