



AN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS IN THE ANTHRACITE AND BITUMINOUS COAL REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Dave McCormick
SH-702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Opposition to Raiding Funds for Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation

Dear Senator McCormick,

The Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) is writing to you to express our opposition to the proposed redirection of funding for abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation provided under Section 40701 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in the recently passed House Resolution 6938.

These funds are currently committed to cleaning up dangerous coal mine sites that were developed before federal law required coal mining companies to clean up their own mines. States and tribes use AML funds to remediate sites that pose the greatest threat to human life and safety or property, such as coal refuse piles, dangerous highwalls, underground or surface mine fires, subsidence, and polluted drinking water.

House Resolution 6938 would however redirect some of this funding to wildland fire management and Forest Service operations. Nationally, this represents a reduction of \$500 million over the remaining eleven years of the IIJA AML funding that is slated to go to states and tribes for reclamation. Since Pennsylvania has the largest AML liability, it will be more significantly impacted than any other state.

As currently written in House Resolution 6938, Pennsylvania would lose over \$169 million for reclaiming and restoring its land and water affected by poor mining practices of the past, an estimated 6.27% reduction in funding. We strongly oppose this proposed raiding of AML funds.

ARIPPA is a non-profit trade association representing the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. These power plants help address the many issues associated with abandoned mine lands by combining the production of energy with the removal of coal refuse piles and reclamation of the land for productive purposes. Projects undertaken by ARIPPA members and our partners may be financed through IIJA AML funding. Therefore, less available IIJA AML funding would equate to less reclamation work performed by our members and partners.

In light of the aforementioned factors, we ask that you stand with Pennsylvania workers and coal communities by not allowing the redirection of IIJA AML funds as proposed in House Resolution 6938.

Regards,

Cristy Sweeney
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