Mountaintop Mining is a legal, highly regulated, and complex engineered earthmoving process for the surface mining of multiple steep slope coal seams in central Appalachia. This environmentally responsible method employs mining in the most efficient manner for the purpose of electricity generation and/or steel production, thereby strengthening our nation’s competitive economic power and national security.
Life is thriving...

on West Virginia's reclaimed mine sites.
Walker Machinery Company is responsible for Caterpillar equipment sales and service in 25 West Virginia counties and eight southeastern Ohio counties. The major markets served include coal, construction, forestry, and natural gas with coal revenues ranging from 70-75% of sales. Over the years, environmental regulation has actually increased the sales of equipment in our territory. Today, however, new political and social agenda are poised to wipe out our entire regions’ livelihood. In our view, abolishing mountaintop mining would destroy our markets and effectively eliminate the jobs of our 800 families that now have great healthcare, retirement, and wage benefits. Our 50 million dollar annual payroll and hundreds of millions spent with local vendors is critical to our regional economy. Devastatingly, hundreds of businesses and thousands of individuals would be in similar circumstances. The spiraling economic wreckage would make for certain financial and energy crisis. These are the indisputable facts. This is especially tragic in that mountaintop mining is not destroying our environment as perpetuated by coal’s opponents. This brochure, whose images are from mountaintop mining sites, hopes to dispel the myths and half truths by offering a more informed and contextual view and explanation of mining and restoration. References to surveys are those conducted by Mark Blankenship Enterprises 2008-2009.

FULL DISCLOSURE:

Beautiful Restoration in Boone County, WV.

Restoration in progress under Abandoned Mine Land programs, southern WV.

Rock core construction enhances water resources, southern WV.
The preference to do one over the other is dictated by geology and economics. Coal that is suitable for surface mining generally cannot be mined economically by underground methods. Typically this is because the seams are not thick enough to use underground equipment and often the rock strata are not stable enough to prevent roof falls which jeopardize miner safety. Coal within 300-800 feet of the surface can be mined safer, faster, with less waste, and lower cost using surface mining methods. It’s just that simple.

West Virginia’s coal production is approximately 58% underground mining and 42% surface mining. Surface mining can take three forms in West Virginia: (1) Contour mining (2) Area mining, and (3) Mountaintop mining. All surface mining in WV today is generally referred to as “mountaintop mining.”

It is interesting to note that reduced surface mining will in fact reduce underground mining. Coal companies utilize the roads, utilities, coal handling infrastructure, railways, and lower cost economics of surface mining to get to the more expensive underground coal. Additionally, the necessity to blend surface coal with underground coal allows electric utilities to create coal with specific qualities that produce more complete combustion with electricity generation. This reduces air pollutants and carbon dioxide emissions as power plant efficiency increases.
Basic Surface Mining Equipment

- Large hydraulic shovels, wheel loaders, bulldozers, and trucks remove overburden.
- Wheel loaders remove coal from seams and load onto coal hauling trucks.
- Smaller dozers and excavators assist in land and stream restoration, and pond creation.
- Motorgraders maintain haul roads.
There are Five (5) basic steps to surface mining in which federal and state reclamation and safety regulations are enforced throughout the mining process.

1. Layers of rock & dirt above the coal seam are removed.

2. Upper seams of coal are removed and “overburden” is placed in fill areas near the head of hollows or back-stacked on top of the mountain.

3. Coal seams are removed and hauled to cleaning plant or load-out.

4. Regrading, stream and land restoration begins contemporaneously with the mining process.

5. Final restoration takes place and the area is revegetated with bushes, grasses and/or hardwood seedlings.
Mountaintop mining is the most efficient and environmentally responsible type of surface mining over the long term.

“Contour mining,” more prominent in the ‘70’s and ‘80’s, takes place around a ridgetop in which a two or three hundred foot strip of earth and rock are removed to expose the outer reaches of a coal seam. Contour mining leaves large blocks of coal in the ground under the ridgetops. This is inefficient and wasteful of coal resources. As equipment became larger and more powerful in the 1990’s, mountaintop mining enabled the industry to become more productive and efficient by removing all the coal available. The inefficiency of “contour mining” kept open the possibility of re-entering the environment later, perhaps a second or third time, damaging any restoration that had been completed. “Mountaintop mining” would have precluded further environmental damage; thus allowing restoration to be greatly more sustainable and producing more energy that our country desperately needs.

