

RECLAIM Act

H.R. 4456

A vital economic boost for communities struggling with the decline of the coal industry

The RECLAIM Act would create thousands of jobs across the country reclaiming old coal mines, and would spur economic opportunities in agriculture, energy, recreational tourism, and beyond on reclaimed mines.



A reclaimed stream in Maryland, now home to a bustling recreational tourism industry. Image: Downstream Strategies



A reclaimed strip mine in Pennsylvania, now an industrial park that employs 4500 people. Image: Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services



A reclaimed coal processing plant in Germany, now a large solar array. Image: Wikimedia

The RECLAIM Act would distribute \$1 billion from the existing federal Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Fund to states and tribes across the country.

\$1
billion

States and tribes would then use the money to develop strategic mine reclamation projects that are linked to business projects on the reclaimed sites.



As the coal industry has declined over the past few years, thousands of jobs have been lost. Policies like the RECLAIM Act can assist communities struggling with these mass layoffs in diversifying their economies and building a bright future.



If your district contains abandoned mines, this bipartisan proposal will benefit your constituents directly. Even if your district has no abandoned mines, this bill creates jobs in communities that are struggling and it has no impact on the coal industry.

Creates thousands of jobs doing mine reclamation across the country.

According to one estimate, more than 3,000 reclamation jobs would be created across the country. And laid off miners have the skills necessary to for this type of work.

Catalyzes economic and business projects on reclaimed mines.

The funds would strategically reclaim sites that are linked to a long-term economic project on the reclaimed site, such as agriculture, energy, industrial parks, and recreational tourism projects.

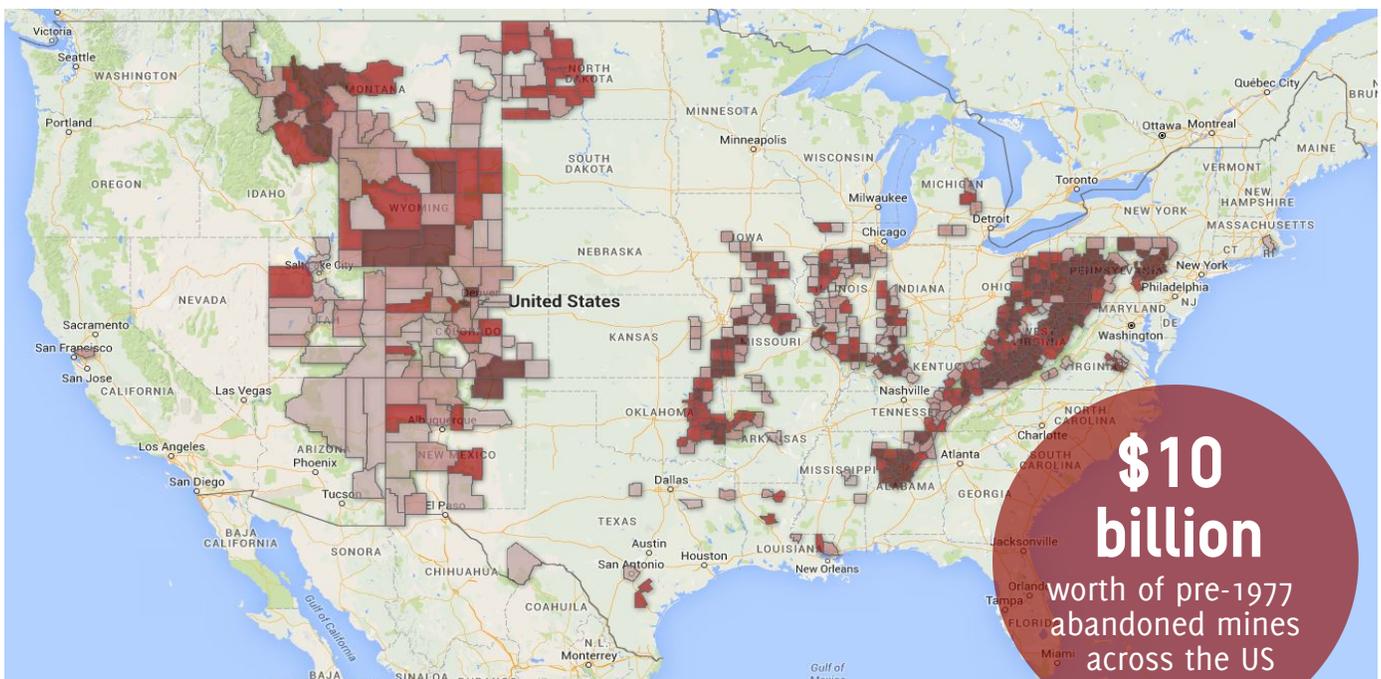
Does not use a cent of taxpayer money, and has no impact on the coal industry.

The \$1 billion would come from the \$2.5 billion AML Fund currently sitting in Washington. Under the status quo, this \$1 billion will be disbursed to Uncertified AML states and tribes in 2023 and thereafter.

It does not raise AML fees or any other taxes. It disburses existing funds to reclaim pre-1977 abandoned mines, and so it has no impact on the reclamation of current mining.

Certified States do better under RECLAIM than under the status quo.

Under the status quo, Certified states and tribes (such as MO, WY, LA, and TX) will not receive any of this \$1 billion in the AML Fund. Under RECLAIM, Certified states would receive \$25 million for reclamation. RECLAIM does not end standard AML payments to Certified states and tribes.



The darker the red, the greater the remaining abandoned mines in the county.
Source: Daily Yonder