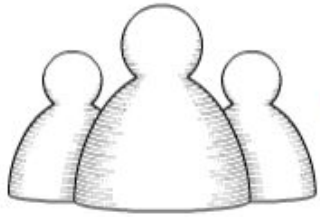

RECLAIM Act

H.R. 1731

National RECLAIM Working Group

Network of organizations including reclamation contractors, grassroots organizers, environmental advocates, and labor unions working together to build a just transition. The primary focus of this group is to build a coordinated campaign to pass the RECLAIM Act.

Please join us!



**DISPLACED
WORKERS**



**ABANDONED
MINE**



**RECLAIMED
MINE**



**ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY**

RECLAIM Act

- Relies on funds that are already existing and intended for reclamation in the AML Fund
- Creates reclamation and ancillary jobs
- Spurs long-term economic development opportunities
- Reduces/abates methane emissions

AML Trust Fund= fees paid by coal industry per ton extracted for reclamation post mining

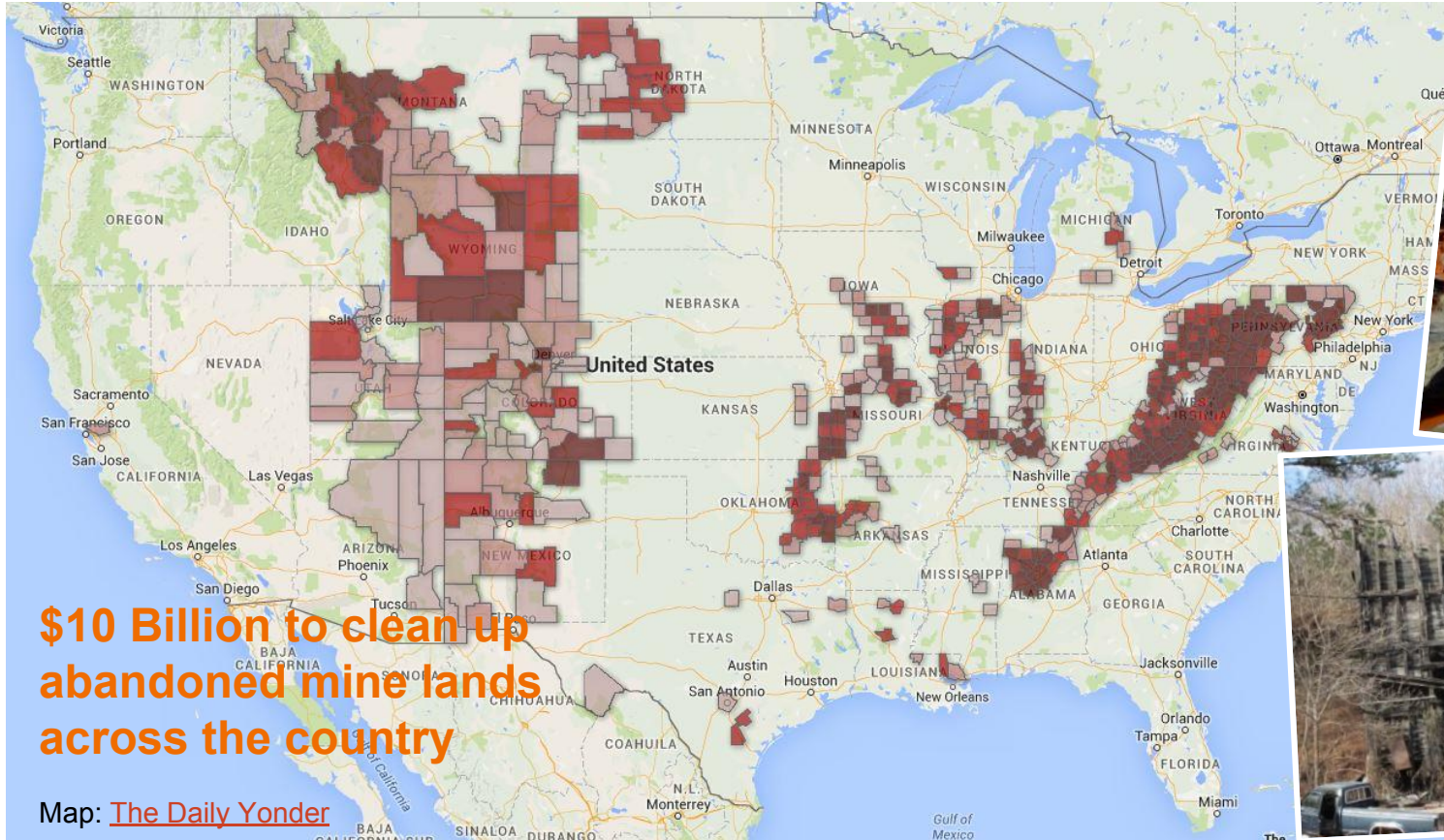
What can RECLAIM money be used for?

