



The RECLAIM Act (H.R. 1733)

An economic boost for communities struggling with the decline of the coal industry.

The RECLAIM Act commits \$1 billion to help clean up dangerous and polluting abandoned coal mines on public and private lands, which will spur immediate job creation and create the conditions for longer term, locally driven economic development efforts to build brighter futures in coal communities across the country.

The RECLAIM Act is a major opportunity for areas that have historically depended on the coal industry for good jobs and economic stability to rebuild themselves by growing new, diverse industries on their own terms. It 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 from community members for more diversification in their economies.

The RECLAIM Act is important opportunity to ensure that our communities are part of the economic recovery and emerge from this crisis stronger. This bill should be considered in any infrastructure or economic recovery package.



TOP PHOTO CREDIT: APPALACHIAN VOICES. THE BEAUTIFUL JOHN FLANNAGAN DAM AND RESERVOIR HAS DOZENS OF UNRECLAIMED AML FEATURES AND A DANGEROUS HIGH WALL.

LOWER PHOTO CREDIT: APPALACHIAN VOICES. IN RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA, SEALING TWO OPEN MINE PORTALS ARE A KEY PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-USE TRAILS.

The RECLAIM Act could help create a strong, just and sustainable economy at a time when the economy of coal-impacted communities is in dire straits.

If passed, the RECLAIM Act will distribute more than \$1 billion to states and tribes starting in 2021.

The funds would strategically reclaim sites on public and private lands that are linked to a future economic or community development project, on the site or surrounding area, in agriculture, renewable energy, recreational tourism, wildlife habitat and other industry sectors. These locations could serve as long-term economic opportunities to create permanent local jobs, helping to lay a foundation for future economic development and diversification in coal communities.

The RECLAIM Act is a powerful step toward revitalizing communities hit hardest by the coal industry's downturn.

Abandoned mine sites create problems such as polluted streams, hazardous erosion and land subsidence, underground mine fires, and piles of coal waste. The funding is intended to help resource-strapped states and tribes clean up thousands of high priority sites that remain unaddressed. Funds would be prioritized for projects in communities that are economically distressed and that have been impacted by coal industry job loss.

The RECLAIM Act would create thousands of reclamation jobs across the country, providing an immediate economic boost to communities that could put laid off miners – who possess the skills necessary for this type of reclamation work – and others to work.

Across the country, abandoned mine sites have already been leveraged to create jobs through sustained revitalization efforts, wildlife habitat and restoration, and water quality improvement, but frequently funding is hard to come by. The RECLAIM Act would alter that landscape.

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



PHOTO CREDIT: EPCAMR. PENNSYLVANIA STUDENTS COLLECT IRON OXIDE FROM ACID MINE DRAINAGE TO MAKE PIGMENTS.



PHOTO CREDIT: COAL COUNTRY SOCCER COMPLEX. IN GILLESPIE, IL, A DANGEROUS FORMER MINE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY HUB.



PHOTO CREDIT: WV DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. RESTORED MINE LANDS HAVE BEEN USED TO CREATE AND ENHANCE WILDLIFE HABITAT.