

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth



“Look to your left, look to your right. You’re the new power. We’re the new power.”

KFTC chairperson K.A. Owens



PO Box 1450 London KY, 40743

We have a vision.

**We are working for a day when Kentuckians — and all people —
enjoy a better quality of life.**

When the lives of people and communities matter before profits.

**When our communities have good jobs that support our families
without doing damage to the water, air, and land.**

**When companies and the wealthy pay their share of taxes and
can't buy elections.**

**When all people have health care, shelter, food, education, and
other basic needs.**

When children are listened to and valued.

When discrimination is wiped out of our laws, habits, and hearts.

**And when the voices of ordinary people are heard and respected
in our democracy.**

Our Mission

**Kentuckians For The Commonwealth is a statewide citizens
organization working for a new balance of power and a
just society. As we work together we build our strength,
individually and as a group, and we find solutions to real life
problems. We use direct action to challenge—and change—
unfair political, economic and social systems. Our membership
is open to all people who are committed to equality, democracy
and non-violent change.**

out for a public hearing when a Virginia coal company announced plans to mine nearly 1,300 acres of surface and create three valley fills and five sediment ponds near Bad Branch Nature Preserve. Members presented an analysis of the coal company's profit gains in recent years, as the mountains have lost land, water, jobs and quality of life.



Following a mine blowout in April, members in **Pike County** organized local residents to demand accountability from local, state and federal agencies. Members canvassed door-to-door with information and petitions and submitted a list of demands to the local government, pushing for an emergency warning and response system.

Knott County members played a large role when two U.S. congressmen, Ben

Chandler of Kentucky and Norm Dicks of Washington, visited the coalfields in September. Knott County member Sara Pennington rode with the congressmen on a flyover tour and explained to them what they were seeing. The Knott chapter also hosted a film series with such films as *Kilowatt Ours*, about electricity, and *Democracy's Ghosts*, about former felons who can no longer vote.

Perry County members turned their attention to health care in 2008, joining forces with such local organizations as Kentucky Mountain Health Alliance and Hazard-Perry County Community Ministries. Their first event was a showing of the Michael Moore documentary *Sicko*, which explores the problems with health care in the United States.



Rowan County Chapter members provided input to state and local officials considering road projects in their community. KY 32 in nearby Elliott County was slated for improvement, and members urged officials to design the project in a culturally and environmentally sensitive way. Rowan members also succeeded in getting a new road closed because it threatened a nearby creek and made progress in reducing pollution from the coal-burning power plant at Morehead State University."

"Most people in our society, especially in Kentucky, lack resources to effectively make their voices heard, and KFTC allows people to have their voices heard when otherwise there would be no outlet."

—Cody Simpkins, Rowan County member



KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

www.kftc.org

Action for Justice

Dear Friends,

For KFTC, 2008 was a year of breaking records and raising expectations.

A few highlights:

- We organized the largest I Love Mountains Day ever, with 1,200 people on the state capitol steps.
- We brought two U.S. congressmen to the coalfields to witness the destruction firsthand.
- We assembled economic justice organizations to write a comprehensive tax reform bill.
- We hosted our biggest KFTC annual meeting ever, with more than 150 folks.
- We contacted 18,000 voters during the election season.
- We welcomed two new chapters.

After meeting our ambitious Option A goals in 2007 — doubling our membership and tripling our grassroots fundraising in just three years — we found ourselves at a new level of power in 2008. Three things happened at once: we started to see the impacts of our newfound power, the economic and energy crises began to converge in Kentucky and the nation, and we realized we needed to adjust to both.

So, in January of 2008, the KFTC Steering Committee began discussing how to respond to the changing landscape and make the most of our growing power. These weren't easy conversations. Some long-time KFTC members expressed concern that we'd lose sight of the relationship-based organizing that has made us strong. Others worried that focusing on energy would mean less attention to economic justice issues.

Over the next several months, these early reservations gave way to an enthusiasm that reached its peak in October when we launched the New Power Initiative at the annual membership meeting. Everyone at the meeting felt the tremors of change. The New Power Initiative is exciting because it preserves everything KFTC cares about, from our organizing style to our issues, and makes it better. We're elevating our strategies, weaving together our issue campaigns, and growing the membership even bigger.

