



# West Virginia Coal Association

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**February 12, 2024**

**To: Legislative Coal Caucus**

**From: Chris Hamilton, Jason Bostic, West Virginia Coal Association**

**Re: HB 4722 & HB 5522**

HB 4722 & HB 5522 represent top priorities for the states coal industry for the 2024 Legislative Session. Together, they form the basis and financial incentives to build out the next generation of coal production and maintain instate coal consumption. These bills also serve to accomplish our shared goal of returning some of the state's high revenues back to the industry responsible for the state's current economic health.

HB 4722 was passed by the House last year creating the "Tax Credit For Road And Highway Infrastructure Improvements And Coal Production and Processing facilities". The legislation provides for a 20% credit against severance taxes for qualifying mine infrastructure and production costs.

This legislation was advanced by the House Infrastructure and Technology Committee and is currently before Finance.

[https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill\\_Status/bills\\_history.cfm?INPUT=4722&year=2024&sessiontype=RS](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=4722&year=2024&sessiontype=RS) ”.

HB 5522 creates a program by which state utilities can apply for a maximum 50% credit against Business and Occupation (B&O) taxes for environmental compliance and plant upgrades. This legislation is intended to incentivize utilities to upgrade coal plants and to keep costs low for consumers or rate payers.

This legislation is before the House Energy and Manufacturing and then goes to Finance. [https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill\\_Status/bills\\_text.cfm?billdoc=hb5522%20intr.htm&yr=2024&sessiontype=RS&i=5522](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hb5522%20intr.htm&yr=2024&sessiontype=RS&i=5522)

The states coal industry accounts for over 50,000 jobs for West Virginians and combined with our 9 in-state electric generating plants, represent \$14 Billion in annual economic activity throughout the state. Our in-state coal fleet also accounts for a controlled market for over a third of our total output. It's important to maintain fully compliant coal plants while keeping costs down for state residents and rate payers.

HB 5522 and HB 4722 are intended to provide the coal industry with a needed boost to ensure that coal is a part of WV's future and offset future consumer power costs. We appreciate your strong support for coal and please give one of us a call if you have questions or need additional information.