

Governor Jim Justice
State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E
Charleston, WV 25305

As people of faith, we believe the economic, ecological, and bodily health of our communities is part of God's vision for an abundant life on Earth. While the clean-up of abandoned mines, job recovery, and community revitalization have always been important, Covid-19 has shone a light on these needs more than before. We are therefore celebrating that the RECLAIM Act and the Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization have recently been passed in the US House of Representatives. We are eager to see this brought to and passed in the US Senate.

As the Governor of the wild and wonderful state of West Virginia, you have a unique perspective and voice of influence. We urge you to share your personal testimonial about the importance of mine reclamation with the media, to help educate the public about the need to ensure the RECLAIM Act and reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land fund cross the finish line in the Senate and become the law of the land.

These pieces of legislation will create jobs, boost the economy, and clean up dangerous abandoned mining sites. The following bills were always important to building the bright future we want to see in our region, but the current crisis has underscored the need for urgent investment in the future of our communities.

- **Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2019** (H.R.4248), to address the clean-up of dangerous and polluting abandoned mine lands;
- **RECLAIM Act** (H.R. 2156), to spur immediate job creation and create the conditions for longer term, locally driven economic development efforts in coal communities

As people of faith, we are accompanying West Virginia communities through the devastating impacts of the pandemic with pastoral care and practical assistance. We are also casting a vision for a more just and healthy future, in which we live in a sustainable economy that ensures everyone can drink clean water & breathe fresh air endowed to us by our Creator.

Sincerely,

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