



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution in Support of Reauthorizing the Abandoned Mine Land Program and Allocating Federal Funds to States in the Eastern United States for Reclamation of Abandoned and Forfeited Mine Lands

1 **WHEREAS**, coal mining in the United States has a storied history of helping power the country for well
2 over one hundred years, and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, hard-working coal miners in this country have endured numerous struggles and hardships
5 and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice in tragic coal mine accidents in their endeavors to provide the
6 country with electricity and the raw materials necessary to produce steel which has been so important to
7 the building of the country, and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, keeping workers employed and maintaining a tax base is integral for this country's very
10 survival, while also having a positive environmental and economic impact on these abandoned and
11 forfeited mine sites, and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, retraining coal miners for the purpose of reclaiming abandoned and/or forfeited coal mines
14 can be easily done with minimal retraining costs, as many miners are intimately familiar with the
15 abandoned mines from their previous years of work there, and

16 **WHEREAS**, there is no "one size fits all" solution for the problem, but having federal moneys available
17 for the reclamation of forfeited mines throughout the United States will have a positive environmental
18 and economic impact on the country as a whole, and

19 **WHEREAS**, by reauthorizing the Abandoned Mine Land Program, which is set to expire in September
20 of 2021, money could benefit the states in their reclamation efforts and help clean up dangerous and
21 polluting abandoned coal mines on public and private lands, which will spur immediate job creation and
22 create the conditions for longer term, locally driven economic development efforts to build better,
23 brighter futures in coal communities across the country, and

24 **WHEREAS**, for all of the above reasons, communities, workers, and families in a large portion of the
25 eastern United States all stand to benefit greatly by the distribution of federal money for the purposes of
26 mine reclamation.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association
28 recognizes the importance of reauthorizing the Abandoned Mine Land Program and supports the
29 allocation of federal funds to states in the eastern United States to assist in the reclamation of abandoned
30 and forfeited mine sites, the creation of jobs across the area, and the revitalization of coal communities,
31 workers, and their families.



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ADOPTED, this day, the 27th of August, 2021.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Craig Blair (R – West Virginia), Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman (D – Kentucky)