AML Funds must be used **to clean up lands or waters** damaged by pre-1977 abandoned coal mines

and

The reclamation project must demonstrate an “**economic and community development nexus**”

abandoned coal mines across the country



Examples of Job Creation Opportunities by EPCAMR

EPCAMR Program Areas

- Watershed, Macro-Invertebrate, and Visual Habitat Assessments
- Culvert Assessments for Aquatic Organism Passage (www.streamcontinuity.org)
- Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring of AMD
- Technical Assistance to Municipalities to Navigate MS4 Outreach, Education, and GIS Mapping
- 3D Mine Pool Modeling and Development
- Surface Mine and Underground Mine Mapping (PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Program)
- Urban Outreach to Diverse Communities within the Coal Fields



Examples of Job Creation Opportunities by EPCAMR

EPCAMR Program Areas

- Leveraging Multiple Sources of Funds and Partners on Reclamation, Remediation, and Economic Redevelopment Projects on Abandoned Mines (PADEP 319 Program)
- Environmental Workforce Development Training on Brownfields/Grayfields (EPA Brownfields, Region III)
- Natural Stream Channel Design & Construction Projects
- Coal Waste Removal Reclamation Projects
- Dam Removal and Trout Stream Habitat Improvement Projects
- Green Infrastructure Planning for Municipalities in Mining-Impacted Regions
- GIS Mapping of Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Land Inventory (RAMLIS)



Harry E. Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project

[Harry E Bank Reclamation PA AML Pilot Project Video, Swoyersville Borough, Luzerne County, PA](#)

(click link to video)



Phase 1 Reclamation of 15 acres of a 55 acre AML site that will reclaim 7 acres into a recreational complex and greenspace area to be utilized by the Swoyersville Borough community with the waste culm being hauled away to 2 Co-Generation Facilities to generate electricity put back into the grid

Goals of RECLAIM Act Campaign

Pass the RECLAIM Act and ensure it is written and implemented in a way that most benefits affected communities

Build new power and leadership capacity among community members

Support a Just Transition narrative throughout impacted regions that is guided by a set of just transition principles

A Just Transition. . .

- **builds resilient communities and a good quality of life in the places most affected by environmental damage and economic disruption**
- **creates good, stable jobs that sustain – rather than destroy – the natural systems on which our lives depend**
- **seeks genuine involvement and collaboration among affected workers and communities**
- **requires significant long-term investment from and partnerships with many places and players**

What are some ways that your community or organization have work on the RECLAIM Act?



Community Impacts



Hal Rogers announces \$1 billion proposal to help Eastern Kentucky and other coal regions

HIGHLIGHTS

Money would come from the federal abandoned mine land fund

\$200 million would be distributed to participating states each year for five years

Plan would fund reclamation projects tied to efforts to diversify the economy in coal-dependent places





THE RECLAIM ACT
just passed the U.S. House
Natural Resources committee!
The bill includes amendment to promote
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.



