

Kentucky Deserves Better



- **Who we are, why we care**
- **Kentucky's congressional delegation**
- **The role of Rep. Rogers**
- **Why now?**
- **The Opportunities**
- **Solutions / Actions**

We are Kentuckians.



We are Kentuckians. Families who love each other, who want to be able to grow here and stay here and who have dreams for right here. Good people.

[We are Kentuckians...

The land and culture

We've faced challenges

We've made choices (KFTC, to organize)

And here's what's happened due to our actions]

We are Kentuckians. We want what everyone wants...

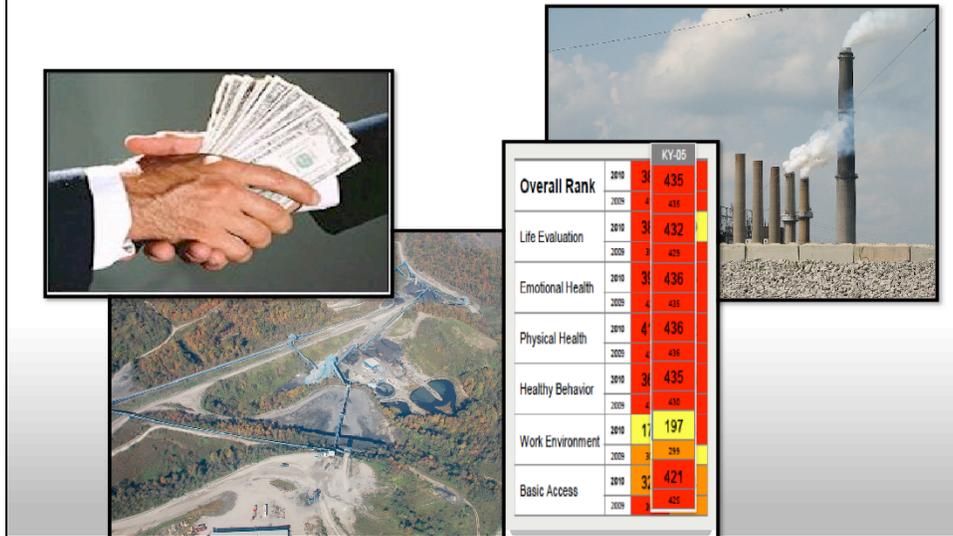


We are Kentuckians.

We want what everyone wants... This is the beginning of a quilt started at KFTC's 30th Birthday Party in August. People were invited to create squares showing their vision for Kentucky. This is what they said: We want economic justice, with healthy jobs and good educations. We want a healthy earth, with clean water and air. We want safe and healthy families. And we want to be able to grow our families right here in Kentucky.

With these things in place, and with honest, and transparent representation in our government, we can make a good future for ourselves. We're working hard to get there.

We have some **(Old Power)** challenges...



These are Old Power challenges.

Much of Kentucky's population is poor or very poor. Twenty-nine of the hundred poorest counties in the nation, measured by median income, are in Kentucky. Many of the poorest counties – those classified as economically distressed – are coal-producing counties. They suffer from high unemployment and underemployment and fading job prospects in the mining industry.

Kentuckians are also extremely vulnerable to the shifting economy and the rising cost of energy. We have a significant amount of poor housing stock, including the homes of many vulnerable retired and elderly residents living on a limited fixed income.

Kentuckians are not healthy. We have the second-lowest ranking in the nation for overall well-being, according to a recent Gallop poll.

