



Delaware River Basin Commission

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Steven J. Tambini, P.E.
Executive Director

December 3, 2019

Members of the United States Congress
Delaware River Basin Delegation of Pennsylvania
Washington, D.C.

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

Dear Delaware River Basin Congressional Delegation:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is fortunate to have an abundance of water resources including 85,000 miles of rivers and streams. The 330-mile Delaware River is fed by more than 2,000 such tributaries, the largest being Pennsylvania's Schuylkill River and Lehigh River. Unfortunately, more miles of Pennsylvania's streams are impaired by abandoned mine drainage (AMD) than any other state in the nation. In fact, AMD is the primary cause of pollution in the Schuylkill River headwaters and the biggest source of metals downstream.

I write to respectfully request your consideration for the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act, H.R. 4735, introduced by Pennsylvania Congressmen Dan Meuser and Matt Cartwright, to establish a federal coal refuse tax credit program. Coal refuse piles are the remnants of centuries of coal mining in Pennsylvania that powered the growth of our nation as a military and industrial superpower. Now the residents and waterways of Pennsylvania are burdened with the cost of pollution and remediation from an industry from which our entire country benefited. Among the many benefits this legislation provides to the Commonwealth is an additional \$5 million per year in funding for riparian buffer restoration that could be provided to affected communities.

AMD treatment is expensive, but vital to protect and improve aquatic resources, safeguard important drinking water sources, and protect commercial and industrial intakes and other infrastructure from corrosion. Funding to support local community efforts to reduce the impacts of AMD will have positive effects on water quality in the Delaware River Basin and across the Commonwealth.

The Delaware River Basin Commission has been managing, protecting, and improving the Basin's water resources since 1961. Thank you for your consideration of this request to protect Pennsylvania's waterways and environment by supporting the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stambini', is written over a large, light-colored oval shape.

Steven J. Tambini,
Executive Director

c: Congressman Dan Meuser
Congressman Matt Cartwright