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**Steve Moyer**  
*Vice President of Government Affairs*

June 8, 2022

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal  
Chair  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Environment and Mineral Resources Subcommittee

The Honorable Pete Stauber  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Environment and Mineral Resources Subcommittee

Re: Trout Unlimited supports H.R. 7283, Safeguarding Treatment for the Restoration of Ecosystems from Abandoned Mines Act (the STREAM Act).

Chair Lowenthal, Ranking Member Stauber and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of our 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, Trout Unlimited (TU) writes in support of the bipartisan Safeguarding Treatment for the Restoration of Ecosystems from Abandoned Mines Act (STREAM Act) to finance long term cleanup of abandoned coal mines. This bill will help finance and sustain the outstanding work that is happening in coal country to clean up pernicious pollution from abandoned coal mines. It will extend and enhance the great value of the AML provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) by assuring projects completed using those funds will continue to provide restoration in perpetuity.

Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment is often addressed by building water treatment systems, which result in ongoing Operation Maintenance and Replacement (OMR) costs that endure in perpetuity. However, states often lack the financial ability to support these types of long-term liabilities. If enacted, H.R. 7283 would allow for up to 30 percent of a state's annual allocation for Abandoned Mineland (AML) reclamation under IIJA to be deposited into an interest-bearing account to provide for the perpetual OMR expenses of facilities to treat AMD. This language mirrors the authority of current state programs that allow a 30 percent set-aside from the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act's (SMCRA) AML Trust Fund. This approach will help to ensure that projects funded by the IIJA will have funds for this necessary long-term OM&R expense, thereby sustaining long term the thousands of stream miles that will be restored by AMD treatment.

A recent study by TU demonstrated the long-term benefits of ongoing cleanup work funded by SMCRA's AML Fund, recently reauthorized and expanded substantially by the IIJA. On the West Branch of the

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**A mission to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.**

National Office: 1777 N Kent St., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22209

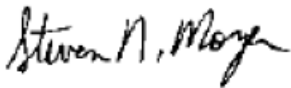
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Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, thanks to AML funding and well-crafted projects by watershed groups, the state, and Trout Unlimited, we are seeing watershed scale benefits – hundreds of miles of stream and mainstem river restored, recreation rejuvenated, jobs created, and watersheds made more resilient and better able to withstand the impacts of a changing climate. And this is but one example of this restoration occurring throughout Appalachia, much of it in areas rendered dead by mining that occurred decades to over a hundred years ago.

Without the authority to set aside IJA monies for the perpetual Operation Maintenance and Replacement of these facilities, communities and ecosystems impacted by legacy mining issues are given the gift of restoration with no certainty that it will continue in perpetuity. This legislation provides a critical piece of the puzzle assuring that future generations will continue to reap these benefits.

Thank you for taking up this important legislation and for considering our views. We look forward to working with bill sponsors and members of the committee to advance this bill into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven A. Moyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Moyer