Being a part of this movement is just as exciting for veterans of KFTC as it is for the folks just now getting on board. In fact, it's exciting for veterans to look back and see how far we've come and to know we're closer to our goals than ever before.

We can achieve the goal of a new energy future. We can achieve the goal of sustainable economic development. We can achieve economic justice. We can achieve a participatory democracy. We can achieve these goals because we are not afraid to create a world different than the one we were born in. I'm proud to be working with people who are not afraid.

K.A. Owens
KFTC Chairperson



Since 1981, when KFTC began in the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky, we have shifted and adjusted many times to respond to the changing landscape and the needs of our members, always retaining our commitment to grassroots organizing. In 2008, KFTC leaders again saw the need to take stock. Option A, our ambitious membership growth plan, had exceeded our expectations in 2007, and we found ourselves with more than 5,000 members. At the same time, our state and country began to face serious economic and energy crises.



In January 2008, we began discussing how our organization, with its greater size and newfound power, might play a role in the inevitable changes on the way for Kentucky. At a leadership summit in July, KFTC leaders analyzed the political landscape in Kentucky and KFTC's place in it. Who were our allies and what were the obstacles in our path? This discussion and others over the next several months led to the launch of the **New Power Initiative**, our next organizing strategy, at the 2008 annual membership meeting in October, a time of high energy and expectation. It was our largest annual meeting ever and one of the most momentous because it represented a unified desire to push our work to a higher level.

The Initiative continues our campaigns—the Canary Project, sustainable economic development, economic justice, and voter empowerment—and strengthens connections between them. It preserves and strengthens our strategies of grassroots organizing, leadership development, communications, and alliance building. And it advances our emerging energy work to stop new coal-burning power plants and develop progressive energy policy.

As we discussed the New Power Initiative throughout 2008, we saw the need to widen and deepen our leadership development work and ensure that members stayed engaged with the organization. We launched the **Each One Reach One** campaign, asking hundreds of members to each recruit one member. We continued to build the **Canary Leadership Network** of "super spokespersons" on coal, and we began training **Community Captains** to increase civic participation in their neighborhoods.

vibrant membership. The chapter has supported the Hueysville community in their struggles over mining violations and helped organize the Wilson Creek neighborhood in their Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition to stop mining and to prevent valley fills in their community.

Members of the **Harlan County Chapter** spent much of 2008 exploring energy alternatives for the tri-cities area of Benham, Lynch and Cumberland. Working with KFTC's High Road Initiative, members also joined forces with the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) and the Community Innovators Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to research energy options.



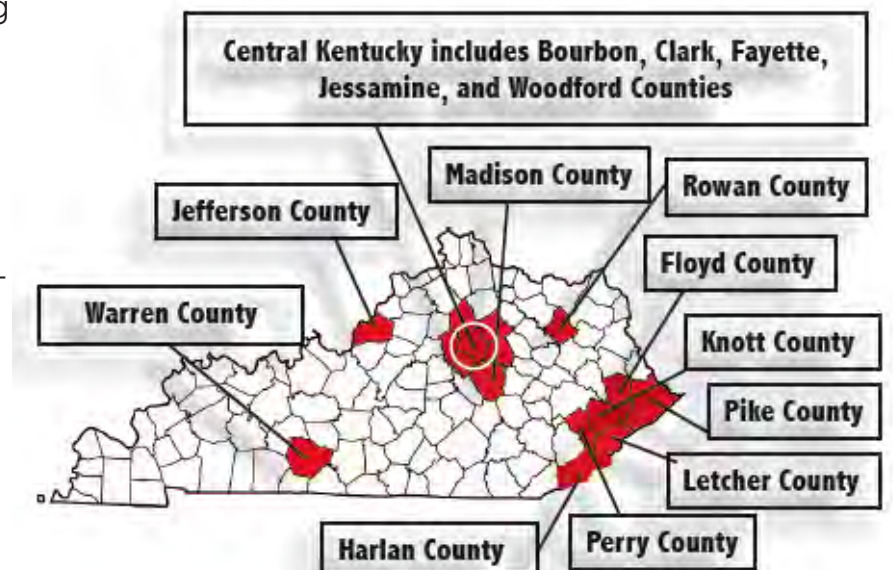
Energy was also the focus during much of 2008 for the **Madison County Chapter**. When the Berea City Council, which owns the local utility, proposed a rate hike for electricity and water, the Madison chapter mobilized a large turnout for the public hearing and pushed the council to "make it pay to save."