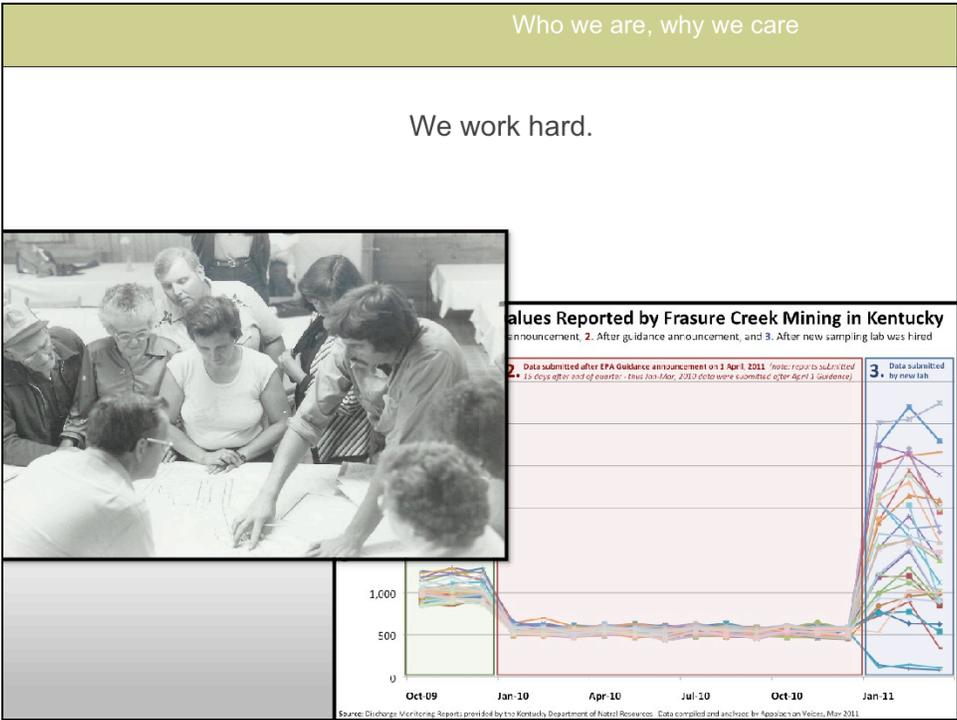
Our public transportation is meager and under-funded, and many of our workers must commute hundreds of miles per week.

This photo is from the Teco coal processing plant in Perry County, and the photo at the top is from the coal ash dump at Cane Run outside of Louisville.

We work hard.



In the face of these challenges, we work hard for a better Kentucky over these last thirty years. We organize. We've rallied. Petitioned.



Learned what was in our water and air. (Members looking at an underground mine map with KFTC staff hydrologist Pat Sloan. The mining had destroyed water wells in the community.)

Who we are, why we care

We work hard.



Sold brownies to raise money for the state budget, and support for tax justice.

With all this work over the last thirty years, we are seeing progress. Kentuckians have a vision for our future that is better than our past and our present, with clear goals and solutions. And there are policies being debated right now in Congress that will shape our future.



We're trying to lift up our voices in federal policy. Right now, this is where some of the biggest opportunities are for change in Kentucky, as well as some of the biggest threats in Kentucky.

Let's turn from who we are, to who our elected leaders are.

Here we have them. Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul. Representatives Ed Whitfield, John Yarmuth, Brett Guthrie, Ben Chandler, Geoff Davis, and Hal Rogers.

KY's 5th district is represented in Congress by Rep. Hal Rogers



We're starting with Rep. Hal Rogers, and for a few reasons. 1) The urgency and opportunities for solutions in the 5th district are coming to a head, 2) Rep. Rogers has a new and very powerful role in Congress, and 3) His role means that he has a significant impact on all the issues that impact the quality of life in the 5th district, in all of Kentucky, and in the nation.

Hal Rogers' Biography



- Born December 31, 1937, in Wayne County, Kentucky
- Current residence is Somerset, Kentucky
- Background as a lawyer
- Was a Commonwealth's Attorney before being elected to Congress
- Elected in 1980 to the House of Representatives
- In early 2011, elected as Chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee

A little background.

Along with us, Mr. Rogers has also faced the challenges of the 5th District.



While we faced those challenges by educating and organizing and building New Power in Kentucky, he faced them, some might say, by building and insulating his own Old Power.

- Building his political dynasty (web of pork -- limited only to "insiders")
- Supporting the coal industry
- Superficial (not root cause) "solutions"
 - PRIDE
 - UNITE

Hal Rogers' choices: To build a political dynasty



[Ask folks on the call to share what they know about Hal's projects. What are some of the elements of his infusions to East Kentucky, or elsewhere in the world? Possible answers include:

