

**RESOLUTION POWER + PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Wise is a community in Southwest Virginia, an area of many rich assets, including our land, mountains, water, music, heritage and people, who have for more than 100 years provided the coal that has fueled America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Appalachian region of Southwest Virginia is experiencing a dramatic economic transition with the decline of the coal industry, and Wise County is experiencing economic distress as coal jobs continue to decline; and

**WHEREAS**, the POWER + Plan is a component within the 2016 federal budget proposed by The President; and

**WHEREAS**, the POWER+ Plan, if approved by Congress, would authorize billions of dollars in federal programs targeted to improve the economy of the Appalachian Coalfields, including the economies of Southwest Virginia Counties and the City of Norton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan specifically includes increased funding for the Abandoned Mined Land Fund, Appalachian Regional Commission, and the United Mine Workers of America Health and Pension Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the POWER+ Plan could reactivate idle equipment and put laid off miners and other local residents to work reclaiming abandoned mine lands;

**WHEREAS**, the County of Wise desires to invest resources to adapt to new economic circumstances facing our region and the increased federal funding targeting our region that would help to leverage local efforts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Wise supports such initiatives, such as the proposed increased funding noted above as included in Power+ Plan, and that the County encourages Senators Kaine and Warner and Congressman Griffith to support such plans that target redevelopment funding opportunities for our region.

**ADOPTED** this the 13th day of August 2015.

**ATTEST:**

**WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Shannon C. Scott, Clerk

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Robert R. Adkins, Chairman