

1 A RESOLUTION urging the 115th Congress to pass the bipartisan RECLAIM Act
2 of 2017: Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities
3 and Investing More.

4 WHEREAS, Congressman Hal Rogers, representing Kentucky's 5th Congressional
5 District, introduced the RECLAIM Act of 2016 during the 114th Congress and stated, at
6 that time, his intent to reintroduce the RECLAIM Act for the 115th Congress; and

7 WHEREAS, in March 2017, a bipartisan and bicameral effort between
8 Representative Hal Rogers and Senator Mitch McConnell resulted in two RECLAIM bills
9 being filed in the House and Senate chambers to bring \$1 billion in funding to the
10 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program over the next five years to revitalize communities
11 that have been impacted by the downturn in the coal industry; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Kentucky has lost more than 13,000 coal mining jobs as the national
17 energy profile began to switch from coal to natural gas, and economic gains occurring
18 throughout the nation have not softened the downturn in coal-impacted communities that
19 need additional investments to foster economic development and create job opportunities;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement estimates
22 that RECLAIM would create at least 4,600 reclamation jobs across the nation and
23 Kentucky is well positioned for multi-year investments that will be available under the
24 RECLAIM Act;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

26 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
27 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

1 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives urges the United States Congress to
2 support the bipartisan, bicameral efforts of Congressman Hal Rogers and Senator Mitch
3 McConnell, pass the RECLAIM Act, and release the \$1 billion existing balance from the
4 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to support economic and community development
5 projects in coal communities ravaged by the loss of coal mining jobs.

6 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this
7 Resolution and notification of its adoption to President Donald J. Trump, The White
8 House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; Vice President Mike
9 Pence, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500;
10 Representative Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office
11 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Senator Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the
12 Senate, S230 U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Charles Schumer, Minority
13 Leader of the Senate, S221 U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20510; and each member of
14 Kentucky's delegation to the United States Congress.