SUPPORT FOR THE RECLAIM ACT

- 10,000 Petition Signatures in Support ☒
- 28 Local Resolutions in Support ☒
- 16 KY Judge Executives in Support ☒
- Dozens of grassroots lobby trips ☒
- 40 Bi-partisan Co-sponsors ☒
- Mitch McConnell's support ☐



Let's check that final box
Call McConnell at (202) 601-3839
and ask him to add his support





As Introduced
132nd General Assembly
Regular Session H.C.R. No. 13
2017-2018

Representatives West, Thompson
Cosponsors: Representatives Seitz,
Patterson, Lipps, Bocchieri, Romanchuk,
Holmes, Riedel, Kent, Dean, O'Brien,
Hill, Lepore-Hagan, Retherford, Wiggall

**ACONCURREN
T
RESOLUTION**

To urge the Congress of the United States to pass the RECLAIM Act, which would assist communities negatively impacted by changes to the country's energy industry.



**BLUEGREEN
ALLIANCE**

By Katrina Fitzgerald

Women of Steel Co-Chair

The first week of October, BlueGreen Alliance, Appalachian Citizen's Law Center, Rural Action, labor activists and community leaders united together in Washington D.C. to speak with Congressional leaders about the Reclaim Act (H.R. 1731) and ask for their support.

Reclaim is a bipartisan bill that will offer immediate relief to communities that have been heavily impacted by the downturn in the coal industry by using what **ALREADY EXIST.**

It means helping folks and their communities increase taxes! One of the best parts of the

ment nexus that would spur economic development in these areas beyond just cleaning up hazards and toxins.

The downturn in coal production is an issue that not only impacts coal workers, but also affects the surrounding communities, which, in turn touches us all State-wide.

Think for a moment of all the places you go on your way to and from work; gas stations or convenience stores. Think of all the places you take your family to; restaurants or movie theaters.

Now think of all the places you go to buy items

Supporting RECLAIM with similar sources of funding:

2018 AML Pilot:

\$25 million each in:

- Pennsylvania
- Kentucky
- West Virginia

\$10 million each in:

- Virginia
- Ohio
- Alabama
- Native American Tribes

Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition Groups



Appalachian
Voices



Rural Action

APPALACHIAN
CITIZENS'
Law Center



**COALFIELD
DEVELOPMENT**

Appalachian COURAGE, CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY

**Downstream
Strategies**



Ideas that sustain.

RECLAIM Act Legislative Goals

Pass the RECLAIM Act and ensure it is written in a way that most benefits affected communities

- Stakeholder collaboration
- Economically distress
- Coal impacted communities
- Public notice/transparency

