

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress to pass the bipartisan
2 Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and
3 Investing More (RECLAIM) Act to accelerate disbursement of \$1 billion in available
4 funding in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to revitalize coal communities hardest
5 hit by the downturn of the coal industry.

6 WHEREAS, Congressman Hal Rogers, representing Kentucky's 5th Congressional
7 District, introduced the RECLAIM Act of 2016 during the 114th Congress and has stated
8 his intent to re-introduce the RECLAIM Act during the current 115th Congress; and

9 WHEREAS, the RECLAIM Act would release \$1 billion from the existing balance
10 of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to assist communities, like those in eastern
11 and western Kentucky, that have traditionally relied on the coal industry for employment
12 or have recently experienced significant coal job losses; and

13 WHEREAS, the \$1 billion would be distributed to participating states in \$200
14 million increments annually for five years, and would empower states to work with local
15 communities to identify and fund economic development projects on abandoned mine
16 lands; and

17 WHEREAS, the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Economic Development Pilot
18 Program funds secured by Kentucky's Congressional delegation have enabled the
19 Commonwealth to test and pursue economic development projects relating to mine
20 reclamation, making Kentucky well-positioned for multi-year investments in these
21 projects using funds that would be available under the RECLAIM Act; and

22 WHEREAS, state, local, and county entities would be able to apply for funds for
23 projects in areas that have been degraded by the adverse effects of coal mining practices,
24 including sites that have been previously remediated and adjacent sites; and

25 WHEREAS, in recent years, Kentucky has seen an overall decline in coal mining
26 employment, but in eastern Kentucky, the decline has been particularly devastating; over
27 the course of 2016, an estimated 3,833 people were employed in eastern Kentucky coal

1 mines, which is down from over 14,000 employed in eastern Kentucky coal mines in
2 2008 and represents a level of coal mining employment not seen in the Commonwealth
3 since the late 1800s; and

4 WHEREAS, local residents impacted by this decline are working every day to build
5 communities that are strong and healthy and will be places where our future generations
6 can continue to live and find meaningful work and where we can build on and celebrate
7 our assets; and

8 WHEREAS, many coal communities in Kentucky do not have the resources to
9 reclaim the abandoned mine sites in their areas, and the RECLAIM Act would allow
10 currently unused Abandoned Mine Reclamation funds to help those communities reinvest
11 in the coalfields with projects that can create new jobs and reinvigorate their economies;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

15 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly of Kentucky urges the United States Congress
16 to re-introduce and pass the bipartisan RECLAIM Act to release \$1 billion from the
17 existing balance of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to support economic and
18 community development projects in coal communities that have been ravaged by the loss
19 of coal mining jobs.

20 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this
21 Resolution and notification of its adoption to the President and Vice President of the
22 United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority
23 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United
24 States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and each member of
25 Kentucky's delegation to the United States Congress.