“Area Mining” occurs in more rolling topography such as northern West Virginia, southern Ohio or midwest and western states to reach coal seams closer to the surface. This topography allows for easier restoration than difficult steep slope areas but the mining process requires the same equipment and methods as steep slope mountaintop mining. Post mining land use in these areas often include agricultural, recreational, and commercial site developments. The Mylan baseball and soccer parks, the FBI center, Pete Dye Golf Club, and Bridgeport shopping malls are examples in the Morgantown/Clarksburg corridors. These are beautifully restored areas that offer high economic and quality of life values. Although the mining and environmental issues are the same in area mining, this mining is not demonized in the same manner as in southern West Virginia/ eastern Kentucky.
Mountaintop mining does not destroy or remove mountains. By law, mountains must be restored to “approximate original contour.”
“Blowing off the tops” of mountains and filling streams with waste are simply provocative distortions of a highly regulated and engineered process.

“Flattening mountains” is merely a provocative term. It’s against the law and has no proof in fact. Leveling land for public or commercial use is merely accepted practice and common sense. Is mountaintop mining destroying all of our mountains? Absolutely not! The footprint is very small. That impression appears to be confirmed by information provided by the West Virginia Coal Association that says in 22 of the state’s 55 counties the acreage permitted for such mining is less than 1 percent; in four other counties, it is in the 1 to 3 percent range and there are three over that with Boone the largest at 5.5 percent. The 22 remaining counties have no permits for mountaintop mining. Furthermore, where restoration is 20 years or older, evidence of mining is virtually gone except to the trained expert eye.

Coal was discovered in Boone county in 1742. It is amazing that it is today the highest coal producing county...producing over 33 million tons annually, 21 million tons by surface mining. Boone County is 503 square miles of a state that has 24,181 square miles. The 5.5 percentage of permitted acreage has relatively little mining in progress compared to acres and acres of restored land. It is today one of our most beautiful and rugged areas. In no way has mountaintop mining destroyed this land. It is useful, dynamic, and resourceful and will be for years to come. Economically it has 102 mines, underground and surface. It has a population of 25,535, estimated direct wages of $258,449,000, and severance tax receipts of $4,559,930. Take away mountaintop mining and it will simply revert to another Appalachian tragedy as would all of southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky.
Mountaintop mining does not cover up miles and miles of streams. Tragically, the mountaintop mining process has been deceptively oversimplified and wrongfully characterized as blowing off the tops of mountains and covering up streams. It has been repeated over and over by reporters and coal opponents. This repetition will never replace the true facts. Its use is designed to instill fear and create negativity to a critical mining process, an industry and citizenry. But yet it goes on and on. Anyone not spending considerable time around the mining areas would think the “greedy coal operators” are loping off all mountains and covering all fishing and navigable streams in the state. This is not reality. It is simply an inflammatory and distorted attack against the coal industry. Mountaintop mining is primarily a central Appalachian technique in southern West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and western Virginia. Mountaintop mining is legally characterized as surface mining that flows continuously from one side of a mountain ridge to the other. It does not “remove” the mountain! It does not “flatten” the mountains! These are simply outrageous characterizations by anti-mining groups for sensationalizing their attacks on the coal industry. In fact, unless a permit variance is granted by regulators for higher and better post mining land use, the mined area must, by law, be restored to “approximate original contour” and revegetated. Recent law changes and new technology allow the planting of millions of hardwood seedlings on restored lands. Also, new permits allow mountaintop mines to correct old damage and mistakes of the past on mine lands. Mining coal utilizing surface methods is designed to maximize the economic extraction while minimizing the environmental effects to water resources, wildlife, insects and aquatic life, and overall scenic environment. The restoration develops beautifully over time. Unfortunately, most never get to view these areas as mining areas still under bond are off limits for public safety reasons. Only mining in progress is available to the public through pictures and other visual media by coal’s opponents. Additionally, many counties are petitioning for mined land to be left in level conditions more readily available for commercial post mine use. Large, prime building sites are very scarce in central Appalachian regions which make economic diversity all the more difficult.
The Permit

Mining can begin when the permit process is completed. The length of the permitting process varies from many months to years and permitting requires pages and pages of document and hours and hours of engineering for multiple governmental agencies.

