

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

November 17, 2023

Mr. Peter Morgan
Senior Attorney
Sierra Club Legislative Office
50 F Street, NW, Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
Stationed in Denver, CO

Dear Mr. Morgan:

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. Grijalva for Mr. Peter Morgan, Senior Attorney, Sierra Club

1. During the hearing, OSMRE’s proposed Ten-Day Notice rulemaking was criticized as creating uncertainty and federal overreach. How would you respond to these criticisms of the rulemaking?

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

Questions from Rep. Ocasio-Cortez for Mr. Peter Morgan, Senior Attorney, Sierra Club

1. Do you believe the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has the authority to address today’s coal mining reclamation crisis, or does SMCRA need to be updated to reflect today’s industry?

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

Questions from Rep. Kamlager-Dove for Mr. Peter Morgan, Senior Attorney, Sierra Club

1. A 2021 report from the nonprofit Appalachian Voices, “Repairing the Damage: The costs of delaying reclamation at modern-era mines,” detailed the gap in coverage of bonds and the outstanding reclamation work that needs to be done. Can you elaborate on the scale of the bonding and reclamation issue, and what will happen if reforms are not made soon?
2. Nearly three years into the Biden Administration, the agency that oversees and enforces reclamation of active and abandoned coal mines, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), still does not have even a nominee for Director. What is the impact of not having a Senate-confirmed Director of OSMRE?
3. If the Committee takes one thing away from this hearing, what would you want that to be?