

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill	Blue Bill # SB 44						
	Referred to Committee: Senate 4						
Authors: Alexandria Knipp, Madison Patrick, Emaley Russell, Megan Burge	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					
___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated						
School: West Carter High School							
City: Olive Hill							

1 An act to abolish valley fills caused from mountaintop removal mining

2
3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

4
5 Section 1: This bill will ban coal companies from creating valley fills in Kentucky streams, thereby protecting
6 Appalachian citizens from the heavy metals released by valley fills.

7
8 Section 2: In the state of Kentucky, over 724 miles of fresh water streams have been buried by overburden
9 released from Mountaintop Removal Mining. More than 150 square miles of mountains have been flattened,
10 and over 1200 miles of Kentucky streams have been contaminated from this act of mining.

11
12 Section 3: Those who reside in areas where Mountaintop Removal is present have higher rates of cancer,
13 respiratory diseases, and birth defects due to the large amount of coal toxins and contaminants put into
14 fresh water systems. This is now referred to as a "health emergency" by many people suffering in Appalachia.
15 Aquifers that provide natural sources of drinking water are eliminated by the extreme damage from blasting
16 in the mountain.

17
18 Section 4: Seeing that mountaintop removal mining is extremely beneficial to the coal companies and only
19 employs around 15 employees (most of which are heavy machine operators and are from out of state),
20 lessening the amount of mountaintop removal will provide more coal miners with jobs by going back to the
21 initial coal mining strategy.

22
23 Section 5: This bill will not cost the state anything. In fact, it will actually save the state money that it would
24 spend out in health care bills for state citizens.

25
26 Section 6: This bill will go into effect on January 1, 2014.