Multiple government agencies can exercise their authority at any mine site, on any given day to insure the environment and the miners are protected. Originally, the principal operations of surface mining became regulated under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Principal permitting and enforcement falls to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, with oversight by the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the EPA. The mission of the WV Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR) is to regulate the mining industry in accordance with federal and state law. Activities include issuing and renewing permits for mineral extraction sites and related facilities, inspecting facilities for compliance, monitoring water quality, tracking ownership and control, and issuing and assessing violations.

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is responsible for the interpretation and compliance of mining to the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act has three major sections: (1) 401 Water Quality Certification, (2) 402 Water Discharges, and (3) 404 Dredge and Fill Operations. Section 401 is state administered and requires placement of fill that material will not result in violation of applicable state water quality standards. Section 402 categorizes mining as “point source,” meaning all discharges must comply with water quality effluent limitation on pollutants. Section 404 regulates the placement of fill material into any area that water may flow. The government calls this a stream. This most controversial section is the subject of “valley fills.” Without valley fills, surface mining or underground mining is not possible. Obviously, the Surface Mining Act of 1977 was not designed to eliminate surface mining, hence, federal courts have not outlawed surface mining.

Head of Hollow “Valley Fill.”
Mountaintop mining has been targeted unfairly. Its equipment and placement of materials are no different than road building or any other significant earth moving or construction project. Its opponents promote an anti-coal, anti-business agenda that uses environmental issues as a mere pawn to redistribute wealth, grab power, and put forth liberal, social ideology.
The very common sense process of “cut” (removing high places) and “fill” (putting in lower places) is central to all highway and commercial building activity.

Highways, railways, airports, and large manufacturing or commercial site development are subject to the same environmental concerns as mountaintop mining, yet it is unfairly singled out by liberal media, environmental groups, and the politically correct as somehow harmful and immoral. The worthy result of coal for electricity and steel making are underappreciated, maligned and disparaged. Earth consists of dirt, rock, metals and elements in its bank, or natural state. This is called “overburden.” When the earth is disturbed by equipment for some construction purpose, it “swells,” that is, its volume increases typically by about 30%. Sometimes this extra “earth” or “fill” must be placed in a “low place,” sometimes called a valley. Among earth-movers it became commonly known as a “valley fill.” Unfortunately, words like “valley fill” and “mountaintop removal,” though inaccurate, are used to perpetuate negative views of mining. Valley fills are known to function as “filtration” and “sponges” that assist in reducing sediment flooding and stream restoration. This very common sense process of “cut” (removing high places) and “fill” (putting in lower places) is central to all highway and commercial building activity. Yet when mining occurs, the opponents rename simple earth as “waste” and “spoil” to give mining a more ominous character. They portray the illusion that every “valley fill” covers a beautiful, pristinely green region, always with a sparkling, babbling stream: teeming with communities of people, flora, and fauna, life at every level. Then poof! Evil miners and government regulators, your neighbors, are allowed to cover and destroy this valley and everything in their evil, greedy path. This is just patently misleading! In reality, valley fills are not the “storybook valleys,” and streams are not really the babbling brooks of fairy tales. To explain: typically you think of a steam with flowing water year-round often with fish. The vast majority of the filled “streams” are actually intermittent or ephemeral streams...those that flow only in connection with a rainfall event. These streams could be characterized as “gullies” or “dry branches.” “Valley fills” then are most often dry ditches in remote areas filled near the tops of ridges. While the government defines streams as anywhere water may flow when it rains, that is not the manner in which people envision a stream. Coal’s opponents conveniently offer these illusions for propelling their anti-coal, anti-growth, anti-corporate agendas. Quite frankly, there are more water resources during and after mining that promote higher quality of life for all concerned both natural and human. They take the form of ponds, wetlands, under-drains, restored, and re-created streams.
Where the laws have been carefully adjudicated, federal courts have overruled these false allegations by mining’s opponents in four major cases and allowed mining to continue.

Where the laws have been carefully adjudicated, federal courts have overruled these false allegations by mining’s opponents in four major cases:

- Bragg vs. Robertson
- Kentuckians for the Commonwealth vs. Rivenburgh
- Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition vs. Bulen
- Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition vs. US Army
  Corp of Engineers

Dirt and rock disturbed during construction releases certain metals and elements that may have higher concentrations not suitable for some aquatic insect life. However, a shift in the benthic (bug) community doesn’t necessarily mean degradation of downstream water quality. This occurs in any earth moving project. Some effects are known better than others. Most are controlled through chemical treatment and sediment control ponds. Government and industry are working to understand and minimize negative effects. This, however, is not reason alone to halt all human construction or mining activities.

