

## 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

2 INTRODUCED BY J. SESSO

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR RECLAMATION OF ABANDONED MINE  
6 LANDS.

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8 WHEREAS, the 109th Congress in 2006 passed amendments to the Surface Mining Control and  
9 Reclamation Act of 1977 to sunset funding for abandoned mine land reclamation programs in Montana and the  
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, the Montana Abandoned Mine Lands Program and the Crow Tribe Abandoned Mine Land  
12 Program protect Montana citizens and the environment by successfully reclaiming historic abandoned mines; and

13 WHEREAS, funding for abandoned mine reclamation programs expires September 30, 2021 meaning  
14 programs in Montana would no longer have money to reclaim historic abandoned mines; and

15 WHEREAS, in Montana, 6,500 mines with an unfunded liability of more than \$130 million would benefit  
16 from continued funding of the program.

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18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 STATE OF MONTANA:

20 That the Montana Legislature supports continued funding for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands  
21 beyond the September 30, 2021, date set by the United States Congress.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Congress should reauthorize funding for the  
23 reclamation of abandoned mine lands before the 2021 expiration date.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Montana  
25 Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of the Interior, and the Office of Surface Mining  
26 Reclamation and Enforcement.

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