

Kevin Moore
Testimony before the House and Senate Coal Caucuses
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My name is Kevin Moore and I was born and raised in Waynesburg. I've worked for Alpha Natural Resources for more than 10 years as an environmental professional supporting the Cumberland and Emerald Mines based in Waynesburg. I am currently the Senior Environmental Compliance Manager responsible for permitting and compliance for both of these operations.

The job is very demanding and gets more difficult with each regulation that gets passed to further burden an already extremely heavily regulated industry.

My career in this industry has provided me and my family with a great quality of life, let my wife stay at home to raise our children, put me through an MBA program, and all while staying close to our friends and family. Very few industries have provided such stability that generations have been able to grow and stay in a region. My wife's father, grandfather, and great grandfather were all Greene county coal miners.

In my role in the environmental department, I have seen the work the coal industry has done to improve environmental compliance, work with landowners, and to help the community. It seems that in the current political environment all of that falls on deaf ears. On top of that, a very small group of vocal environmentalists has taken the spotlight from the good this industry does, to focus on a few isolated incidents and scare people into believing that coal and the coal industry are generally bad. I live in the same community, I drink the same water, I hunt, and I fish. I am a proud supporter of the industry and of the legacy we leave.

I sleep well at night knowing that coal is good for me, good for you, and good for America. Every time a new regulation has been forced upon the industry, we have found a way to overcome, until recently.

Finally, the environmental groups are getting what they want, coal companies are shutting down all across eastern Appalachia because the permitting and compliance costs are so burdensome that they can't afford to mine. The coal plants are shutting down because of uncertainty over new regulations like this Clean Power Plan and the cost of compliance for past regulations like the Mercury Air Toxins Standard.

If you have any doubt that the process is politically biased, ask why in the last two months, we have been presented with well over 3,000 pages of new rules and regulations in the form of the Stream Protection Rule and the Clean Power Plan, with almost no time to review and comment. The answer is simple; the EPA doesn't care what we think, or what the science says, or about state primacy on these issues. Pennsylvania should not be so quick to comply with these regulations.

Although many would lead us to believe that man-made climate change is a done deal, I would challenge us to stop looking at the models and start looking at history. For years we have been warned of the devastating and immediate effects that then global warming, now known as climate change, would have on us. I'm curious as to how many of us could point to an event in their lives and say with any certainty that climate change, let alone man's ability to cause climate change, was to blame.

I have run a climate change model and I can tell you that the model builds guesses on top of guesses and the output is wildly variable based on the subjectivity of the one deciding the inputs. Some of the newer models claim to accurately predict historical temperatures and therefore to be able to predict future temperatures. No kidding they can predict historic temperatures; they were designed using them. The fact is this: the average annual temperature in PA has changed a little more than 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit in the previous 110 years. This is hardly a crisis.

Even in the state's own three year report pursuant to the Climate Change Act (Act 70 of 2008) there are very few statements that say that climate change in Pennsylvania is going to be a bad thing. What is omitted from this report and many others is how much of a negative impact increasing electricity costs will have on the people of Pennsylvania. Are we proposing more government subsidies for those that won't be able to pay their electric bills? Where will that money come from?

It's a fact that climate related deaths decreased over 80% in the 20th century. Why? The obvious answer is that the benefits of cheap electricity, electricity that is primarily provided by coal, far outweigh the less than 1 degree temperature difference over the same time period.

My point in saying all this is that we are throwing away real, tangible benefits and threatening the economy of our county, my family, and the nation in favor of some politically motivated manipulations of science. Coal is cheap, it is mined safely, and it provides a great economic benefit both locally and nationally. I know DEP plans to move forward in implementing EPA's newest rule, but I wish they would reconsider, or at least delay as long as possible these decisions so that the impacted communities can do an adequate review of the rules and the impact on our livelihoods.

Our communities have already been hit hard from the realization of the Mercury Air Toxins Standard which the Supreme Court remanded this past June because the EPA did not fully consider the high cost of compliance.

The Obama Administration is regulating the coal industry out of the energy market using the EPA and in the same breath disingenuously offering coal communities money to fix a problem he created. The total direct labor income for the coal industry in Pennsylvania alone is over \$1 billion with an average salary paying \$79,127.

These are jobs that support the backbone of so many communities. We do not want federal money to retrain for new jobs. We want fair regulations that do not target our industry and promote alternative energy sources that cannot replace coal in price or reliability and cannot maintain a place in the electric market without grants and taxpayer funded subsidies.

Don't let the EPA come in and tell Pennsylvania how to manage its economy, its resources, at the cost of the well-being of its people. Make a stand for me, my industry, and the families it supports. Fossil fuels are an integral part of our lives – consider the clothes you are wearing, the computers you use, the appliances you left on in your kitchen, the air conditioning you used in the last three months.

Thank you for your continued support of the coal industry. It is my hope that the courts find this rule to be illegal, that Pennsylvania does not submit a compliance plan in 2016 and that I can continue to do my job and support the family and community that I love.