Federal Appeals Courts have sited deference and confidence in the government agencies’ ability to make sure mining is done according to law.
The morality of balancing human needs, such as jobs and electricity, with responsible mining and environmental practices, while challenging, must not be put aside, mocked or shown diminished importance. Today, reliable, affordable electricity is as vital as air, water, or our financial system. Coal and mountaintop mining are critical to that stability.
Unfortunately, life and the earth did not come with an instruction manual.

The earth and its inhabitants have been in dynamic change from its beginnings. The positive transformational role coal has played for mankind has not been truly appreciated. It has brought us through two world wars, the Korean and Vietnam experiences. The evolution of industrial and technical revolutions make us the safest and largest superpower in the world. It would be foolish and ungrateful to throw out the most abundant, affordable energy source on the planet without allowing new technology to correct coal’s shortcomings. Through technology, coal is poised to be a better fuel than ever in its history and offers a “bridge to the future.”

Stream Bordering Mountaintop Mines, Clay County.

The intrinsic value of nature, its ecological interdependence, beauty and spirituality cannot be denied, minimalized, or ignored. The coal miners and coal communities acknowledge and live by these truths as human beings among neighbors.

Recreated Wetlands Mountaintop Mine, Boone County.
The coal industry must maintain the faith of the people to mine responsibly and protect our waters and scenic beauty. Recent statewide surveys of West Virginians show they place trust and confidence in the coal industry to protect such. In fact:

- 86% agreed that “the coal industry is doing a better job of protecting the environment than it did 20 years ago.”
- 74% expressed trust and confidence in the coal industry to mine coal in a more environmentally responsible manner during the next 10 years.
- 77% agreed “further environmental regulations will increase the cost consumers pay for energy and fuel.”
- 68% agreed that “environmental groups contribute to high energy costs by restricting supply through legal maneuvering.”

Irrespective of legal permitting, the coal industry is consciously aware of its social license to mine coal.
Coal’s opponents have guilefully turned to the judiciary and political cronies to utilize the complexities and ambiguities of the Clean Water Act and present a very convoluted representation of our ecosystem. Their argument is extremely debatable among experts and defies common sense. Are we expected to believe that as rock and dirt are moved to the dry ditches near the tops of mountains, that the benthic macro-invertebrates (bugs) will be forever destroyed, thus impacting the entire ecosystem and all life as we know it? The mining community is keenly aware of the ecological science involved in the benthic communities’ importance in determining the health, structure, and function of streams, including headwater. By law and regulation, they protect these relationships through mining design and mitigation. It is important to note that these creatures have lived and adapted here for millions and millions of years before man. They inhabit almost every square foot of the watersheds across this great globe, in and outside mined areas. This is hardly criteria for extinction or endangered species. Although metamorphosis times vary, (a lifecycle of an egg, nymph, and adult most often lasts less than a year, perhaps more, depending on the insect order), they quickly breed and die naturally sometimes within a day or two. They do not have house payments, car payments or student loans. In truth they quickly re-inhabit the restored and often mined lands to repeat their biological destiny and breed in large quantities difficult to imagine. If this bug theory by coal’s opponents were extended by the courts, human beings could not build roads, homes, hospitals, schools, cities, or communities for fear of an ecological Armageddon. As if it mattered, more bugs are killed overwhelmingly by car windshields than on mine sites. Are we on such a destructive path that a human being’s right to WORK and moral standing are subordinate to a bug or anything we wish to refer to as nature? Is man not part of nature and of higher moral standing than sentient creatures? As any truly informed person knows, an industry that is accused of covering streams that are not streams, with waste that is not waste, in valleys that are not valleys, with bugs having the moral equivalency of human beings in our court system, is distressing and disappointing. The coal industry seemingly gets no credit at all for the beautiful restoration and the truly small footprint of mining across West Virginia’s 15 million acres. Reclaiming the land with bushes, grasses, and now hardwood seedlings that will gobble up more carbon dioxide is actually a step toward becoming carbon neutral.
We export most of our coal. Is it moral or ethical or to deny the millions of people in our country the value of this resource and put people out of work? Some suggest that an honest assessment of the positives and negatives associated with coal mining would lead us to the conclusion that mining is bad, unethical and immoral. Not true...it is just the opposite. How do coal’s opponents resolve the moral and ethical hypocrisy of using electricity from coal, driving a car or perhaps using their computer, as these activities require “so-called” environmentally moral choices by their stated standards? Moral choices are not so clear. That makes it very unproductive to banter back and forth in such a self-righteous manner. Morals and ethics come down to personal beliefs, forged over our life experiences. Moral and ethical choices strongly favor coal mining. Consider that our health and longevity would be greatly reduced without coal fueling technology development. Mining coal has served the greater good of our state, nation and society as a whole. Coal has enabled the United States to defend itself and freedom around the world while helping to build the greatest economic power ever. Is that unethical? It appears unethical to mischaracterize the coal miners as lacking in respect and reverence for nature because of their profession. Society has demanded the coal. Without coal, we would have chopped down the forests and devastated our ecosystems long ago to provide basic human needs. Does this not show coal miners to have a greater reverence for nature as well as being brave, caring, and unselfish conservationists who are passionately committed to family and community? They live and work in these same mountains. It is their home, too.
Mountaintop mining is absolutely critical to Central Appalachia’s economic vitality, America’s energy needs, and national security.
One hundred sixty million! Yes, one hundred sixty million is the approximate number all West Virginians should monitor...more than the Dow, NASDAQ, or S&P 500. That's the approximate tons of coal produced annually in West Virginia in 2008. A few percentage points up or down and West Virginians should be able to avoid the dark economics haunting the rest of America. Significant and dramatic cuts in this number, however, means all bets are off.

