

March 9, 2022

Senator Joe Manchin

306 Hart Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

*Sent via Email*

Dear Senator Manchin:

We are requesting that you enact legislation to allow states to set money aside for long-term acid mine drainage treatment facilities.

Acid mine drainage is one of the most visible and costly impacts of coal mining, turning Preston County’s waterways rust orange with dangerous pollution and threatening the health of our residents and wildlife. Remediation of these waterways requires long-term treatment facilities and, in turn, long-term funding.

In 2021, Congress enacted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which included an unprecedented and transformative $11 billion for abandoned coal mine reclamation. Unfortunately, the new law does not allow states to set money aside for long-term acid mine drainage treatment facilities.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding will allow states like West Virginia with abandoned mines to revitalize streams and rivers that have been negatively impacted by coal pollution. However, we need you to make sure that states have the freedom to spend this money on long-term acid mine drainage treatment. Cleaning up these waterways will also allow our community to invest in the outdoor recreation economy, creating new job in the area.

In closing, we ask that you please consider allowing states to use their infrastructure funding for acid mine drainage treatment. We thank you for everything you’ve done and continue to do for our county and the great state of WV.

Sincerely,

Kristy Ash

Kristy Ash, Executive Director