

July 27, 2009

«Name»
«House_or_Senate»
«DC»

Dear «Salutation»:

I am sending this letter on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Council¹ to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The council is very concerned about the elimination of funding for the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Emergency Program² and the transfer of responsibility for emergency situations to the states.

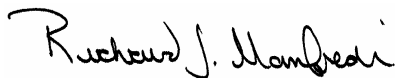
The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) currently administers the AML Emergency Program in Pennsylvania. This year's Pennsylvania emergency numbers since 2002 (January 1, 2002 to January 1, 2009) are 910 projects and \$20.4 million spent.

The loss of federal emergency funds would require Pennsylvania to shift monies from other mine land reclamation projects. This additional burden will hamper our ability to reclaim our huge inventory of high priority abandoned mine lands and address related mine drainage issues. In Pennsylvania, elimination of this program could result in a funding shortfall for AML projects of approximately \$3 million annually. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection estimates that the cost for Pennsylvania to administer the AML Emergency Program could be an additional \$2.5 million annually, further reducing project funds.

As a result, we respectfully request that you take appropriate action that would safeguard continued funding of the Office of Surface Mining AML Emergency Program.

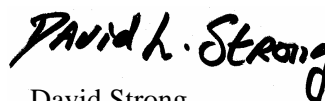
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Manfredi
Chair
Citizens Advisory Council

Sincerely,



David Strong
Chair
Environmental Standards Committee

cc: Governor Rendell
MRAB

¹ The Council is a legislatively created advisory committee charged with reviewing all environmental issues, laws, and programs relating to Pennsylvania.

² Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Section 410(a) – The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to expend monies from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund for the emergency restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the effects of coal mining practices if an emergency exists.

Allegheny County

Cynthia Carrow
John J. Walliser, Esquire

Bedford County

Bernie Hoffnar, Ph.D.

Bucks County

Richard J. Manfredi

Carbon County

James J. Clauser

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