



March 26, 2012

The Honorable Rand Paul
United States Senate
208 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Paul:

Thank you for your recent discussion with the board of the Kentucky Coal Association. The information that you presented was well received and the representatives of our member companies appreciated you taking the time to speak with them directly. With member companies who represent more than 90% of Kentucky's coal production in both the eastern and western coalfields, the Kentucky Coal Association recognizes your willingness to challenge the opponents of coal production in Washington, DC. We are grateful for your efforts.

Please consider this letter as the Kentucky Coal Association's support of Senate Bill 2122, otherwise known as the *Defense of Environment and Property Act of 2012*. The wisdom of your proposal is demonstrated by the unanimous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Sackett* case. We appreciate your efforts in the introduction of this bill.

Kentucky's coal industry has been hampered by the Environmental Protection Agency's recent efforts to impose billions of dollars of additional costs on both the coal industry and the electricity consumers of Kentucky, with little to no regard as to the impact of these proposed regulations.

Your steadfast support of Kentucky's coal miners and their families is recognized and appreciated. At a time when our country has a President who refuses to say the word "coal" when talking publicly about energy, your courage and conviction gives optimism both to the coalfields as well as to every Kentuckian who has an electricity-dependent job.

If we can be of assistance to you or your staff, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bissett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Bissett, President
Kentucky Coal Association