

**CHAPTER 246 (HCR 108)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the President of the United States and the Congress to support Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning in his effort to direct additional federal cleanup funding to Kentucky and obtain passage of the Clean the Land and Environment of Appalachia Now (CLEAN) Act.

WHEREAS, abandoned mines are a serious environmental hazard in Kentucky and many other states; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified drainage from abandoned coal mines as the number-one water quality problem in Appalachia; and

WHEREAS, an estimated ten percent (10%) of Kentucky residents do not have safe drinking water due to contamination from abandoned mine runoff; and

WHEREAS, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 authorized the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to pay the reclamation costs of abandoned coal mines; and

WHEREAS, the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Fund has incurred a \$1,200,000,000 surplus; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that if the AML fund is distributed directly to Kentucky and the other mining states, Kentucky will receive over \$90,000,000 for land and water reclamation, as compared to the \$17,000,000 that is currently received; and

WHEREAS, the AML fund has been used in the past to offset the federal budget deficit, and now we have a federal surplus; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Jim Bunning of Kentucky introduced the Clean the Land and Environment of Appalachia Now (CLEAN) Act that would grant the full amount of the AML fund to the coal-producing states to assist with the costs associated with the cleanup of abandoned coal mines; and

WHEREAS, the CLEAN Act would address the environmental problems associated with abandoned coal mines, improve the quality of water in mining areas including Kentucky, and restore the natural beauty of the area;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

Section 1. The President of the United States and the Congress are urged to support United States Senator Jim Bunning in his efforts to gain passage of the Clean the Land and Environment of Appalachia Now (CLEAN) Act.

Section 2. A copy of this Concurrent Resolution is hereby directed to be transmitted to the President of the United States and to each member of the Congressional delegation representing the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**Approved March 29, 2000**

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION PDF VERSION