



State of West Virginia
Office of the Attorney General
John B. McCuskey
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Commonwealth of Kentucky
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April 9, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As the Attorneys General of West Virginia and Kentucky, we write to express our profound gratitude for yesterday's executive orders standing up for America's coal industry. Your decisive leadership marks a crucial turning point for our States' economies, our nation's energy security, and our Appalachian families' futures.

America needs coal. It provides unparalleled benefits as an energy source, offering exceptional reliability and consistency that so-called "green energy" can't match. It's also America's most abundant fossil fuel—with centuries-worth of reserves ready to fuel American manufacturing and more. And the multi-billion-dollar coal industry has directly and indirectly supported hundreds of thousands of jobs over the years in Appalachia and beyond. Especially paired with modern technologies that significantly reduced emissions from coal plants, America should have a bright, coal-powered future.

Yet for far too long, wrongheaded policies have waged a war on coal. The past administration seemed committed to dismantling the industry, mounting a whole-of-government approach to systematically attack this critical resource. Meanwhile, political allies at the state level launched attacks of their own, passing anti-coal laws targeting out-of-state traditional energy producers and funding lawfare seeking to make coal-related activities cost prohibitive.

We're proud to have stood up to these efforts. We fought back against past federal regulatory assaults, winning key victories before the Supreme Court and elsewhere that kept the lights on in America's cities and towns. We've also been going to court to resist state-level efforts, reminding our counterparts in other States that America's federalist system can't be manipulated to squash traditional American industry.

But yesterday, you once again reminded us that you have our backs.

Your executive order “reinvigorating America’s beautiful clean coal” promises to reverse course on the past administration’s destructive anti-coal policies. We are pleased to see you are directing every relevant agency to stand up for this essential industry—a marked contrast to the multi-agency hostility we saw under the past regime. And ending mistakes like the Jewell Moratorium shows that America is no longer content to squander its coal-driven energy superiority. As the order recognizes, America will not be able to maintain its leadership position in growing sectors like artificial intelligence without a concerted effort to support coal. In short, the order reflects that a misguided climate ideology cannot prevail over the livelihoods of everyday Americans and energy reliability.

Your executive order “strengthening the reliability and security of the United States energy grid” also unflinchingly confronts a serious threat to American success: electricity production. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, for instance, projects large swaths of our country will lack a reliable power grid as soon as this year if something is not done. But with its clear-eyed approach, your action is one of the first governmental acknowledgements of the scale of this serious emergency. By recognizing that coal is abundant, cost-effective, and can be used in any weather condition, this order properly mobilizes coal as the means to ensure grid reliability—especially critical baseload power—amid an unprecedented surge in electricity demand.

Lastly, your executive order “protecting American energy from state overreach” promises critical reinforcements in a key state-level fight. We’re on the front lines of that fight right now, challenging New York’s climate change “extortion” law alongside other state and industry partners. Laws like New York’s are patently unlawful. But it will take extensive time and effort to overturn them. We are ecstatic that federal reinforcements are now on the way.

Altogether, yesterday was a day to celebrate. The miners, power-plant workers, railroad employees, and countless others whose livelihoods depend on coal once again saw that they have a genuine champion for them in the White House.

We’re now ready to get to work and help our federal partners in putting your leadership into action. We pledge our full support as you continue to champion American energy independence and restore the regulatory balance that allows our coal industry to thrive. Our offices stand ready to defend your executive orders against any legal challenges from those who would seek to undermine American energy security.

Coal has played a central role in Appalachia’s history. It should play a starring role in Appalachia’s future, too. We thank you, Mr. President, for your bold leadership in ensuring it will.

Sincerely,



John B. McCuskey
West Virginia Attorney General



Russell Coleman
Kentucky Attorney General