



STANLEY COOPER SR. CHAPTER

December 13, 2019

HONORABLE DANIEL MEUSER
326 CANNON HOUSE HONORABLE DANIEL MEUSER
OFFICE BUILDING
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

HONORABLE MATT CARTWRIGHT
1034 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, PA 20515

**RE: SUPPORT FOR H.R. 4735 THE MINE AFFECTED
COMMUNITY ENERGY ACT**

Dear Congressman Meuser and Congressman Cartwright:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is fortunate to have an abundance of water resources which total more than 85,000 miles of rivers and streams. Our chapter of Trout Unlimited was formed in 1987 and we are one of the largest and most active Chapters of Trout Unlimited in Pennsylvania and we are well considered by National Trout Unlimited. Primarily our Chapter has become one of the watchdogs for those streams and rivers in the Northeast part of Pennsylvania north of Interstate 80 and the parts which contain the watersheds of the Delaware River and the east branch of the Susquehanna River. Unfortunately, our members can see the residuals of the damage created by mining that started about 200 years ago in this part of the state and is now largely abandoned. Many miles of Pennsylvania's streams are impaired by abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and Pennsylvania has more AMD than any other state in the nation. While we have made tremendous headway with pollution since this fight started in the 1960s, AMD is a primary cause of the pollution which remains in the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers and is the biggest source of heavy metals downstream for both.

I write to respectfully request your consideration for the Mine Affected Community Energy Environment Act H.R. 4735 introduced by Pennsylvania Congressmen, Dan Meuser and Matt Cartwright, who are the congressmen of our area of influence. This Bill would establish a Federal Coal Refuse Tax Credit Program. Coal refuse piles, or culm banks, are the remnants of centuries of coal mining in Pennsylvania that empowered the growth of our nation as a military and industrial super power. Now the residents and waterways of Pennsylvania are burdened with the cost of that pollution and remediation from an industry from which the entire country benefited and will benefit. Among the many benefits this legislation provides to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is an additional \$5,000,000 per year in funding for riparian buffer restoration that could be provided to affected communities.

AMD treatment is expensive but it is vital to protect and improve aquatic resources, safeguard important drinking water resources and protect commercial and industrial intakes and other infrastructure from corrosion and the effects of pollution. Funding to support local community efforts to reduce the impact of AMD will have positive effects on water quality in the Susquehanna and Delaware River Basin and across the commonwealth. That treatment also makes the land usable for many other purposes and will no longer be a blight on the landscape.

The Stanley Cooper, Sr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been managing, protecting and attempting to improve the water resource in our area of stewardship since 1987. We are hopeful that you consider this request to protect Pennsylvania waterways and environment by supporting the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Scott Brady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. Scott Brady
Chapter President
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