Lessons Learned & Current Political Moment

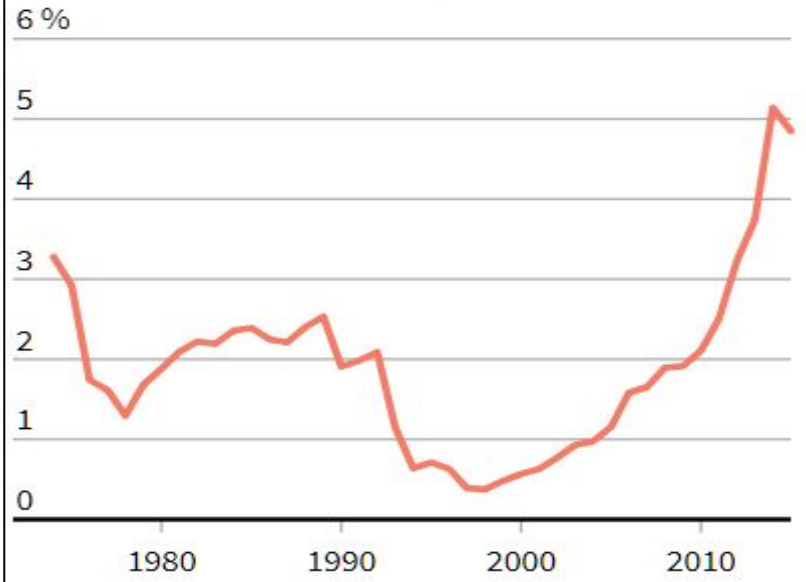
Coal Industry is pushing back

Grassroots and constituent pressure is necessary for victory

Congress is slow and frustrating, but we can win

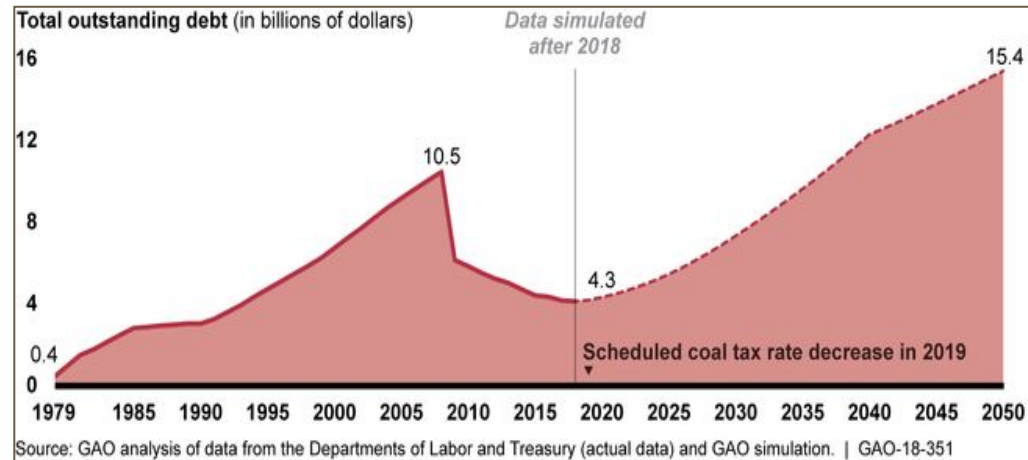
BLACK LUNG IN KENTUCKY, VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA

For underground-working coal miners with 25 years or more of underground mining tenure



Source: CDC, Department of Labor
Travis Hartman | REUTERS GRAPHICS

Black Lung National Debt



Source: Government Accountability Office

Current Campaign Strategy

Intermediate Goal 1: Secure approval of offset

- Report on Black Lung Disability Trust Fund by the Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- Ways & Means- committee of jurisdiction
- State-specific strategies for key targets
- Education & outreach to cosponsors and other Hill offices

Intermediate Goal 2: Pass RECLAIM in the House with Offset

Intermediate Goal 3: Secure a public commitment from Senator McConnell to support the House version of RECLAIM (throughout all phases)

Overarching Goal 4: Pass the RECLAIM Act (final passage)

Aside from passing the bill, what is your/your organization's interest in participating in this campaign?

Shifting the narrative

Leadership development

Building people power

Federal strategy & legislative processes

Preparing for AML Fund Reauthorization

Collaborating across sectors

How do you see your work and skill set contributing to the RECLAIM campaign?

How can this campaign contribute to the work you're doing in your community?

Resources & Upcoming Opportunities

- Link to [RECLAIM Act Fact Sheet](#)
- Link to [Fact sheet on the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund & GAO Report findings](#)
- Do abandoned mine lands exist in your community?
 - Find out here: <https://www.osmre.gov/contacts/map.shtm>
- National RECLAIM Working Group meets every other Thursday
 - Contact Eric Dixon: eric@aclc.org
- Stay tuned for more information on grassroots-based calls and state-specific coordination

Contact

Lyndsay@TheAllianceforAppalachia.org

(717) 649-0551

Eric@ACLC.org

(606) 633-3929

Thank you!