



The RECLAIM Act

A vital economic boost for communities struggling with the decline of the coal industry

The RECLAIM Act is a powerful step toward revitalizing communities adversely affected by America's shift away from coal. The bill commits \$1 billion to help clean up dangerous abandoned coal mines, which will spur job creation and local business investment for community oriented, economic development and diversification projects. The projects already in operation are highly popular in the surrounding communities and expanding their number and reach will help more communities build better, brighter futures.

RECLAIM is a major opportunity for areas that have historically depended on the coal industry for jobs, economic stability, and union benefits to rebuild themselves by creating new, diverse businesses on their own terms. RECLAIM is by no means a cure-all for regions adversely affected by America's shift away from coal, but it is a strong answer to the call for more diversification in their economies and can be a guiding light for innovative policies to help them rebuild.



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAM WELLS, APPALACHIAN VOICES. COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROJECT IN RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA THAT INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-USE TRAILS TO CONNECT DOWNTOWN DANTE TO OTHER NEARBY COMMUNITIES AND RECREATION AREAS, AND THE SEALING OF TWO OPEN MINE PORTALS.

If your district contains abandoned mines, this bipartisan proposal will benefit your constituents directly. Even if your district has no abandoned mines, this bill creates jobs in communities that are struggling and uses existing funds.

According to the OSMRE, an estimated 4,600 reclamation jobs would be created across the country, and laid off miners have the skills necessary for this type of work. The funding supplied through RECLAIM isn't just about cleaning up abandoned mining sites, it's also about rebuilding communities to be stronger and more resilient in a changing economic landscape through comprehensive local discussions and shared benefits. What's needed in these communities is real economic diversity and opportunities that extend beyond coal mining with good family-sustaining wages, union memberships, and gainful benefits.

The funds would strategically clean up sites that are linked to a long-term economic project on the reclaimed site, such as agriculture, renewable energy, industrial parks, and recreational tourism projects—a process that doesn't take a cent of taxpayer money. The \$1 billion would come from the \$2.3 billion Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Fund currently sitting in Washington that is untouched and gathering interest. Under the status quo, this \$1 billion will be disbursed to Uncertified AML states and tribes in 2023 and thereafter, while Certified states and tribes (such as Missouri, Wyoming, Louisiana, and Texas) will not receive anything. Under RECLAIM however, even certified states would receive \$25 million for mine reclamation.

The RECLAIM Act is a real opportunity to create jobs, empower local communities, and build long-term opportunities for working families in communities where coal has historically been the backbone of the local economy.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that Congress pass it as quickly as possible. We're calling on members of Congress to show their support for RECLAIM by joining the growing list of co-sponsors of this legislation.



PHOTO CREDIT: EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION. SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS COLLECT IRON OXIDE FROM ACID MINE DRAINAGE IMPACTED STREAMS ON THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES IN LUZERNE COUNTY, PA.



PHOTO CREDIT: COAL COUNTRY SPORTS COMPLEX. BEFORE THERE WERE SOCCER FIELDS ON THE SITE THERE WAS THE LITTLE DOG COAL MINE, AN UNDERGROUND PILLAR AND POST MINE THAT WAS THE ECONOMIC ENGINE OF THE CITY UNTIL IT CLOSED IN THE LATE 1960'S.