Date

Senator/Representative Name

Address

Dear Senator/Representative Name:

I write to ask you to refuse to support any federal fiscal or regulatory effort to resurrect the coal industry. Coal trashes the environment when it is mined and again when it is used. Coal is yesterday’s technology that is being strangled by what economists call “creative destruction” as the vibrant US economy turns to more efficient and cheaper ways to power itself. Indeed, the Kentucky Coal Museum in Benham, KY recently announced that it was switching to 100% solar in order to save substantial amounts on its energy bill.

Rather than propping up a dying industry, Federal resources would be far better spent fostering tomorrow’s technology and retraining displaced coal workers for the jobs of tomorrow. And those jobs already exist. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, nationwide jobs in the solar industry now outnumber mining by 2 to 1 and the West Virginia Department of Commerce reports in the first quarter of this year state employment in Healthcare and Social Services alone totaled almost 6X employment in Mining and Logging. As West Virginia’s population ages further (it already is considerably older than the US average) the need for healthcare and social services will only grow rapidly.

Instead of trying to resuscitate the dying coal industry federal efforts should be expended in promoting tomorrow’s industries and facilitating the transition of displaced coal workers to the new economy. I urge you to push the federal government to support this data driven reality.

 Sincerely,

 Your name and address