



West Virginia Coal Association

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December 12, 2019

Congressman Dan Meuser
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman 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 Congressmen Meuser and Cartwright:

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 historic, legacy mining sites that were mined before the implementation of environmental regulatory programs under the federal Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act and federal Clean Water Act. These abandoned mine lands (AML) sites are common in West Virginia. At least 36 of West Virginia's 55 counties are affected by abandoned coal mines.

These AML eligible coal refuse piles throughout 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 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 longstanding public-private partnership with coal refuse reclamation to energy facilities. *These facilities remove polluting coal refuse piles, provide affordable energy and remediate these legacy sites at a more accelerated rate than would be possible if reclamation was left to the AML Fund.*

We support the Mine Affected Community Energy and Environment Act, H.R. 4735 and 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,

Jason D. Bostic
Vice-President