

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 24, 2013

Mr. William Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As members of the United States Congress, we write to express our views on a matter of great importance to the Kentucky coal industry and those whose livelihoods depend on it.

It has been brought to our attention that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is weighing several options that would alter future electricity generation at its Paradise Fossil Plant (Paradise), a coal-fired public utility in Drakesboro, Kentucky. As supporters of Kentucky coal and coal utilization, we urge the TVA to maintain its current operations at Paradise with the continued use of coal for electricity generation.

The Kentucky Coal Association, whose members we represent in Congress, has informed us that since 1970, Paradise has provided the Commonwealth with tremendous direct and indirect economic benefits. Paradise directly employs roughly 400 full-time employees and provided Muhlenberg County with over \$13.19 million in tax receipts in 2012. Indirectly, Kentucky's coal industry, which supports over 13,000 jobs in the state, relies heavily on the Paradise plant. In 2012, Paradise alone burned 6.15 million tons of mostly Kentucky coal.


Moreover, the Commonwealth's abundant supply of coal provides our state with low electric rates that allow our state to attract and maintain a strong manufacturing base. Aluminum smelting, automobile part manufacturing and agriculture are only three electricity-dependent industries that would suffer without such low-cost electricity provided by coal. Any action by the TVA to reduce or diminish a Kentucky coal-fired public utility would be a direct threat to our coal industry.

We are well aware of the pressure that public utilities face from the Obama Administration to transition from using coal to alternative sources of energy. However, we would like to remind the TVA of the importance of maintaining an all-inclusive energy portfolio. To allow a historically abundant and proven resource, such as coal, to fall by the wayside would ultimately threaten our energy independence. Accordingly, we request the TVA maintain existing coal-fired operations—that utilize Kentucky-produced coal stocks—as your agency considers alternative sources in conjunction with coal for electricity generation.

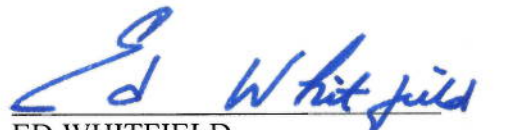
Page 2  
October 24, 2013

We thank you for your time and consideration of our requests. Should you or your staff have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Tate Bennett in Senator McConnell's office at (202) 224-8945.

Sincerely,


  
MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

  
RAND PAUL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

  
ED WHITFIELD  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
HAL ROGERS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
BRETT GUTHRIE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
ANDY BARR  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
THOMAS MASSIE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES