

1996 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 159

Memorializing the Congress of the United States to support appropriate amendments to federal laws to encourage the remining of previously strip-mined sites.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 1996

Agreed to by the Senate, March 6, 1996

WHEREAS, the Federal Surface Mining Act of 1977 has been adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the current reclamation laws require complete elimination of all highwalls; and

WHEREAS, this requirement discourages the use and economical remining of abandoned strip mine sites in Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the remining of such abandoned sites would increase employment and provide usable reclaimed property for housing and industrial development; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Virginia appreciates and supports reasonable safeguards to protect watersheds, streams, water supplies and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Virginia believes that government funds now being used to reclaim abandoned sites should be substantially used to supply potable water to coalfield residents; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Virginia supports the appropriate amendments to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations which would encourage and allow the remining of previously strip-mined sites under the appropriate safeguards to ensure protection of the public safety and welfare; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to support appropriate amendments to federal laws to encourage the remining of previously strip-mined sites; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Virginia Liaison Office, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia.

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