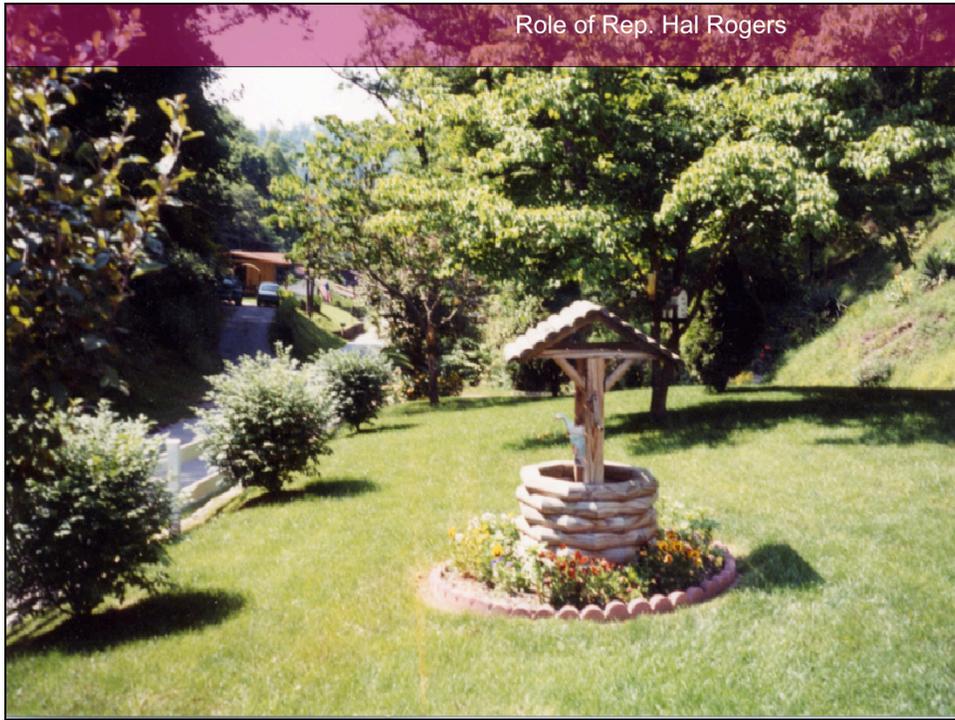
- They have his name on them.
- superficial
- employ his own people (allies and family)
- they mask his role in exacerbating the real root problems.
- uneven benefit
- focus on prison industry

Where Mr. Rogers Puts His Money



- Rogers has founded seven non-profits in the 5th district, which have gotten \$236 million in federal funds since 2000.
- These non-profits are interconnected, with the same people rotating boards, one paying rent to another, and often with Rogers' family getting paychecks somewhere along the way.

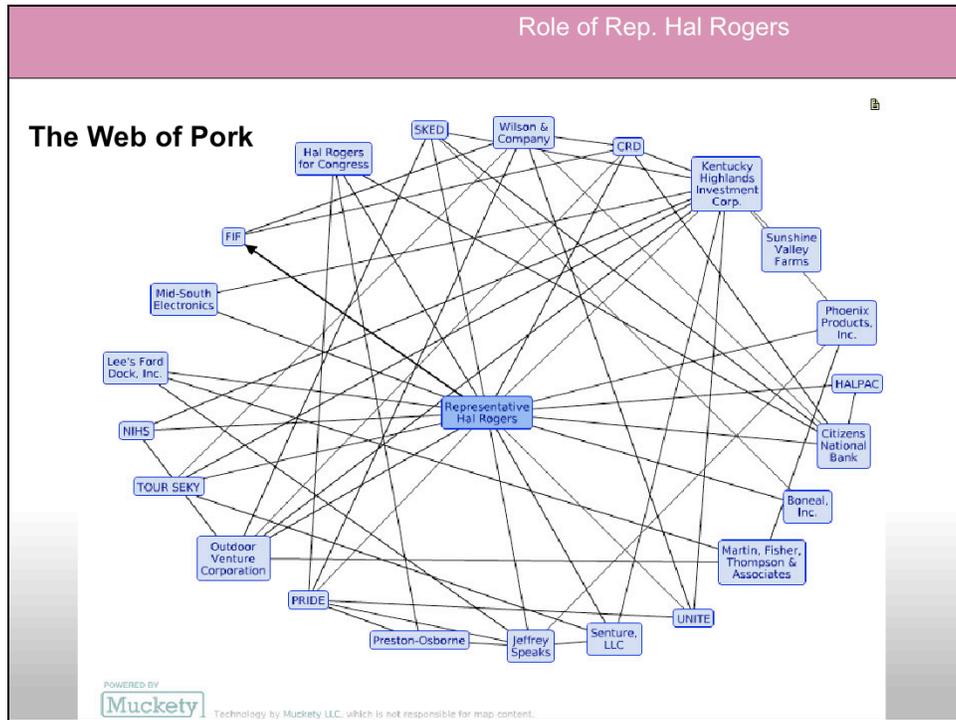
Here we showcase PRIDE and UNITE. Remember that photo showing the TECO mine? TECO's the same company that flooded McRoberts. After it flooded McRoberts, it sponsored a litter clean up day. It got a PRIDE award for that.



