

As Introduced

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
2017-2018**

H. C. R. No. 13

Representatives West, Thompson

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

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

To 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

WHEREAS, HR 1731, also known as the Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017 ("RECLAIM Act"), would distribute an estimated \$64 million to Ohio over five years for mine reclamation and bring immediate and necessary relief to communities that have been devastated by the decline of the coal industry; and

WHEREAS, The RECLAIM Act would not raise fees or taxes on any individual or business, but would only distribute existing federal funds; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, 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

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the Congress of the United States to enact the RECLAIM Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.