West Virginia has narrowly escaped a portion of the economic devastation that is presently tearing across this country. This benefit is largely due to the state's energy dividend provided by coal and the oil and gas industries. The energy dividend has given the state a large surplus with which we pay our bills, keeps the government sector employed, and provides a safety net for those less fortunate. As Senator Byrd explained, West Virginians understand our future lies in developing "clean, carbon neutral coal."

West Virginians have come to understand the importance of energy and technology as evidenced by recent surveys:

- 78% agree that "the coal industry is the biggest contributor to the state’s economy."
- 86% agree that "clean coal technology is the best way to grow WV’s economy and create jobs in the future."
- 88% agree that "through technology coal can produce electricity in a more environmentally responsible way."
- 78% agree that "converting coal to liquid fuel is among the best ways we can reduce the cost of gasoline and become less dependent on foreign oil."
- 72% agree that "capture and storage of carbon emissions is the best way for coal to become a clean and acceptable fuel of the future."
- 70% agreed, "the governor and legislature should promote the coal industry more than others because it offers the best long-term benefits to the state."
When West Virginians were polled, without aids or prompts, about their greatest concerns, responses that referenced jobs and the economy were near 50%. **A small one-and-a-half percent (1.5%) referenced mountaintop mining. West Virginians choose paychecks.**

Sadly there are groups and individuals that seek to take away our coal production and by that our paychecks. Those who chain themselves to bulldozers or urge banks to quit lending money to coal companies are insulting all West Virginians and portray us to the world as ignorant criminals and environmental morons. They are not saving a mountain; they are destroying jobs and the good character and reputation of West Virginia citizens. These folk, for whatever reason, are putting at risk an estimated minimum 50% of our coal production, 100% of many families’ paychecks, and varying paycheck reductions among remaining West Virginians. These activities can only place proud mountaineers vagabonding across the country looking for work or at the foot of the government pleading for handouts. What a tragedy and loss of dignity.

*Source: MBE, LLC Survey WV, Statewide.*
The Multiplier Effect. It’s not just coal jobs at stake. It’s your job, your children, and your neighbor’s job.

The attack on mountaintop mining, if successful would set off an economic death spiral among hospitals, pharmacies, banks, lawyers, retail, government, and industry all across West Virginia. The indirect employment (or employment multipliers) associated with jobs in the coal industry results from three effects: supplier effects, re-spending effects, and government employment effects.

Supplier effects are impacts that job destruction has on coal industry vendors. For example, Walker Machinery has nearly 800 employees with a $50 million dollar annual payroll. 75% of our revenues are directly from the coal industry, mostly mountaintop mining. These jobs offer important retirement and healthcare benefits. Thousands of such companies in West Virginia would similarly be gone. What a slap in the face to the employees of suppliers like Walker who give time and resources to churches, schools, and communities. Walker Machinery and the Walker family, through whose philanthropy has given their time, effort, and millions of dollars to communities and organizations throughout our great state, would disappear. Thousands would suffer economic devastation because of false environmental accusations by a vocal, anti-coal, minority.