In the **Central Kentucky Chapter**, numerous voter registration events throughout the election season, from concerts to forums, brought attention to the importance of voting—for all Kentuckians. In addition, an

active student chapter at the University of Kentucky opposed logging in UK's Robinson Forest and raised awareness of voting rights, mountaintop removal, and other state and local issues.

Although an urban chapter with many local issues, the **Jefferson County Chapter** has become a vocal force in opposing mountaintop removal in Eastern Kentucky. At the So Sweet Fair in February 2008, members spoke with 900 high school students and invited them to sign a petition and draw on squares for a banner project.

Letcher County members turned





Chapters: Writing the KFTC Story

Chapters are the heart, the character, and the incubator of all of KFTC's work. Chapters generally form when a group of people come together to take on an issue affecting their community. Through leadership development and team work, they last to take on other issues and strengthen statewide campaigns.



KFTC has 11 chapters. Seven are located in coalfield communities in Eastern Kentucky, but large chapters in the urban areas of Lexington and Louisville, as well as a new chapter in Western Kentucky, ensure diversity that strengthens the whole organization. Jefferson County (Louisville) members have become passionate opponents of mountaintop removal, while Eastern Kentucky members have supported the Restoration of Voting Rights, an issue that grew out of the Central

Kentucky (Lexington) chapter. As chapters support each other, they create avenues for leadership development, issue education, and stronger activism.

In 2008, KFTC gained two new chapters in Western Kentucky and Floyd County. The **Western Kentucky Chapter**, based in Bowling Green, came together around the economic justice issues of tax reform and tenant rights. During the election season, the chapter led a bike parade through one of the busiest intersections in town, shouting "Just VOTE!"

Not technically new, the **Floyd County Chapter** was revived in 2008 with a

"I want to see us organizing in small communities all over Floyd County. And we certainly don't have to only be working on coal issues that are important to people. For instance, everyone needs a wage they can live on. In five years I would like to see the Floyd County chapter grow to 300 or more members."

—Rick Handshoe, Floyd County member

Our communications work also intensified. Internally, staff and members used the KFTC blog increasingly, and we produced more of our own media, especially video and digital stories. We also began a project with the Ford Foundation to develop a strategic communications plan. Externally, local news coverage of our chapter work increased. The *Appalachian News Express*, a coalfield newspaper, published an editorial in support of the Stream Saver Bill, and local media covered our new chapter in Bowling Green and our revitalized chapter in Floyd County. We also made headlines in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* with our mountaintop removal tour for two U.S. congressmen and in *Yes!* magazine with our voter empowerment work.

Our staff grew to a record high of 22 people, another sign that our growing membership was opening new avenues of work. We added five new positions last year: voter empowerment organizer, Madison County chapter organizer, development associate, researcher, and writer.

New and continuing alliances deepened our work. Working with the Alliance for Appalachia, a group of 13 organizations striving to end mountaintop removal, we lobbied in Washington for the Clean Water Protection Act, expressed our opposition to the Stream Buffer Zone rule change by the Bush administration, and pressured the Obama transition team to appoint strong leaders to agencies regulating mining. We formed new alliances with groups such as CLEAN, a national network of grassroots organizations promoting new energy solutions. And we got involved with other national initiatives such as Power Past Coal, Green For All, PowerShift, Blue-Green Alliance, and more. On the economic justice front, we built alliances with the Kentucky Education Association and the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition.

We often describe our work as the Yin and Yang of KFTC: to build our power, we must always be using our power, and to use our power we must always be building it. In 2008, our nearly three decades of building and using power bore fruits in promising ways.

"Look to your left, look to your right. You're the new power. We're the new power."

