



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board
Provided by ODNR Deputy Director of Mineral Resources Management Robert Boyles
February 23, 2016

Good afternoon Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Bob Boyles and I am the Deputy Director over the Division of Mineral Resources Management within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present testimony on the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board for your consideration.

Purpose of the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board

The Board reviews deposits into and expenditures from the reclamation forfeiture fund. The fund revenues are generated through a supplemental coal severance tax. Disbursements from the fund are made by ODNR's Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management for reclaiming areas of land affected by coal mining done since 1981 in cases where a coal operator has defaulted.

Composition of the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board

Appointed by the Governor to serve four-year terms, the Commission is comprised of 9 members. We believe that the current makeup of the Board is good governance and works effectively to meet the Board's objectives.

Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board Summary and Recommendation

The reclamation forfeiture fund is a valuable asset for ODNR's Division of Mineral Resources Management to utilize when engaging in reclamation activities on lands mined by coal mine operators who do not reclaim the acreage themselves. The continual evaluation of the fund by the Board is important to the long-term stability of the fund.

ODNR recommends that the Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board be renewed by the Sunset Review Committee.