Petition to Support the Development of Wind Power on Coal River Mountain

Dear Community Member:

Across southern West Virginia, Mountaintop Removal is destroying the potential for any alternative use of the mountains, uses that could provide lasting economic benefits and employment opportunities for the local communities. Coal River Mountain is being threatened with the same fate. A study conducted in 2007 showed that the ridges along Coal River Mountain exhibit the potential for the development of over 400 Megawatts of wind power. Further studies determined that a Coal River Mountain wind farm would contribute over 200 short-term construction jobs and 40-50 long-term maintenance jobs, while also providing Raleigh County and West Virginia with decades of clean, sustainable energy. In addition, a wind farm would allow for other uses of the land that would benefit our local communities, such as: sustainable forestry, tourism, and the harvesting of ginseng and other forest products. Strip-mining on Coal River Mountain, if allowed to proceed as planned, will forever destroy this opportunity.

Current plans for Coal River Mountain are to strip-mine about 6,600 total acres, leading to the construction of 19 valley fills. The valley fills would impact substantial lengths of Horse Creek, Dry Creek, Rock Creek and Sycamore Creek, among others, while leading to the contamination of our local water resources. Adding to this devastation, the mining will last for only 15 years, and when it is completed, all benefits from the mining operations will be gone, and any opportunity for wind development will have been eliminated.

YOUR support for a Coal River Mountain wind farm could help prevent that from happening. We would like to ask county and state officials to begin looking at alternative uses of West Virginia's mountains before allowing any further strip-mining, and Coal River Mountain could serve as a powerful symbol of what is possible for West Virginia. We urge you to show your support for the future of Coal River Mountain and our communities by signing the petition below:

NAME	**EMAIL & PHONE #**	**STATE**

A study conducted in 2007 showed that the ridges along Coal River Mountain exhibit the potential for the development of over 400 Megawatts of wind power. A Coal River Mountain wind farm would create permanent local job opportunities and would allow for other uses of the land that would benefit our local communities, such as: sustainable forestry, tourism, and the harvesting of ginseng and other forest products. However, current plans for Coal River Mountain are to strip-mine about 6,600 total acres of the mountain, leading to the construction of 19 valley fills and destroying all of the mountain's wind resources. *YOU can help stop this from happening.* We would like to ask county and state officials to begin looking at alternative uses of West Virginia's mountains before allowing any further strip-mining, and Coal River Mountain could serve as a powerful symbol of what is possible for West Virginia. We urge you to show your support for the future of Coal River Mountain and our communities by signing the petition below.

NAME	**PHONE/ADDRESS**	**Volunteer?**

Please send completed petitions to:

Coal River Mountain Watch
P.O. Box 651
Whitesville, WV 25209

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