



Town of Midland
19823 Big Lane, SW
Midland, MD 21532

Mayor
Richard M. Blair

Town Meeting 7:30
1st Monday of Month

Member Maryland Municipal League

Town Council:
Gerald Gray
Michael McGowan, II
John R. Monahan
Nellie R. Tighe

Town Administrator
Craig W. Alexander

Town Clerk
Edward J. Baker

Town Treasurer
John G. Cullen

February 17, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President
Maryland State Senate
State House, H-107
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support Maryland Coal Industry

Dear Senate President Ferguson:

How did coal become such a hated four letter word?

Western Maryland coal helped fuel the industrial revolution that transformed the United States into a World power. Coal was an essential resource that allowed the United States to expand steel production during World War II in order to produce the tanks, battleships, and other assets that helped turned the tide of the war, and enable our brave soldiers to gain a victory that preserved the freedoms we enjoy today.

Are we to relegate ourselves to relying on other countries to provide the critical resources needed to "provide for the common defense" of America?

High quality coal is still a vital resource today in steel production for critical public infrastructure and the defense industry. Coal production and steel making are two strategic industries that the United States must maintain at levels that will support our ability to defend ourselves in the event of war. Or, do you think China is going to provide us with steel to construct the weapons we need to fight them.

Does burning coal contribute to "global warming"?

It may; the jury is still out on all the factors that contribute to global temperature changes.

But as the word global implies, it will do nothing if we eliminate the use of coal in America only to see the use of coal increase in other countries around the world. As we write this letter, Japan is preparing to build as many as 22 new coal-burning power plants. Japan is not some third-world country they are an industrial power whose industries rival the United States. So, destroying the coal industry in Maryland will accomplish little except to make America more vulnerable in its own defense by eliminating this strategic industry.

In conclusion, the Mayor and Town Council urge the General Assembly to support Maryland's coal industry, not destroy it. Please do not pass any measures to eliminate coal-fired power plants or

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otherwise restrict coal mining in Maryland. Coal mining in the George's Creek region of Allegany County is an essential component of our local economy, and provides many well paying jobs for our residents.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important request to support businesses in Western Maryland.

Respectfully,

Richard M. Blair, Mayor

CC: Governor Larry Hogan
Senator George C. Edwards
Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel
Delegate Mike McKay
Delegate Jason Buckel