

Reply from U.S. Senator Pat Toomey

From: Senator Pat Toomey <pat_noreply@toomey.senate.gov>
To: andy@wpcamr.org
Priority: Normal
Date: 12-18-2012 12:28 PM

December 18, 2012

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for contacting me about the impacts that budget sequestration could have on funding levels for the Abandoned Mine Land Trust Fund (AML). I appreciate hearing from you.

I understand that the AML program does important work in Pennsylvania to rehabilitate land polluted by previous mining operations and I have fought to ensure that Pennsylvania receives its fair share of AML funding. When our state could have lost significant portions of its annual AML funds due to ambiguous language contained in Public Law 112-141 (also known as the 2012 transportation bill), I successfully supported efforts to reinsert clear language which allows Pennsylvania to receive its fair proportion of allotted AML funds.

Specific to your concerns, the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 121-25), which I voted against, mandates automatic federal spending cuts across the board over the next 10 years. Although I believe that we need to reduce spending in Washington and put our nation on a sustainable fiscal course, I understand your concern regarding the impact this budget sequester may have on the efficacy of the AML program. As work continues to avoid the so-called "fiscal cliff," please be assured that I value your input and will keep your views in mind.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
U.S. Senator, Pennsylvania

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