Betty Banks' home before the TECO flood



Betty's home after.



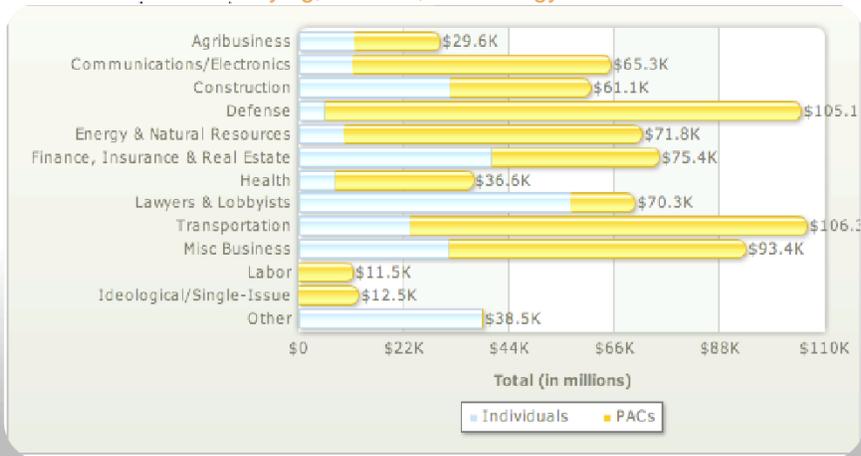
This is a web of Hal Rogers' connections...
 All the business and non-profits he's
 created and led over his 30 years.

[Go to website]

Who funds Rep. Rogers' campaigns?

2009/2010

Top Donors include Defense (such as Boeing), Transportation, Lobbying, Finance, and Energy Industries



...because the coal industry supports him.

His top contributor over the course of his career has been the National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn and the coal industry. They've slowed down on funding him lately, but only because, it seems, they don't have to anymore. Any ideas why?

Why now?

- Pivotal time for the 5th district.
- Rep. Rogers has not been using his powerful role to make life better in Kentucky. In fact, his policies would make life much worse.
- Opportunities

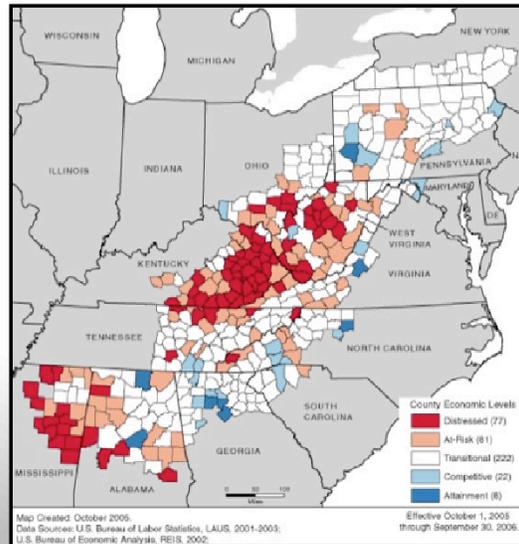
...Rep. Rogers has [last two weeks]

Why now?

Challenges: Economic & Health

In Appalachian Kentucky, 1 in 4 people are living in poverty.

Seventy-seven percent of Kentucky's Appalachian counties are classified as distressed.

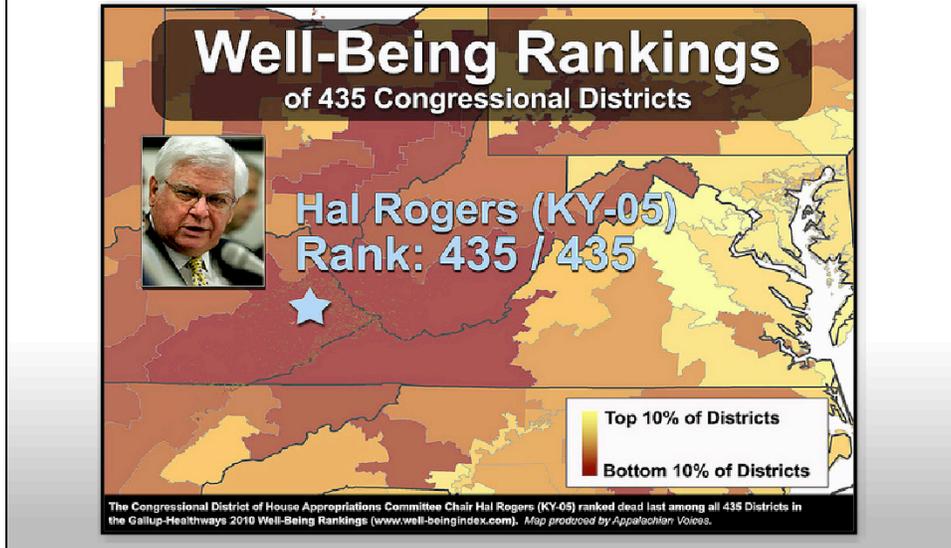


This map shows the counties included in the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), on which Gov. Beshear now plays a key role. Seventy-seven percent of Kentucky's Appalachian counties are distressed. Our neighbor, West Virginia, only has 18% distressed counties.

