

Coal River Mountain Wind Project

Community Letter of Resolution

Originally Drafted, September 14th, 2008

To: Governor Joe Manchin

From: Residents of the Coal River Valley, Raleigh County, WV

Dear Governor Manchin:

We, the Citizens of the Coal River Valley and Surrounding Communities, formally request that you uphold the duties of your office to protect all citizens of West Virginia from degradation or harm, without prejudice, and to keep your promise as governor to create good jobs with benefits that we and our families, and future generations, deserve. As residents of an area that has been heavily impacted by Mountaintop Removal coal mining, and as survivors of floods that have killed two of our community members and damaged or destroyed over 150 homes, we can say from first-hand experience and with unwavering certainty that to allow Mountaintop Removal to continue stands in stark contrast with the duties of your office.

Mountaintop Removal coal mining results in fewer jobs than underground coal mining and shorter-term jobs than a wind farm, in damage to personal property, and in the endangerment of the lives of community members. Further, the loss of hundreds of thousands of acres of natural habitat, clean water and valuable resources - resources that could be used for pursuing alternative and more sustainable, long-term forms of economic development - robs the people and the state of an energy and economically secure future.

While we understand that coal is an important part of the state's economic portfolio, the United States Geologic Survey has shown that Central Appalachia has only 20-30 more years of coal production at current levels, so it is time to begin developing West Virginia's sources of renewable energy such as wind and solar power in order to ensure a smooth economic transition. These resources are available right now, and we call on you as our governor to pursue all such opportunities due to their relatively high community and economic benefit, and relatively low social and environmental impact, especially as compared to destructive forms of coal mining such as Mountaintop Removal.

The Center for American Progress recently reported that an investment of \$512 Million in renewable energy development over the next two years will immediately create over 12,000 new, long-lasting jobs in West Virginia. Further, your own Development Office contracted AWS Truewinds to determine how much wind energy potential existed in the state, and their report concluded that West Virginia has over 11,000 Megawatts of wind energy potential. We call on you to begin protecting these resources, to protect the mountains that provide them, and to begin developing these new opportunities. Doing so is vital to the security of our communities, of our state, and of our nation.

Therefore, based upon this information, upon the very real potential for developing a clean, sustainable, and more just economy for the citizens of West Virginia, and upon the fact that We,

the Citizens of southern West Virginia, fully understand and are made to live with the true cost of coal,

We Hereby Resolve that,

As Residents of the Coal River Valley and Citizens of the great State of West Virginia, We Prefer, Choose, and Demand the development of clean, renewable wind energy for Coal River Mountain, and We Request that you, Governor Joe Manchin, uphold the duties and responsibilities of your office, both to the citizens of West Virginia and to the United States of America, and prevent the destruction of a viable source of long-lasting jobs, economic development and energy security -- destruction that will result from a mere 14 years of coal production, while subsequently destroying the wind resource upon which alternative economic development could be based.

The Coal River Mountain Wind Project is a chance for West Virginia to show the rest of the nation that we are ready, for the first time, to be at the forefront of energy production, economic development *and* the protection of citizen health. Coal River Mountain presents a chance for you, Governor Manchin, to prove that you are serious about promoting renewable energy and about acting in the best interests of ALL of your citizens. We have the choice of either burning the future, or building the future, and it is within the powers of your office to determine which future will be available to those of us living in the Coal River Valley.

These are the wishes of the citizens of the Coal River Valley. We have the right to live out our lives in peace and comfort. We have the right to clean air and clean water. We have the right not to have our homes destroyed for the profit of the coal companies. We have the right to clean, renewable energy and lasting green jobs. We can't achieve these things without your help. You have a responsibility to see to it that we have that opportunity.

Signed,

Gary Anderson, Colcord
Goldie Wright, Colcord
Lisa Henderson, Rock Creek
Bo Webb, Peach Tree
George Geisler, Rock Creek
Lessie Maynor, Dorothy
Delbert Gunnoe, Rock Creek
Julia Gunnoe, Rock Creek
Angel Hodge, Colcord
Etta Cooper, Colcord
Roberta Long, Colcord
Pauline Canterbury, Sylvester

Charles Howard, Dorothy
Lorelei Scarbro, Rock Creek
Judy Bonds, Rock Creek
Phil Petry, Jr., Colcord
Diane Hodge, Colcord
Darlene Doss, Colcord
Janet Howard, Dorothy
Charles Ballard, Dry Creek
Karen Dillon, Dorothy
Debbie Jarrell, Rock Creek
Sherry Geisler, Rock Creek
Bacon Brown, Colcord

Nick Regalado, Rock Creek
Mike Maynor, Dorothy
Emmett Withrow, Colcord
Sarah Haltom, Peach Tree
Vernon Haltom, Peach Tree
Thomas Adkins, Colcord Gloria
Adkins, Colcord
Rebecca Hicks, Colcord, WV
Michael Harvey, Rock Creek
Chuck Nelson, Glen Daniel
Sharon Bailey, Toney's Fork
Roger Fraley, Colcord