Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer,

As faith-based organizations, we call on Congress to champion legislation critical to the communities most affected by our country’s declining demand for coal.

For over one hundred years, communities with a coal mining history across twenty states have played an integral part in supporting the growth of our country. The hard work and sacrifices of coal miners and their families made the Industrial Revolution possible. However, these same communities are now bearing the weight of a significant economic transition as the coal industry wanes. We support that transition and continue to push for energy sources that are sustainable for God’s creation.

Many communities impacted by coal are undergoing serious economic distress as the need for coal mining jobs continues to disappear, all while the health impacts of coal mining plague families. The residents of these communities are in crisis and cannot wait any longer to take concrete steps toward the abundant life God wishes for us all. Faith communities are on the front lines of helping families cope with unemployment and under-employment, as well as health challenges and untimely deaths. Because of what we witness in our ministries, we believe deeply in the need to take urgent action for justice for the affected communities.

We respectfully request the US House of Representatives to bring these key pieces of bipartisan legislation to the floor for a vote as soon as possible:

- **Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2019**, H.R. 4248, to address the clean-up of dangerous and polluting abandoned mine lands;

- **RECLAIM Act**, H.R. 2156, to spur immediate job creation and create the conditions for longer term, locally driven economic development efforts in communities with coal mining history;

- **Black Lung Benefits Disability Trust Fund Solvency Act**, H.R. 3876, to fund the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund (BLDTF).

In order to realize a more hopeful, sustainable economy, a new economy will need to be born: one that honors local traditions, empowers people, supports healthy families, creates jobs that provide economic dignity, is just and equitable, and preserves as well as revitalizes God’s creation. This package of legislation would advance the opportunity for vulnerable communities in economic transition to reach their God-given potential and thrive.

Respectfully,

Creation Justice Ministries
Interfaith Power & Light
Indiana Interfaith Power & Light
Young Evangelicals for Climate Action
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Passionist Solidarity Network
Catholic Committee of Appalachia
West Virginia Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Kentucky Council of Churches
Franciscan Action Network
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern Region
United Church of Christ, Justice & Witness Ministries
The Episcopal Church