

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2023

Mr. Kyle J. Wendtland
Administrator
Department of Environmental Quality
200 W. 17th St., Suite 10
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Wendtland:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at an oversight hearing on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, to present testimony on "*Examining the Biden Administration's Abandoned Mine Lands and Active Mining Programs.*"

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Lonnie Smith, Clerk of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at Lonnie.smith@mail.house.gov by December 5, 2023. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Chairman

Enclosure

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Oversight Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
November 14, 2023
10:15 AM

“Examining the Biden Administration’s Abandoned Mine Lands and Active Mining Programs.”

Questions from Rep. Ocasio-Cortez for Mr. Kyle J. Wendtland, Administrator, Wyoming
Department of Environmental Quality

1. Congress made its intention clear in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act that the abandoned coal mine land reclamation funding should create good paying jobs for displaced coal workers and incentivize union labor. (30 USC 1231a (f): “priority may also be given to reclamation projects described in subsection b(1) that provide employment for current and former employees of the coal industry;” 30 USC 1231a(b)(3): “In applying for grants under paragraph (1), States and Indian Tribes may aggregate bids into larger statewide or regional contracts;” and 42 USC 18851: “all laborers and mechanics employed [...] on a project assisted in whole or in part by funding made available under this division [...] shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality”.) How are you implementing the employment priorities included in the law, and are you in touch with the United Mine Workers of America and the AFL-CIO on how best to do so?