

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Premiere Bill	Blue Bill # SBP 10						
	Referred to Committee: Senate 4						
Authors: Wesley Saltsman, Rhiannon Wilson, Haley Nix, Chloe Paddack	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: Grayson County Middle School							
City: Leitchfield							

1 An act to prevent further damage to Kentucky due to mountaintop removal

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

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5 Section 1: Mountaintop coal removal has played a major role as a way to make money in Kentucky since the
6 1970's. What some Kentuckians consider their "life" others consider murder. This bill will make it illegal for
7 mountaintop removal to be used as a means of mining coal in Kentucky. By doing so, this will preserve the
8 health of citizens, the cleanliness of the water, and one of the most biologically diverse areas in our
9 hemisphere. Statistics show that cancer rates of those exposed to the health hazards of mountaintop
10 removal are up 5%. Water becomes contaminated from breakages of sludge ponds. The Big Sandy River, one
11 of many, is 95% sediment impaired; researchers have reported that mountaintop removal is the cause of the
12 high sediment. Furthermore, around 300 mountains and over one million acres of land have been destroyed
13 due to mountaintop removal.

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15 Section 2: The cost of the changes may seem great for the coal companies. It is cheaper to remove the
16 mountaintops than to send men under the ground, but the safety of humans and animals has become a
17 major concern.

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19 Section 3: This bill will ensure that all mountaintop removal in Kentucky is stopped. Coal needs to be mined in
20 the safest way possible to preserve the health of the land, water, and the people.

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22 Section 4: For any company which has not abandoned any and all attempts at mountaintop removal by the
23 date provided below will be: first offense will be a \$10,000 fine; second offense will result in license to mine
24 being revoked.

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26 Section 5: The terms of this bill will be enforced by the Divisions of Permits in the Energy and Environmental
27 Department and overseen by the Office of Surface Mining.

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29 Section 6: All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are hereby considered null and void.

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31 Section 7: This bill will go into effect January, 2015.

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33 Sources:

34 www.kentuckiansforthecommonwealth.org (www.ktc.org)

35 Ben Begley-Environmental Education Director of Pine Mountain Settlement School, Telephone Interview