

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Premiere Bill	Red Bill # HBP 03						
	Referred to Committee: House 3						
Authors: Kate Leahey, Taylor Whitsell, Anna Duncan	Action on the Bill <table> <tr> <td>House</td> <td>Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
House		Senate					
___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed		___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed					
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School: Boyle County High School							
City: Danville							

1 An act to outlaw Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining in the state of Kentucky.

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3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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5 Section I: This bill will eliminate mountaintop removal. Mountaintop removal is a form of surface mining, in
6 which the summit or top of a mountain is removed in order to extract coal.

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8 Section II: In order to eradicate mountaintop removal, this bill will revoke licenses of mountaintop removal
9 corporations that maintain sites in Kentucky, and no more will be granted.

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11 Section III: Mountaintop removal has several environmental, economic, and health-related consequences.
12 Mountaintop removal has destroyed 1.2 million acres of mountains in the Appalachian region. The coal
13 mining industry, a huge cornerstone of the Kentucky economy, lost 10,000 jobs in a span of only seven
14 years after the initial introduction of mountaintop removal and its widespread use. Mountaintop removal
15 also has devastating effects on the health of Kentuckians. For example, The Environmental Protection
16 Agency (EPA) reports that highly contaminated water has been found to be in at least 40% of wells in the
17 Appalachian region, where mountaintop removal is most prevalent, and in about 70% of the wells near
18 surface coal mines of the region.

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20 Section IV: There will be no cost to enforce this bill as the EPA has agreed to reach financial negotiations
21 with mountaintop removal corporations in order to transport the machinery in the sites back to the out-of-
22 state bases.

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24 Section V: As mountaintop removal is a source of coal and therefore energy, it will need to be replaced. One
25 option is the improvement of previous methods of mining, such as underground mining, that have modern
26 technologies to ensure safety. Also, as environmentally friendly alternative energy sources are on the rise,
27 they can be used to generate energy. Combining the increased alternative energy usage and the innovations
28 in underground mining will provide an effective transition from mountaintop removal.

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30 Section VI: This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2014.