



## Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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September 11, 2017

Representative Keith Rothfus  
United States House of Representatives  
1205 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rothfus:

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR) is a non-profit, non-partisan, local, state, federal, and industry partnership dedicated to improving water quality and endorsing the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in the region. WPCAMR is a coalition of 24 county conservation districts in the bituminous coal fields of Western Pennsylvania, watershed groups, and industry members. It was formed in 1981 to advance the cause of reclamation of abandoned mine lands and degraded waters in the region.

WPCAMR's Board of Directors voted to support The SENSE Act, which seeks to establish an additional alternative compliance standard for coal refuse facilities based upon the removal and control of SO<sub>2</sub> relative to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule (MATS). The SENSE Act also seeks to provide coal refuse-fired power plants with the same SO<sub>2</sub> allocations in Phase II as in Phase I of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) while ensuring that CSAPR does not increase the overall state-level CSAPR SO<sub>2</sub> budget.

The coal waste-to-power industry plays a major role in abandoned mine reclamation within the Commonwealth, providing environmental benefits by removing waste coal piles and reclaiming abandoned mine lands in our region. The industry has removed over 214 million tons of coal refuse from our land at no cost to the taxpayers and, by doing so, continue to eliminate a major source of acid mine drainage while removing dangerous waste coal piles and reclaiming land.

The MATS Rule and the CSAPR Rule pose a significant challenge to the continued operation of coal refuse-fired power plants and the beneficial environmental remediation that they support. The SENSE Act seeks to address these issues while at the same time, continuing to hold these facilities to a strict environmental standard.

***“Take a stand for reclamation”***



**Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

The SENSE Act will help the industry continue to be a valuable ally in Abandoned Mine Reclamation and an important part of the community, providing jobs and energy to the region.

WPCAMR supports the SENSE Act and continues to support the coal waste-to-power industry.

Sincerely,

Andy McAllister  
Regional Coordinator

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