



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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**Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on the Council on Unreclaimed Strip Mined Lands
Provided by ODNR Deputy Director Bob Boyles
December 14, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Brown 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 Council on Unreclaimed Strip Mined Lands (CURSML) for your consideration.

Purpose of the Council on Unreclaimed Strip Mined Lands

CURSML was established by law in 2000 to advise and make recommendations to ODNR's Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management concerning the number of acres, locations, ownership, condition, environmental damage resulting from the condition, cost of acquiring, reclaiming, and possible future uses and value of eroded lands within the state, including land affected by strip mining for which no cash is held in the reclamation forfeiture fund in section 1513.18 of the ORC.

Additionally, the Council has the approval authority of expenditures from the unreclaimed lands fund for reclamation projects that are within the boundaries of project areas approved by the Council. Once approved by the Council, the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management can then make those expenditures with the approval of the Director of ODNR.

Composition of the Council on Unreclaimed Strip Mined Lands

CURSML consists of eleven members: the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management, four persons appointed by the Director of the ODNR, two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, one member of the House appointed by the Minority Leader of the House, two members of the Senate appointed by the Senate President, and one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

Council on Unreclaimed Strip Mined Lands Summary and Recommendation

ODNR values the work of CURSML, but feels that the same level of input can be offered to the Department through a less formalized and bureaucratic process. Therefore, ODNR recommends that CURSML be sunset by the Sunset Review Committee. We are committed to maintaining the same level of communication and engagement between the Department and these valuable stakeholders, but in a more efficient manner.

Members of the Committee, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to take any questions that you may have at this time.