As Introduced

132nd General Assembly Regular Session 2017-2018

water resources; and

H. C. R. No. 13

Representatives West, Thompson

Cosponsors: Representatives Seitz, Patterson, Lipps, Boccieri, Romanchuk, Holmes, Riedel, Kent, Dean, O'Brien, Hill, Lepore-Hagan, Retherford, Wiggam

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

То	urge the Congress of the United States to pass the	1
	RECLAIM Act, which would assist communities negatively	2
	impacted by changes to the country's energy industry.	3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, The number of coal mining jobs in this country has	4
fallen over 90% since the coal mining industry's peak. This	5
number is likely to decrease further as the nature of the United	6
States' energy production continues to evolve. Many communities	7
in Ohio have lost coal mining jobs and have struggled to recover	8
from the economic turmoil caused by mine closures; and	9
WHEREAS, Reclamation of the many abandoned coal mines will	10
provide long-term economic opportunities, including in areas	11
such as agriculture, energy, recreational tourism, and industry.	12
Numerous former mining communities throughout the nation have	13
successfully utilized reclaimed mines for substantial, long-	14
term, economic benefits; and	15
WHEREAS, If left alone, abandoned coal mines will continue	16
to negatively impact the environment, including contaminating	17
water resources; and	18

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WHEREAS, HR 1731, also known as the Revitalizing the	19	
Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and	20	
Investing More Act of 2017 ("RECLAIM Act"), would distribute an	21	
estimated \$64 million to Ohio over five years for mine	22	
reclamation and bring immediate and necessary relief to	23	
communities that have been devastated by the decline of the coal	24	
industry; and	25	
WHEREAS, The RECLAIM Act would not raise fees or taxes on	26	
any individual or business, but would only distribute existing	27	
federal funds; now therefore be it	28	
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General	29	
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution,	30	
hereby find that the United States has an obligation to assist		
communities negatively impacted by changes to the country's		
energy industry; and be it further	33	
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General	34	
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge	35	
the Congress of the United States to enact the RECLAIM Act; and		
be it further	37	
RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives	38	
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the	39	
Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives,	40	
the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States	41	
Senate, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and	42	
the news media of Ohio.		