

1 COMMITTEE: Environment
2 POLICY: Abandoned Mines Land Program
3 TYPE OF POLICY: Existing

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5 The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund was established to provide money to states to
6 eliminate the hazards to public health and safety and the environment created by coal mine
7 sites that have not been restored. It is funded by reclamation fees collected from coal mine
8 operators. Contributions made to this trust fund are appropriated by Congress to states with
9 reclamation plans approved by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
10 (OSM)-. Funds may be spent on the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources
11 and related expenses.

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13 In order to insure the stability of the program and to build on its accomplishments, the
14 National Conference of State Legislatures urges Congress to appropriate the entire amount
15 of money annually deposited in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. NCSL also urges
16 Congress to expand the program to include hard rock mines, incorporate funding from all
17 mining activity and require the U.S. Department of Energy to clean up abandoned uranium
18 mines used for defense purposes.

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