

9 out of 10 voters

in Appalachia
Support the Clean
Water Protection Act



New Poll Shows Landslide Majority in support of passing the Clean Water Protection Act

Americans living in Appalachia have a close connection to their land and their culture. A recent poll shows overwhelming support for the Clean Water Protection Act, H.R. 2169, with 89 percent, or over 2 out of 3 voters, in Appalachia supporting the bill making it illegal to dump mine waste into rivers and streams, even if it means an end to mountaintop removal mining.

Gerstein | Agne Strategic Communications conducted a survey of 914 likely voters across Appalachia, in coal country (parts of West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia) on May 5-7, 2008.



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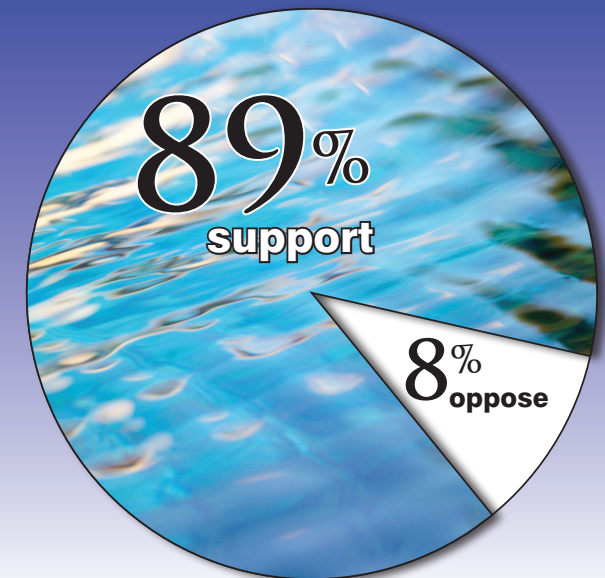
Appalachian Voices

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Appalachian Voters Overwhelmingly

Support H.R. 2169

The Clean Water Protection Act

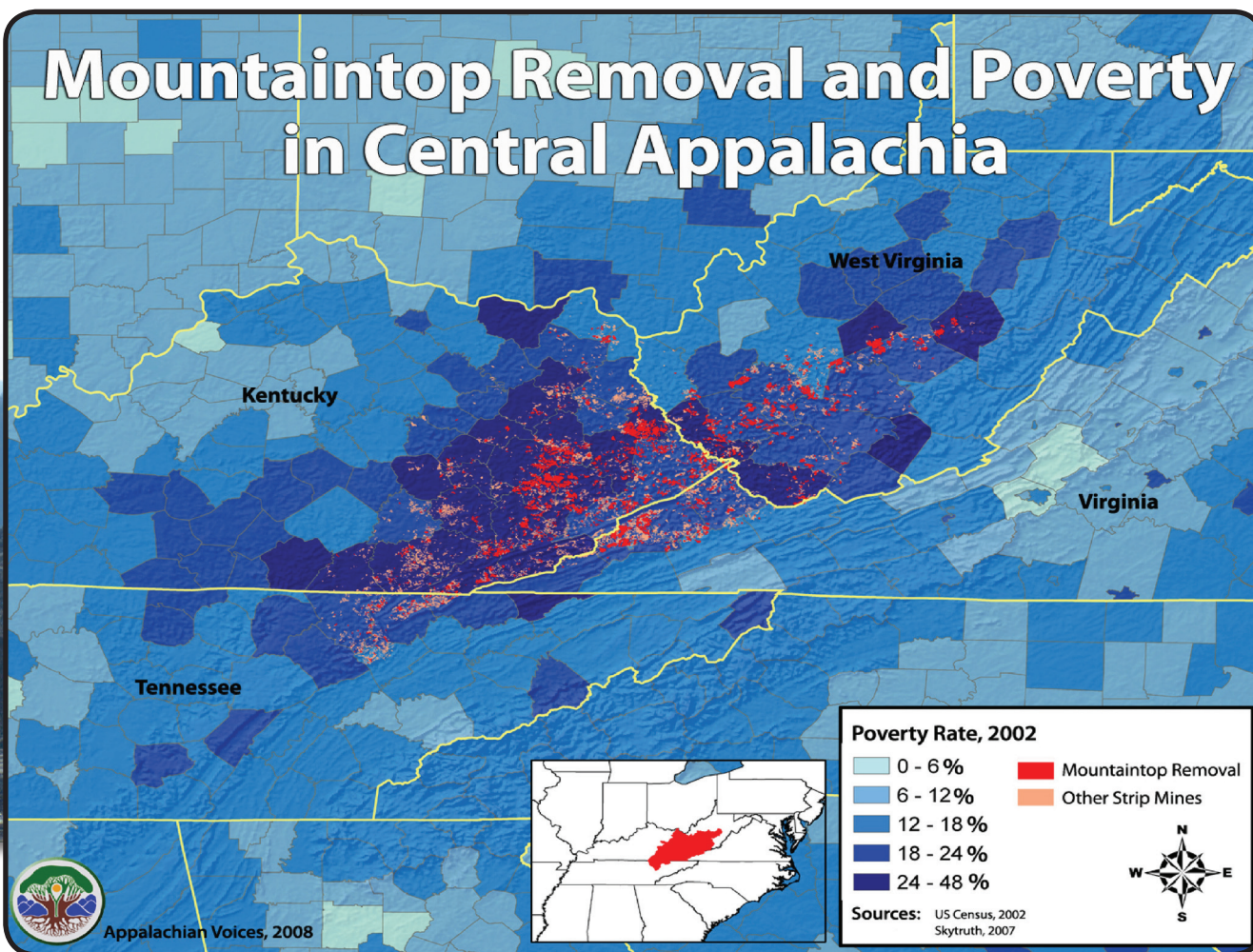


Mountaintop removal coal mining

is an extremely destructive form of strip mining found throughout Appalachia, with some mines as big as the island of Manhattan. Coalfield residents say that it tears apart communities, poisons water supplies, pollutes the air and destroys our nation's natural heritage – while only making the climate crisis worse.



Mountaintop Removal and Poverty in Central Appalachia



Do you support or oppose passage of the Clean Water Protection Act?

Congress is currently considering the Clean Water Protection Act, a bill that would make it illegal to dump mining waste into rivers and streams.

Total Support: **89** Total Oppose: **8**

Opponents of the Clean Water Protection Act say its ban on dumping mining waste into waterways is too strict and would make it impossible for mining companies to continue to perform mountaintop removal mining. Would you support or oppose passage of the Clean Water Protection Act if it meant coal companies could no longer mine in (state) using mountaintop removal mining?

Total Support: **65** Total Oppose: **28**

IN ADDITION

2 TO 1: APPALACHIAN VOTERS WANT RENEWABLE ENERGY ... A clear commitment to renewable energy as the preferred solution to our country's growing energy crisis is at the heart of voters' attitudes. Even in the heart of "Coal Country," a majority of voters believe that it is renewable energy such as wind and solar, rather than coal, that represents the best choice for America.

33 Percent: "Coal provides the best choice for meeting our country's long-term energy needs. "

58 Percent: "Renewable energy like wind and solar is the best choice for meeting our country's long-term energy needs."

2 TO 1: APPALACHIAN VOTERS REJECT ENVIRONMENT VS. ECONOMY ... By a margin of nearly two-to-one, voters in Appalachia now reject the "jobs vs. environment" frame that has served as the foundation of the arguments in support of mountaintop removal mining:

32 Percent: "Protecting the environment usually requires some trade-off in terms of jobs and economic growth."

63 Percent: "We can protect the environment without sacrificing jobs or hurting our economy."