POLICY COMMITTEE

# Public Hearing: Regulatory and Cost Challenges Facing Pennsylvania's Mining Industry

**The purpose of this hearing is to examine the regulatory and cost challenges facing Pennsylvania's mining industry and how they impact jobs, investment, and local economies. Hosted by Rep. Joanne Stehr in Schuylkill County, the discussion will feature industry voices on permitting, compliance costs, and competitiveness, while exploring ways to modernize regulations and support long-term growth.**

## April 22, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

### Hearing Overview

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Welcome**
- **Opening Remarks**
  - Chairman David H. Rowe
  - State Representative Joanne Stehr
- **Testimony from Invited Experts**
- **Member Discussion with Testifiers**
- **Closing Comments & Adjournment**

### Testifiers

- **Dave Williams,** Owner, D. Williams & Associates, Inc.
- **Shawn Frye**, Chief Engineer, Blaschak Anthracite
- **Abigail Dessecker**, Operations Engineer, Blaschak Anthracite
- **Duane Feagley**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Anthracite Council

### Livestream

www.policycommittee.com

# About the Testifiers



## Dave Williams

**Dave Williams** is the **owner** of **D. Williams & Associates, Inc.**, where he brings almost 50 years of experience as a mining engineer consultant in the anthracite coal region. He has been classified as an expert witness in mining engineering in County, State and Federal Court and has also testified several times at the Environmental Hearing Board. His testimony at former Governor Schweiker's Mine Void Commission led to the State of Pennsylvania initiating the Mine Map Atlas program by scanning all available mining maps in the State of Pennsylvania. Williams worked for sixteen years as the Chief Mining Engineer for the Anthracite Division of Mine Safety for Pennsylvania. He has worked extensively across the coal and mineral extraction sectors, providing technical expertise and strategic guidance to clients throughout the region. His work has focused on improving operational efficiency, ensuring safety standards, and navigating complex environmental and permitting requirements.

## Shawn Frye

BLASCHAK ANTHRACITE

**Shawn Frye** serves as **Chief Engineer** at **Blaschak Anthracite**, where he oversees engineering operations for one of the nation's leading producers of anthracite coal. In this role, he is responsible for managing mine planning, infrastructure development, regulatory compliance, and the implementation of innovative engineering solutions that support safe and efficient coal production. Frye is known for his leadership in fostering a culture of safety, continuous improvement, and workforce development. His expertise supports Blaschak Anthracite's mission to deliver high-quality energy resources while maintaining responsible stewardship of Pennsylvania's natural resources.

## Abigail Dessecker

BLASCHAK ANTHRACITE

**Abigail Dessecker** is an **Operations Engineer** at **Blaschak Anthracite**, where she supports the day-to-day engineering and operational functions of one of the country's leading anthracite coal producers. In her role, she works closely with mine operations, contributing to production planning, process optimization, and the implementation of engineering solutions that enhance efficiency and safety. Committed to advancing responsible energy production, Dessecker plays a role in supporting sustainable practices within the anthracite industry while contributing to the reliability and performance of Blaschak Anthracite's operations.

## Duane Feagley

Pennsylvania Anthracite Council

**Duane Feagley** serves as **Executive Director** of the **Pennsylvania Anthracite Council**, where he leads advocacy efforts on behalf of Pennsylvania's anthracite coal industry. In this role, he represents producers and stakeholders on key issues including energy policy, environmental regulation, and economic development, working to ensure the continued viability and growth of the industry. A respected voice in the industry, Feagley is committed to advancing the role of anthracite as a reliable domestic energy source and supporting the communities and workforce that depend on it.