

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

November 17, 2023

Mr. Dustin W. Morin  
Director, Mining and Reclamation Division  
Alabama Department of Labor  
649 Monroe Street, Room 2218  
Montgomery, AL 36131

Dear Mr. Morin:

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](mailto: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. Dustin W. Morin, Director, Mining and Reclamation Division, Alabama Department of Labor

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?