



## Office of Pike County Judge/Executive

WILLIAM M. DESKINS

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Pikeville, Kentucky 41501  
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September 28, 2015

Congressman Hal Rogers  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hal Rogers,

I am writing to strongly urge your support for the POWER+ Plan currently pending before Congress. As you know, Eastern Kentucky, and in particular Pike County, has suffered from the recent economic downturn in the coal industry. The resulting loss of jobs (not only in the coal industry but in the many related industries) has severely impacted our region's economy.

The benefits of the POWER+ Plan to the people of Eastern Kentucky, both in the short-term creation of jobs and business opportunities, as well as the long-term economic development of the region, are essential to overcome the devastating effects of our current economic difficulties as we transition to a post-coal economy.

We need workforce development and jobs training programs, as well as land reclamation projects to secure a future for the people of our region. We need agriculture and land development from the near 170 abandoned mine sites which remain in Pike County. All of these are issues which the POWER+ Plan would address.

We have opportunities in Pike County, but we must explore every possible avenue for developing those opportunities. We have the opportunity for recreational tourism and land development. We have the opportunity to explore other energy sources such as oil and natural gas. And more importantly, we have a workforce that is eager to return to work.

Please support and expedite passage of the POWER+ Plan. It is my belief that it will benefit every single person living in Eastern Kentucky.

Thank you,

William M. Deskins  
Pike County Judge/Executive

Enclosure: (1)

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF POWER + PLAN

**WHEREAS**, Pike County is a county in the Appalachian Mountains of Eastern Kentucky which is rich in assets including land, water, coal, oil and natural gas, with its richest asset being its people, many of whom have for more than 100 years provided the coal that has fueled America; and,

**WHEREAS**, Pike County and its residents are striving daily to build a county that is strong, healthy and a place where future generations can continue to live, prosper and find meaningful work and where we can build on and celebrate our assets; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Appalachian region of Kentucky, including Pike County, is experiencing a dramatic economic transition with the decline of the coal industry, and is experiencing severe economic distress as coal mining and related jobs continue to decline; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Pike County Fiscal Court believes that the transition to a future economy should be one that celebrates our culture, invests in communities, generates good, stable and meaningful jobs, is just and equitable, and protects and restores our land and water; and,

**WHEREAS**, the POWER+ Plan could put laid-off miners and other unemployed local residents to work reclaiming abandoned mines in ways that develop long-term economic opportunities in agriculture, recreational tourism, energy and more on reclaimed mine sites; and,

**WHEREAS**, the POWER+ Plan includes programs that would disburse \$1 billion in funding for Abandoned Mine Land (AML) projects that create long-term business and economic opportunities; would invest millions in workforce development and job training programs in communities impacted by the decline of the coal industry; and would strengthen the health and pension plans of 100,000 retired coal miners and their families; and,

**WHEREAS**, no less than \$24.3 million worth of AML problems and at least 170 abandoned mine sites remain in Pike County alone, and POWER+ funds could be used to create local jobs and business opportunities by addressing the risks to health, safety, and future economic development that these abandoned sites in our county pose; and,

**WHEREAS**, the POWER+ Plan has been proposed by the President and currently is pending in Congress,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fiscal Court of Pike County supports passage of the POWER+ Plan by the U.S. Congress and urges Congressman Hal Rogers to support and expedite passage of this Plan by Congress.

WITNESS our hands this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of ~~October~~ <sup>SEPTEMBER</sup>, 2015.

William M. Deskens  
WILLIAM M. DESKINS  
PIKE COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Jeff Anderson  
JEFF ANDERSON  
DISTRICT ONE MAGISTRATE

John Doug Hays  
~~HOWARD KEITH HALE~~ John Doug Hays  
Ass't PIKE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Vernon Johnson  
VERNON "CHICK" JOHNSON  
DISTRICT TWO MAGISTRATE

Leo Murphy  
LEO MURPHY  
DISTRICT THREE MAGISTRATE

Kenneth Robinson  
KENNETH ROBINSON  
DISTRICT FOUR MAGISTRATE

Hilman Dotson  
HILMAN DOTSON  
DISTRICT FIVE MAGISTRATE

Bobby D. Varney  
BOBBY VARNEY  
DISTRICT SIX MAGISTRATE