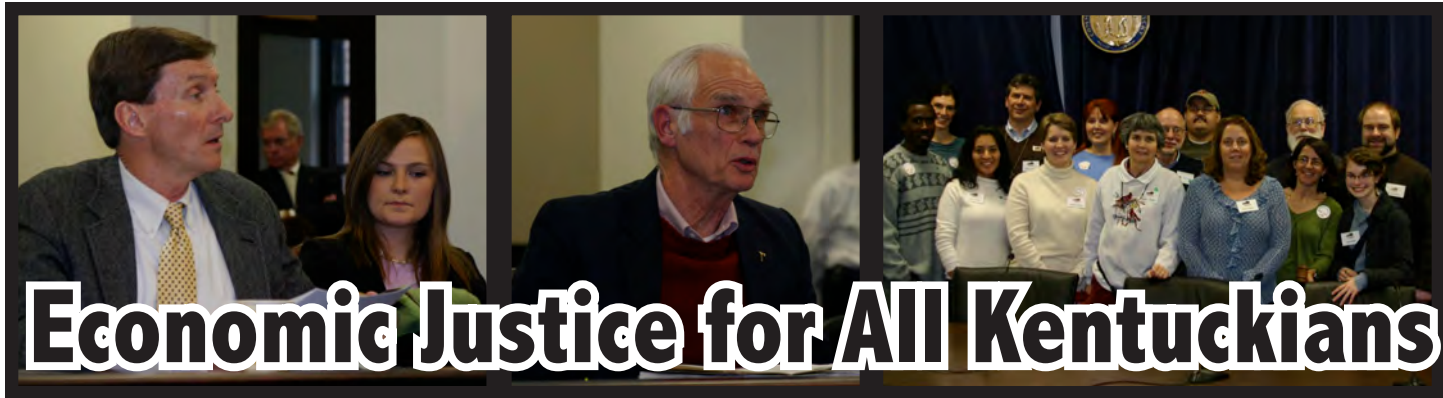


KFTC chairperson K.A. Owens, Annual Membership Meeting October, 2008

"I feel like I have been looking for an organization like this, one that has a clean agenda and one that is in a position to make effective change."



Daniel Martin Moore, new KFTC member, at the Annual Membership Meeting



Economic Justice for All Kentuckians

KFTC's economic justice work stretches back to the earliest days of the organization, when neighbors in Eastern Kentucky communities formed the Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition—later Kentuckians For The Commonwealth. Today, our tax work is sophisticated, comprehensive and progressive, rooted in a theory of change rather than stop-gap measures for the current budget year.

KFTC works to show connections between the government services people value and the revenue needed to provide those services. Across the state—in schools, churches and other venues—we shared a vision of a more fair tax structure that provides adequate revenue to meet the needs of all Kentuckians. We also shifted the debate in the Kentucky General Assembly from the old short-sighted solutions by placing comprehensive tax reform on the table.



Prior to the 2008 Kentucky General Assembly, KFTC and our allies convened social service, economic justice, advocacy and policy organizations to build strong support for our tax proposals. Two large and influential organizations, the Kentucky Education Association and the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition, were active players. This group, the **Kentucky Forward Coalition**, developed the Kentucky Forward Bill, which would distribute taxes more equitably and generate needed revenue. Although our comprehensive tax legislation did not pass in 2008, we raised the bar for tax reform in Kentucky and established a standard by which other tax bills will be judged.

Expanded gaming was a major focus of the 2008 General Assembly, with the governor offering gaming as a fix for Kentucky's perennial budget woes. KFTC member Dana Beasley-Brown testified before the House Subcommittee on Gaming. Holding her baby son in her arms, Dana explained how families of four living just above the poverty line pay more income taxes in Kentucky than in any other state and how that unfairness feels to families most directly affected.

Across the state, members attended **Governor Steve Beshear's town hall meetings** in late summer and early fall, taking the governor to task for a weak budget, inadequate health care, mountaintop removal, and restoration of voting rights, among other issues.



The High Road to Economic Development

When KFTC launched the High Road Initiative, in partnership with the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, the goal was to design a new philosophy of economic development for Kentucky. Our state had too long relied on a one-dimensional system of tax incentives to lure outside industries to Kentucky. The state had failed to hold the industries accountable for their promises, and the programs had generally failed to bring jobs or prosperity to our communities.