Re-spending effects are the impacts that job destruction has on those sectors where workers spend their paychecks. For example, hospitals, doctors, drugs, pharmacies, grocery stores, and auto dealers are among the hundreds of places where coal miners and others would have spent money.

Government employment effects refer to the taxes that support jobs in federal, state, and local government, as well as government’s societal expenditures. If workers in the coal industry and its suppliers lose their jobs, that would erode the tax base that supports government employment and severance (the tax on natural resources), property, and payroll taxes. These numbers would be astronomical for West Virginia.
Abolishing mountaintop mining would be the most serious attack on property rights since the founding fathers wrote the constitution. These lands, protected by the 5th Amendment, are owned by companies and individuals who will be denied their right to sell or use their natural resources. This expands eminent domain and the government’s power to take and control personal and private property. Who is next?

This will also produce the largest “takings liability” law suit in history, thereby bogging down our judiciary. “Takings” stems around the concept that someone must compensate the owners of coal and resources for their being denied the right to sell and/or produce those resources. In this case the government would most likely bear the cost. This simply means the taxpayer will pay.

Among lazy journalists, the politically-correct, Hollywood celebs, and liberal opportunists; the picking, choosing, and editing of negative words and images regarding mountaintop mining is immoral and disgusting. For publication after publication to parrot and repeat the unbalanced, negative views of coal’s opponents represents journalism, at the very least, as lazy and intellectually dishonest. If successful, their hurt and destruction will be immeasurable.

Although coal production, as with any manufacturing or commercial activity, can sometimes cause harm to individuals or their property. The coal industry strives to do no harm and is held responsible for such interruptions through bonding, the courts, the regulators, or its own good will. These challenges can be addressed without shutting down an entire state, region, or economy through conventional safeguards and communication.
In our viewpoint abolishing mountaintop mining would most likely:

- Destroy the eastern coal industry and supporting companies
- Eliminate hundreds of small communities, churches, and schools
- Wipe out the self worth and dignity of families and bread winners
- Eradicate hopes of college and pathways from the cycles of poverty
- Place thousands and thousands on welfare rolls
- Place in default millions in loans and obligations
- Expand the credit crisis and destroy credit ratings
- Annihilate state and county revenues
- Increase tax burdens at all levels
- Create a healthcare catastrophe
- Make retirement an impossible dream
- Create mass exodus to other states that are unable to handle the influx of the poor and jobless
- Impact coal-fired electricity generation and lead to rolling blackouts
- Skyrocket electricity costs
- Increase crime and intensity drug use
- Create widespread economic horror and a national security crisis

Why and for what good purpose? Some selfish groups have a terribly misplaced value system with little confidence in our free, capitalist society. Even those with worthy intentions, or at best, unknown motivation, will fall victim to the law of unintended consequence that wreaks havoc far beyond the issues they seek to resolve.

Man has shown himself compassionate and willing to sacrifice for the intrinsic value and beauty of the planet and all lower forms of plant and animal life. Our coal miners protect our environment and make that great sacrifice for our quality of life every shift.

The people of Central Appalachia, and ultimately our great nation, are embattled in a horrendous campaign of deceit and distortion, against the coal industry, and specifically the practice of mountaintop mining. The attack threatens entire economies and livelihoods on a catastrophic scale that jeopardizes our national security and the production of electricity.
This goal and commitment can put thousands of West Virginians to WORK — meaningful and purposeful WORK that respects the environment and strives to diminish and eliminate all types of emissions that may be harmful.

This reengineering provides meaningful WORK for researchers, scientists, utility technicians, natural resource workers, computer engineers, and yes, coal production... all high-tech, high-wage WORK opportunities. This rising tide of clean coal will unquestionably lift the quality of life and multiply meaningful, purposeful WORK opportunities for ALL AMERICA irrespective of industry, professional, or consumer economic sectors.

Institutions like Marshall University, West Virginia University, as well as our neighbors at Virginia Tech, Penn State, and the University of Kentucky, are expanding opportunities in clean energy and environmental sciences to provide solutions and purposeful WORK for their faculties and students. Additionally, the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, WV, works tirelessly and successfully to improve coal’s continued viability.

Building coal-to-liquid plants offers WORK of the highest purpose. By expanding jobs into transportation solutions, like coal-to-liquids, West Virginians can lead the nation to lower gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel prices. That puts money in the family budget. This can lessen our dependence on foreign oil through greater fuel diversity and competition... hallmarks of a free market society that will strengthen national security.