

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 21, 2011

Andrew McAllister
Regional Coordinator
Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
226 Donohoe Road Suite 110
Greensburg, PA 15601

Dear Mr. McAllister,

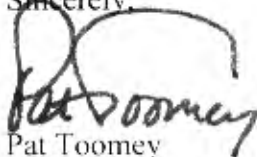
Thank you for contacting me about the Department of the Interior's (DOI) plan to merge the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). I appreciate hearing from you.

As you know, Secretary Ken Salazar proposed the merger of BLM and OSMRE on October 26, 2011. Secretary Salazar states that such a merger is part of DOI's "efforts to make the most out of limited resources and to carry out [its] important responsibilities for the benefit of the American people." Furthermore, documents issued by DOI claim that "[b]ecause this would be an administrative reorganization, states, tribes, industry and other stakeholders should not see a disruption of technical or other types of assistance that they currently receive from OSMRE and/or BLM."

That said, I understand that this merger is of great concern to you and many others in Pennsylvania. My office has contacted DOI to learn more about the merger and how it could potentially impact our state. Please be assured that I value your input and I will keep your concerns in mind as work continues on this issue.

Thank you again for your correspondence. Please do not hesitate to contact me again in the future I may ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
United States Senator