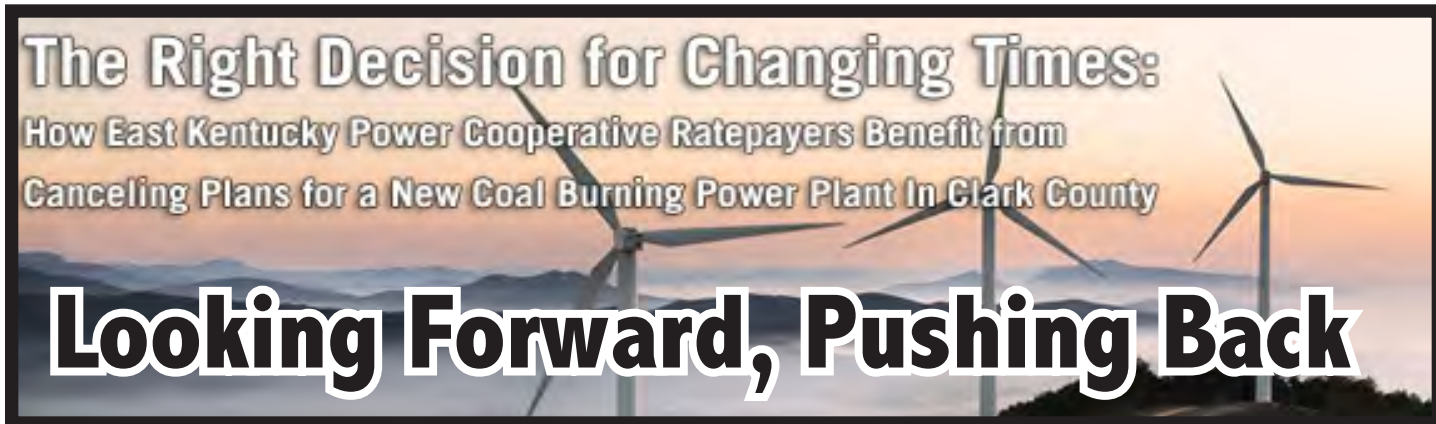
In 2008, the High Road Initiative, like all of KFTC's work, began to deal more and more with energy. With Kentucky locked in a frustrating budget debate and under pressure to find alternatives to coal, High Road injected progressive alternatives

into the conversation. The High Road Strategy Team helped find sponsors for four bills and built support for three others in the legislative session. Some of the bills did not pass, but KFTC worked on two bills related to renewable energy that did pass.

The High Road team also continued to work closely with the Benham Community Energy Initiative, a project to explore energy alternatives to coal for the tri-cities area of Benham, Cumberland and Lynch in Harlan County. The Benham community hopes to shift away from a coal economy and into a green economy that would provide jobs while protecting the environment.

High Road staff and members attended a number of conferences throughout the region on building local economies, including the Appalachian Studies Association conference in March in West Virginia; National Rural Assembly in June in Washington, D.C.; Healthy Foods, Local Farms in September in Louisville; and Growing Local Economies Forum in October in Hazard.





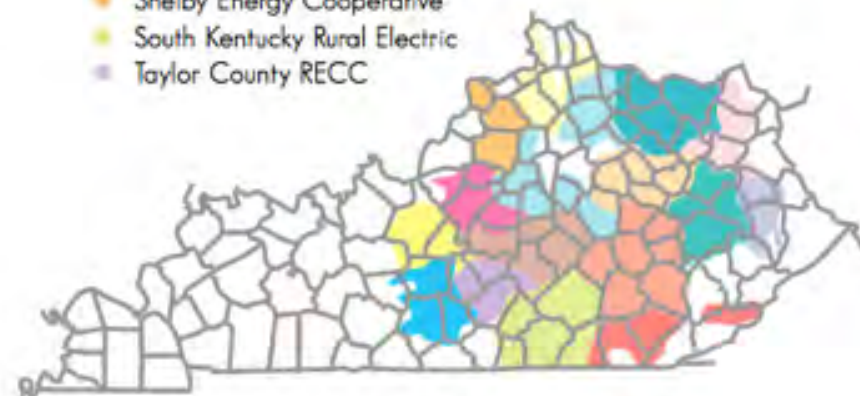
After decades of dealing with coal extraction issues, KFTC is working to reduce damage at the other end of the coal life cycle, where burning coal contributes to climate change and air pollution. One of our most urgent projects in 2008 was an effort to prevent construction of two proposed coal-burning power plants in Central Kentucky. KFTC and our allies the Kentucky Environmental Foundation and the Sierra Club worked to convince East Kentucky Power Cooperative that dirty coal-burning power is not the answer to Kentucky's future energy needs.

