Sample Letter to House Committee on Natural Resources

Date, 2019

The Hon. Raul M. Grijalva, Chairman

The Hon. Rob Bishop, Ranking Member

The Hon. Alan Lowenthal, Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources, Chairman

U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

RE: Reauthorization of the Collection Fees Supporting the Abandoned Mine Land Fund

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to highlight the need for reauthorization of the collection fees associated with the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977. Over a century of environmentally unregulated mining practices took a huge toll on the land and water where mining occurred. But SMCRA changed the face of the coal mining industry into one that is vastly safer with a significantly smaller environmental impact and allowed for reclamation of pre-regulation hazards and scars.

[insert how you have benefitted from reclamation work]

[give specifics on economic impacts including number of employees, ancillary jobs, equipment, materials sourced in our region, tourists that your company brings to the area, etc]

[some of you may want to discuss the partnerships you have with Fed, State, local govt, local and national non-profits, business and industry]

[basically, I want each of you to put into letter format exactly what you talked about in t he Congressional meetings you attended]

Funding for reclamation activities is derived from a fee on every ton of coal mined in the U.S. since 1977. Those fees are placed into an account known as the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.  The collection of these fees is set to expire in September of 2021. However, our work is not done. [what will it mean to your business/community if reclamation work were to end, or worse, if the streams were to revert back to what they were like prior to reclamation]

Regards,

(first name) (last name) (title) (organization)