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### Written Testimony

House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies

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Thank you Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree for holding this hearing today, I appreciate the Committee's willingness to provide me the opportunity to discuss the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization program, or the AMLER program. The AML Pilot Project began several years ago and over the last few years 3 additional states were added, including Virginia. My district in the coalfields of Virginia rank 409<sup>th</sup> out of 435 Congressional Districts in median household income. This program has not only made former Appalachian mining areas safe by closing mine portals, remediating tailing lagoons, and taking down highwalls. The AMLER program has also breathed new economic life into an area that has long depended on coal as its industrial driver. Because of this reclamation program, former mine sites have been transformed into productive areas once again with solar farms, ecotourism destinations, manufacturing sites, and industrial parks. I appreciate the help this Committee has already provided over the years and ask that you all maintain robust funding for the program as you draft the Fiscal Year 2024 Interior and Environment bill. I am sorry I cannot deliver these comments in person due to my participation in committee hearings and a markup. Should any Member or staff have questions, I would be more than happy to address them.