

10 November 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

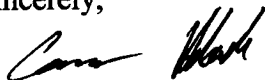
As a former resident of South Carolina, I write to ask you to support H. 3955, the Appalachian Mountains Preservation Act. As you may know, this act would amend the code of laws of South Carolina by adding section 58-27-250 to enact the Appalachian Mountains Preservation Act. According to the South Carolina General Assembly, this act states that an electric public utility that operates a coal-fired generating unit may not enter into a contract to purchase or use coal extracted by mountaintop coal mining.

By allowing public utilities to operate on coal-fired generating units, it allows coal companies to stay in business and continue mountaintop removal in Appalachia. Mountaintop removal is effecting the local ecosystems by contaminating the water with run-off from these sites, which ultimately have a negative effect on plants and wildlife. According to the South Carolina General Assembly, by consuming coal extracted by mountaintop removal coal mining to provide power to homes, businesses, and the economy, South Carolina is responsible, in part, for the permanent destruction of the Appalachian coalfields and the wildlife resources of the Appalachian Mountains. Sixty-one percent of the electricity used to provide power in South Carolina is generated by coal-fired generating units, and of which, fifty percent of the coal comes from mountaintop removal coal mining in the Appalachian coalfields.

The South Carolina General Assembly believes that South Carolina has an obligation to reduce or eliminate the devastating social and environmental impacts of this mining in the Appalachian Mountains. By doing so, this will enhance the general welfare of South Carolina's citizens, wildlife resources, and interest in preserving the Appalachian Mountains.

This bill is one small step in putting a stop to mountaintop removal for coal. Thank you for all that you do for us, ~~Director~~ Governor.

Sincerely,



Connor Hoback
540 Missimer Circle
Vinton, VA 24179