East Kentucky Power Cooperative is a member-owned rural electric cooperative that supplies electricity to 500,000 households and businesses, mostly in rural and low-income areas. Two more power plants would contribute even more greenhouse gases and soot to Kentucky's already dirty air, raise costs for customers, divert EKPC's attention away from renewable energy and efficiency, and prolong our dependence on coal.

The allied groups commissioned a study of alternative energy options for EKPC that showed the utility could meet most of its expected increase in energy demand through renewable energy and energy efficiency. They have also met with EKPC officials and reached out to customers in several of the distribution co-ops. At this printing, KFTC had recently hired an organizer to focus on the campaign.

The 16 distribution cooperatives, which are called the member systems, own EKPC. The 16 co-ops include:

- Big Sandy RECC
- Blue Grass Energy Cooperative
- Clark Energy Cooperative
- Cumberland Valley Electric
- Farmers RECC
- Fleming-Mason Energy Cooperative
- Grayson RECC
- Inter-County Energy
- Jackson Energy Cooperative
- Licking Valley RECC
- Nolin RECC
- Owen Electric Cooperative
- Salt River Electric Cooperative
- Shelby Energy Cooperative
- South Kentucky Rural Electric
- Taylor County RECC



Through our Voter Empowerment Project, KFTC is working to create an authentic, participatory democracy in a state where ordinary people have often been underrepresented. We are engaging thousands of new and infrequent voters to learn about the issues affecting their lives and hold their elected leaders accountable. As one KFTC member put it, we want citizens who "don't just vote and walk away."

Strengthening Kentucky's democracy has long been a goal for KFTC, but in 2004 we elevated our voter empowerment work when members in Central Kentucky ran a successful campaign to pass a tax increase for public transit. In 2008, we elevated the work again by hiring a full-time voter empowerment organizer, training community captains, and registering thousands of voters.

In August, KFTC and our partner Kentucky Jobs With Justice held a **voter empowerment workshop** to train members to serve as community captains who commit to have at least three meaningful conversations about voting with 30 or so people in their own communities. Some 70 activists from KFTC, Jobs With Justice and other allies came together to learn skills for building a democracy one relationship at a time.

KFTC hired 14 temporary **electoral organizers** in September to register, educate and mobilize voters in the months leading up to the November election.



During the 2008 election season, KFTC engaged 18,000 voters. Our strategies ranged from an Election Day bicycle parade to concerts, roving "sound cars" reminding people to vote, signs, rides to the polls, an Election Day rally, and many phone banks. We were in churches, in the street, in grocery stores, at dozens of community festivals, at bus stops, schools, retirement homes, and at front doors from Pike County to Warren County—building relationships, sharing information, and encouraging people to vote. More Kentuckians—1,825,848—voted in the November election than ever before.

Our community captains, electoral organizers and other members talked with voters about issues rather than candidates. We published voter guides during the spring and fall election seasons that gave every candidate a chance to answer questions about the issues, and our chapters sponsored public forums in their communities that brought voters face-to-face with candidates. Our goal is that, ultimately, a healthy electorate will produce strong and truly representative candidates.

A major focus of our voter empowerment efforts is our campaign to restore voting rights to former felons who have paid their debt to society. Kentucky is one of only two states that permanently bar former felons from voting unless they obtain a partial pardon from the governor explicitly restoring their individual voting rights. In Kentucky 186,000 people, including one-fourth of the age-eligible African-Americans, are prevented from voting because of a past felony conviction.



“For the first time, I’m starting to think this democracy might just work. I’ve hoped for a while, but I’ve surprised myself in that I’m actually starting to believe it might be possible.”

KFTC member Beth Rosdatter, on the 2008 voter empowerment work

With the **Restoration of Voting Rights Coalition**, a group of more than 20 organizations, we have worked to pass a bill in the Kentucky General Assembly that would place the issue on the ballot for voters. A rally in Frankfort in March 2008 brought out 300 people from across Kentucky, many of them first-time citizen lobbyists. Numerous other local events brought light to the issue and featured powerful speeches by such KFTC members as Tayna Fogle and Carl Matthews, both former felons. We are building support across Kentucky for this amendment and hope to pass it through the General Assembly in time to place it on the ballot for the November 2010 general election.



“This isn’t about Obama and it’s not about McCain. This is about having a voice in my community—about each of us having a voice in our communities.”

