

Resolutions identical to the following – except for place names and county-specific data – have been passed by the Whitesburg City Council, Benham City Council, Letcher County Fiscal Court and the Benham Power Board (as of August 18, 2015).

Harlan County Fiscal Court Resolution in Support of POWER+ Plan

Whereas Harlan County is a community in eastern Kentucky, an area of many rich assets, including our land, water, heritage and people, who have for more than 100 years provided the coal that has fueled America;

Whereas Harlan County and its residents are working everyday to build a community that is strong, healthy and a place where our future generations can continue to live and find meaningful work and where we can build on and celebrate our assets;

Whereas the Appalachian region of Kentucky is experiencing a dramatic economic transition with the decline of the coal industry, and Harlan County is experiencing economic distress as coal jobs continue to decline;

Whereas we believe 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;

Whereas the POWER+ Plan could put laid off miners and other 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;

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;

Whereas no less than \$18.7 million worth of AML problems and at least 66 abandoned mine sites remain in Harlan 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;

Whereas the POWER+ Plan has been proposed by the White House and currently sits before Congress;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Fiscal Court of Harlan County supports passage of the POWER+ Plan by the U.S. Congress and encourages Congressman Hal Rogers to see passage of this Plan through the federal legislative process.