

Marion County Commission

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12/18/19

Congressman David McKinley
2239 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Congressman McKinley:

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 millions of tons of coal refuse strewn across the landscape of our communities, particularly in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. At least 43 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and 36 of West Virginia's 55 counties are affected by abandoned coal mines.

Coal refuse piles throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia 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. The coal refuse reclamation to energy industry delivers substantial economic and environmental benefits as a vital partner in the effort to address the problems associated with AML sites.

We support the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act, H.R. 4735. 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. Furthermore, we urge the United States Congress to pass this legislation encouraging the continued efforts of coal refuse reclamation to energy facilities to address the legacy of coal mining by restoring our land, air and streams while providing an alternative source of electricity and thousands of family-sustaining jobs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Elliott".

Randy Elliott, President
Marion County Commission
200 Jackson Street, Room 403
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