

Local and Regional Support for the Coal River Mountain Wind Project

Coal River Mountain Watch: “Coal River Mountain has excellent and significant commercial wind energy potential, but only if the mountain ridges remain. There is a clear choice: clean, renewable energy that would provide permanent jobs for the community while leaving the mountain’s other resources relatively intact, or a short-term fossil fuel extraction operation that would render the mountain useless after a dozen years. The Coal River Mountain Wind Project aims to make the cleaner, more prosperous choice a reality.”

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition: “As we work together to end mountaintop removal coal mining, we are often asked about the alternatives to coal. Only recently, under the leadership of CRMW, have we had the opportunity to promote a concrete example—a wind power project on Coal River Mountain. As of now, the mountain is slated to be strip-mined, destroying over 6,000 acres of the mountain, increasing the likelihood and severity of flooding of communities, and contaminating the water downstream of valley fills. A study conducted by Rory McIlmoil (CRMW staff), shows that most of the ridges exhibit Class 4 to Class 7 winds, Class 4 being the minimum speed for utility-scale wind development—a concrete and sustainable economic alternative. OVEC is already a committed partner in this effort.”

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy: “The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy applauds efforts to site wind facilities on land that would be sacrificed to mountaintop removal coal mining. To that end, we strongly support the effort to evaluate the development of a wind facility on Coal River Mountain in Raleigh County, West Virginia.”

West Virginia Environmental Council: “The West Virginia Environmental Council supports the effort to evaluate the development of a large utility-scale wind farm on Coal River Mountain in Raleigh County, West Virginia, instead of plans to strip-mine the mountain. It should be noted that while the potential economic returns from the wind project (to the landowner and the county and state) may not immediately exceed those from mining the coal, they would continue indefinitely while the coal would be a single, one-time income-- after which the land would be permanently scarred and of little use for future economic development.”

Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation: “I am writing in regard to the Coal River Mountain wind project we recently talked about. I would welcome discussions with a developer of this project and from the information you presented to me I know my organization would be very supportive of this project given the right set of conditions. The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation has supported a number of wind projects in the state for a number of reasons including the quality of local union construction jobs they create, the related economic impact with local hiring, the permanent jobs created, the clean energy produces, and the diversification of our industrial base.”

Progressive Democrats of West Virginia: “PDWV offers its full support and endorsement of the Coal River Mountain Wind Project and the clean energy it would produce. By switching our economy away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy we can curb man-made global warming while providing energy and jobs well into the future. PDWV supports the Coal River Mountain Wind Project as a source of clean energy for our country. By continuing to exploit our environment through mountain-top removal and strip-mining we only continue to tether ourselves to the past rather than looking toward the future. Strip-mining at Coal River Mountain would provide a short-term source of energy, but would devastate future potential for renewable energy.

(Local and Regional Support, cont...)

WV Chapter of the Sierra Club: "Mountain Top Removal mining is one of our major issues that we are working in support of communities in Appalachia. We need to stop MTR and transition to a better way of generating and consuming energy in the US. The community impacts of mining are an essential element to the message about a new energy economy. What we need now instead of short-term strip-mining jobs are sustainable, good paying, union organized jobs for the coalfields of Appalachia. I believe that the Coal River Mountain Wind Project is a prototype of the type of development that can show to all that there is a better future in this area. For that reason, we are supportive of this project and hope to see it move forward."

Appalachian Voices (Boone, NC): "One area with commercially viable wind potential in Central Appalachia is Coal River Mountain, located in the heart of the southern West Virginia coalfields. Massey Energy is pursuing a 6,000-acre mountaintop removal operation that would decimate this iconic mountain. The proposal for a commercial wind project that has been developed by Appalachian Voices, Coal River Mountain Watch, and other partners has the potential not only to save this mountain, but also to provide a powerful and compelling symbol of a clean energy future for our nation, in the heart of the Appalachian coalfields."

Appalachian Institute for Renewable Energy: I am writing to express my support for Coal River Wind. My organization, the Appalachian Institute for Renewable Energy (AIRE), promotes renewable energy and is focused primarily in the Southern Appalachians. It is time to consider wind power's great proven, but untapped potential. To liquidate Coal River Mountain for such a finite supply of electric power with its attendant costs would be foolhardy as compared with the proposal for wind being put forth here. I have reviewed the fact sheet and other documents that Coal River Wind has produced and believe that they have a well researched plan worthy of the strongest consideration at the state capital in Charleston, WV. Please do your part to support the work being done by Coal River Wind. AIRE strongly endorses this project!

Student Environmental Action Coalition: "The Student Environmental Action Coalition is solidly supportive of and excited about the ongoing campaign for a wind farm on Coal River Mountain. Our young generation is increasingly uniting for clean & just energy to combat global warming, and the Coal River Mountain Wind Campaign is a perfect example of a necessary step. The Mountaintop Removal (MTR) coal-mining permits that are currently proposed for Coal River Mountain are perfect examples of the wrong choice being made for our country's energy and economic development. This is a historic campaign that has come at a time when it's most needed. The excellent work that Coal River Mountain Watch is spear-heading is already changing the debate around ending MTR & showing our commitment to the creation of green jobs in Appalachia."

Other Supporting Groups:

West Virginia Council of Churches
Christians for the Mountains
Appalachian Coalition for Just and Sustainable Communities
Valley Watch
Aurora Lights
Co-Op America
Southern Energy Network
Charleston Area Youth Network
West Virginia Young Democrats, Environmental Caucus