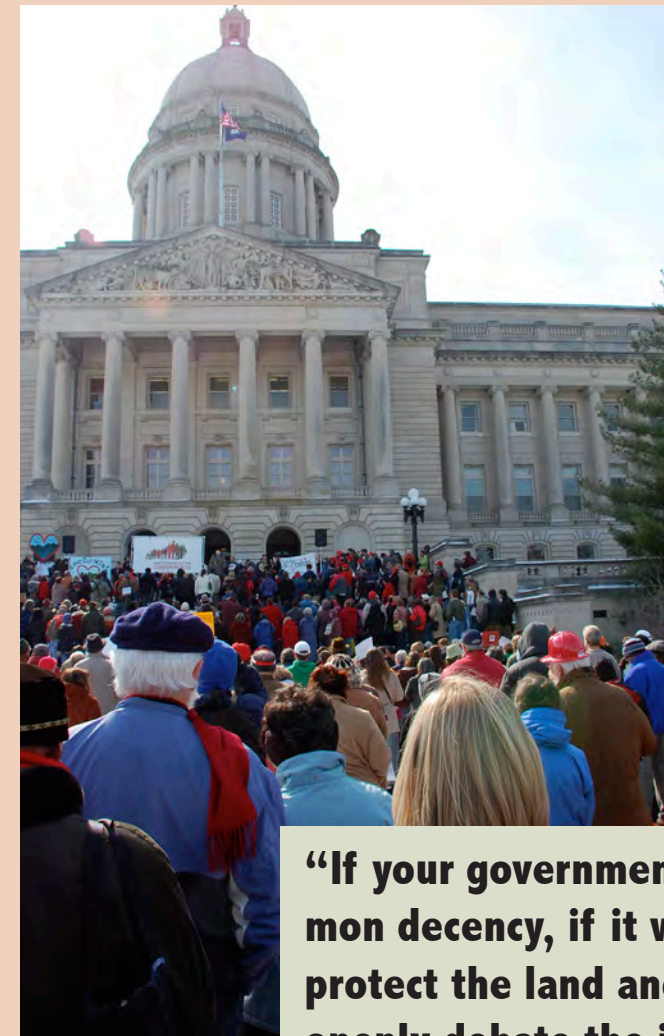
KFTC member and former felon spokesperson Tayna Fogle at the annual Rally for Recovery in September 2008



Seeing Red at the Capitol

For its energy, fun and the impact of 1,200 voices lifted in solidarity, I Love Mountains Day was a high point of 2008.

About 150 people had attended I Love Mountains Day 2007 at Kentucky's capital, and our ambitious goal was to double that number on Valentine's Day 2008. We exceeded our own expectations by bringing 1,200 people who talked with legislators, carried signs, and shouted their opposition to mountaintop removal. Renowned author and KFTC member Wendell Berry gave an impassioned speech from the capitol steps in which he called mountaintop removal an “abomination”: “As both federal and state governments have amply shown, you cannot regulate an abomination. You have got to stop it.”



Berry, who has fought strip mining for more than 40 years, invited others to join him in nonviolent civil disobedience. True to his word, Berry, along with environmentalist and author Bill McKibben, organized Capitol Climate Action in Washington, D.C. on March 2, 2009, bringing 2,500 people to the nation's capital for the largest mass demonstration ever on climate change.

“If your government will not rise to the level of common decency, if it will not deal fairly, if it will not protect the land and people, if it will not fully and openly debate the issues, then you have to get in the government’s way. You have to forbid it to ignore you.”

—Wendell Berry at 2008 I Love Mountains Day

Exploitation Knows No Borders

In May 2008, a KFTC delegation traveled with the organization Witness for Peace on a tour of coalfields in Colombia, South America, following the trail of coal that supplies energy to New England. Members Rully Urias and Sara Pennington and organizer Patty Tarquino, who live in coalfield communities in Eastern Kentucky, saw firsthand how coal industry exploitation is not limited to the Appalachian coalfields. They met with human rights activists, trade unionists, members of Afro-Colombian indigenous communities, and others affected by coal production in Colombia, returning home with a fresh perspective on the impacts of extractive industries on people and communities.



What they learned was that the coalfields in Colombia are similar to those in Appalachia: multinational coal companies, some based in the United States, control the money, power, and land. The mining displaces many Colombian families and damages their communities' infrastructure, creating dire consequences such as extreme malnutrition and water contamination from coal dust. Attempts to unionize the mines have been met by violence and death. Like the United States, Colombia has placed too much economic value on one resource. After their trip, Rully, Sara and Patty visited college classes, churches and other groups to share their insights.



