

# Governor Tomblin Joins West Virginia Miners at Rally to Support American Energy

7/30/2014

PITTSBURGH, Penn. (July 30, 2014) – Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin today joined West Virginia miners, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and many others for a Rally to Support American Energy. The rally was held in response to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) public hearing for the proposed Clean Power Plan rule scheduled in Pittsburgh Thursday, July 31 and Friday, August 1.

“Since the proposed rules were introduced in June, we have been told states will have flexibility to meet the new standards outlined in the plan, but in one instance, the EPA’s renewable energy goal for West Virginia – an increase of 600 percent – is simply unattainable,” Gov. Tomblin said. “Today’s rally gives us an opportunity to come together and explain the EPA should be working with us toward energy independence, not mandating unilateral restrictions on our nation’s energy production.”

Tom Clarke, senior policy advisor to Department of Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman, will present oral comments during Friday’s public hearing.

*Gov. Tomblin’s remarks, as prepared for delivery, are below:*

Good morning. Thank you, Bill, for the kind introduction and thank you for always standing up for West Virginia coal miners. I'd also like to thank Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor of Ohio, the Ohio Coal Association, West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey, the West Virginia Coal Association, Roger Horton and Citizens for Coal, the West Virginia Business and Industry Council and especially all of you who are here today to show your support for the coal industry in West Virginia and surrounding states. I'm proud to stand with you today as we support our region's coal miners, their families, our seniors and our communities.

In today's economy, we should be working together toward energy independence, not allowing un-elected bureaucrats to obstruct our nation's energy production. That's why our state is joining the fight against the EPA's proposed rules to establish unreasonable restrictions on carbon dioxide emissions. These ideological policies will not only devastate our region by eliminating jobs, but will unnecessarily increase the cost of power across the country.

If these rules are put into place, there is no question - none - electricity rates

will skyrocket. It means our manufacturers may again be forced to look overseas for reasonable electric rates - taking with them good paying jobs to countries that do not allow bureaucratic agencies to mandate unilateral restrictions on power production. These rate increases would become an unfair unreasonable financial burden on hardworking people by taking money out of their pockets and causing damaging consequences to our state and national economies.

Since the proposed rules were introduced in June, we have been told states will have flexibility to meet these new standards but the EPA's renewable energy goal for West Virginia - an increase of 600 percent - is simply unattainable. Cost-competitive renewable energy is not available in our state. The EPA must establish goals based on actual available resources and technology, not far-fetched benchmarks.

According to the Energy Information Agency, the United States is losing 60 gigawatts of coal-powered electricity as a result of the Mercury and Air Toxic Standards, which represented 19 percent of coal capacity at the end of 2012. In addition to these closures, an additional 15 percent reduction in coal plant output challenges our nation's power grid to meet national energy needs and restricts electricity export opportunities in the nation's coal-producing regions.

Since 2005, CO2 emissions in the United States have dropped 12.6 percent while CO2 emissions in China and India have increased by 67 percent and 53 percent, respectively. The only other major country to reduce emissions during the same time period was Canada.

According to the Energy Information Agency, coal will be the world's leading source of energy, surpassing oil by 2035. The rationale for EPA's continued focus on U.S. coal-fired power plants must be disputed and contested. There are many academic and economic arguments against these proposed rules and we will continue to make that case. But I must tell you; this issue is extremely personal for me.

Growing up in the heart of coal country and as a proud son of the West Virginia coalfields, who continues to make his home there, I see the faces behind these numbers. When the EPA forces mines to close, I know the men and women who lose their jobs, the families who are at risk of losing their homes and the sons and daughters forced to move away to find work.

Those West Virginians are the real reason I continue to stand up to the EPA - to be their voice and share their struggles with those who need to hear them. We can and must do better for our communities and our families.

Thank you.

## **Contact Information**

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