



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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Congressman Keith Rothfus
1205 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rothfus:

On behalf of the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), we would like to inform you that we support HR #1119, The SENSE Act, which seeks to establish an additional alternative compliance standard for coal refuse facilities based upon the removal and control of SO₂ relative to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule (MATS). The SENSE act also seeks to provide coal refuse fired plants with the same SO₂ 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 SO₂ budget.

To date over 214 million tons of coal refuse have been converted into alternative energy by member ARIPPA plants. Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) technology, one of the cleanest methods available today, is used to convert coal refuse into electricity and an alkaline-rich ash by-product utilized for decades in a highly regulated, safe, and beneficial manner to fill and reclaim unsafe, abandoned mine lands; restore more than 1200 miles of streams damaged by abandoned mine drainage (AMD); amend soil at mining and reclamation sites for over 7000 acres, and serve as an additive in concrete/asphalt for construction and roadways.

The unique nature of ARIPPA's environmental efforts combined with the desire to coordinate these efforts with "hands on" environmentally oriented groups and governmental agencies symbolizes its commitment to improving our nation's landscape and environment. This industry needs exemption from heavy CO₂ restrictions to insure that PA can get the huge piles of coal waste around the Anthracite area and Bituminous region reclaimed over the next few decades. The environmental value of the industry to these abandoned mine sites is estimated to be around \$26 million a year.

The MATS Rule and CSAPR Rule pose a significant challenge to the continued operation of coal refuse fired power plants and the beneficial environmental remediation and reclamation that they support. The SENSE Act seeks to address these issues while at the same time, continuing to hold the facilities accountable to a strict environmental standard. The SENSE Act will help the industry continue to be a valuable partner and ally in abandoned mine reclamation across PA and an important part of our regional communities, providing jobs, economic redevelopment opportunities, land reclamation, cleanup of our land and waterways, and alternative energy to our region.

EPCAMR supports the SENSE Act and continues to support the coal refuse waste to power industries across our Commonwealth and ARIPPA.

Fully supportive,

Robert E. Hughes, EPCAMR
Executive Director