Building a Future Beyond Coal

When KFTC launched the Canary Project in 2003, we set out to build a better future—beyond coal—for Kentucky and the nation. Years, even decades, before the rest of the country began discussing the downsides of coal, KFTC members knew that we must find energy alternatives to this dirty and dangerous fuel. The Canary Project took the work to a new level, with four primary goals: 1) to force the coal industry to obey the law and enforcement agencies to enforce the law; 2) to work for new policies that will protect our health, environment, and economy; 3) to design, win, and implement new economic development policies that create quality jobs for coalfield residents; and 4) to support the development of sustainable, alternative energy sources.

For the Canary Project, 2008 was a year of raising our expectations and exceeding them.

At the local level, we pursued campaigns in Hueysville, Island Creek, and other communities where mining violations are affecting the land and people. In Wilson Creek, when Miller Brothers Coal set its sights on mining a nearby mountain and filling three valleys, local residents and KFTC members filed a Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition and collected more than 900 signatures. In classic KFTC style, the Wilson Creek community learned from the experiences of their neighbors in Hueysville, who had also confronted Miller Brothers Coal and regulatory agencies.

“We fear that mountaintop removal mining will cause increased flooding, blasting damage to our homes, possible deep mine blowouts or landslides, loss of our water wells, and destruction of our road, just as it has in so many other east Kentucky communities.”

Floyd County KFTC member Bev May, appealing to members to sign the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition for Wilson Creek September 2008



At the state level, the **Stream Saver Bill**, which would effectively end mountaintop removal, fell short of passage in the 2008 Kentucky General Assembly, but the 13 votes it earned in the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee proved that legislators outside the coalfields are starting to pay attention to the issue of mountaintop removal. We drew our largest crowd ever—1,200 people—for I Love Mountains Day on February 14, on the capitol steps, exceeding our goal of 1,000.

In 2008, we took the Canary Project to the national stage. Collaborating with the Alliance for Appalachia, of which KFTC is a founding organization, our members spent a week in March in Washington, D.C. lobbying for the **Clean Water Protection Act**, the federal equivalent of the Stream Saver Bill. In July, after 18 months of conversations, two U.S. congressmen, Ben Chandler of Kentucky and Norm Dicks of Washington, visited the coalfields for a flyover tour of mountaintop removal sites. In September, KFTC members sat down with the two congressmen for a more in-depth meeting in Washington, D.C. And in November, our members took part in a national convening of environmental groups from across the country. Out of this dynamic gathering came the idea of Power Past Coal: 100 Days of Action, a plan to conduct at least one public action per day during the first 100 days of the Obama administration.



“There were people from all over, people of all ages and of all backgrounds gathered on the steps, holding signs, braving the piercing cold, all to make their voices heard. Just a year ago, we had packed into a room; now, no room could possibly hold us.”

Madison County KFTC member Beth Bissmeyer reflecting on I Love Mountains Day 2008



Speaking Truth to Power

After 18 months of conversations and several false starts, KFTC succeeded in bringing two U.S. congressmen to Kentucky in July to view mountaintop removal sites. Ben Chandler, who represents Kentucky, had worked closely with KFTC to bring Norm Dicks (D-Washington), who chairs the House Appropriations committee that oversees environmental matters,



to the coalfields. The two lawmakers flew over MTR sites and met KFTC members.

The July tour was originally scheduled for two weeks earlier, but Chandler and Dicks never left Washington because their plane, provided by the Office of Surface Mining, was grounded by a dead battery. KFTC members who had gathered in Hazard, prepared to tell their stories, ended up instead talking to the press. Fortunately, Chandler and Dicks were annoyed enough by this snafu that they were more

determined than ever to come to Kentucky and made plans to tour two weeks later. Although the director of OSM accompanied them on the flight and talked about the benefits of mountaintop removal, KFTC members articulated the issues well and the congressmen promised to meet with coalfield residents later in the year.

The promised meeting took place in September, when KFTC leaders sat down with Chandler and Dicks in Washington, D.C. for a more in-depth discussion. Both congressmen agreed to help pass the Clean Water Protection Act and push for good leadership in the Office of Surface Mining.