The number of people over 65 is climbing...But the overall population is shrinking. Younger people leave for education and job opportunities, and they're not coming back.

Why now?

Challenges: Economic & Health



The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index is the result of a yearlong study that entails interviewing at least 1000 adults every day for 350 days. It focuses on these categories: Life Evaluation, Physical Health, Emotional Health, Healthy Behavior, Work Environment, and Basic Access. Hal Rogers' district ranked low in each category, bottoming out the list in three categories.

Why now?

Challenges: Economic & Health

Of all the congressional districts in the U.S., Kentucky's 5th district is last or very near it in:

- Life evaluation
- Emotional health
- Physical health
- Life expectancy
- Healthy behavior

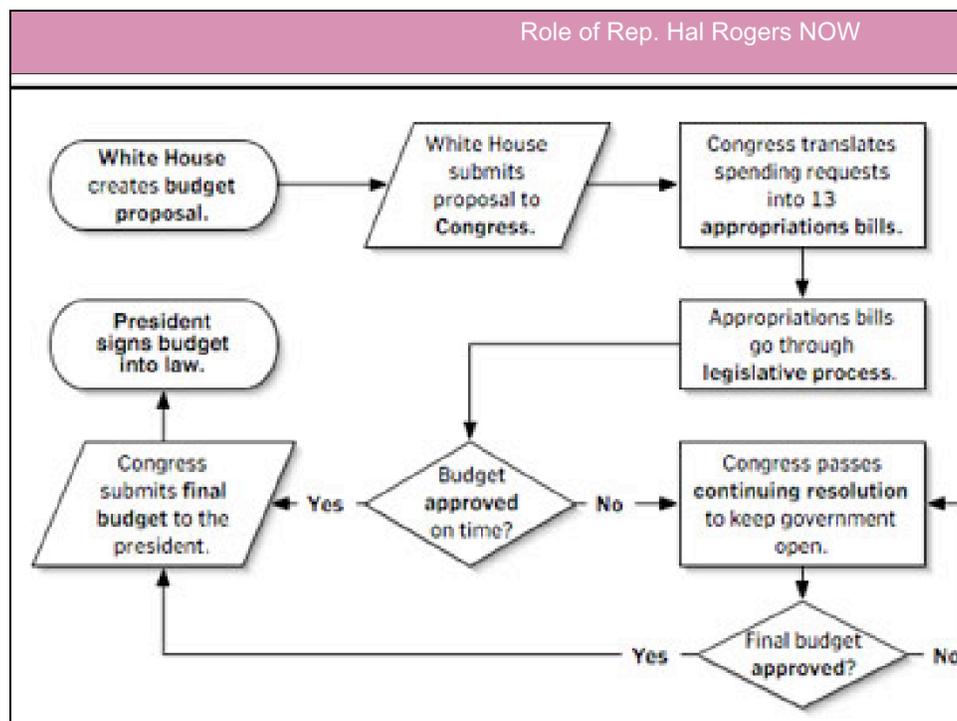
		KY-05	
Overall Rank	2010	38	435
	2009	41	435
Life Evaluation	2010	38	432
	2009	35	429
Emotional Health	2010	39	436
	2009	42	435
Physical Health	2010	41	436
	2009	43	436
Healthy Behavior	2010	36	435
	2009	43	430
Work Environment	2010	17	197
	2009	31	299
Basic Access	2010	32	421
	2009	34	425

These have deep connections to the economy, lack of jobs, drug addiction, and also the coal industry. A important study, just released this June, compared the rates of seven types of birth defects in Appalachian areas that have mountaintop removal mining, and Appalachian areas that don't have mountaintop removal mining. The study finds significantly higher rates of six of those birth defects in mountaintop removal mining areas. (Dr. Melissa Ahern at Washington State and Dr. Michael Hendryx and others at West Virginia University)

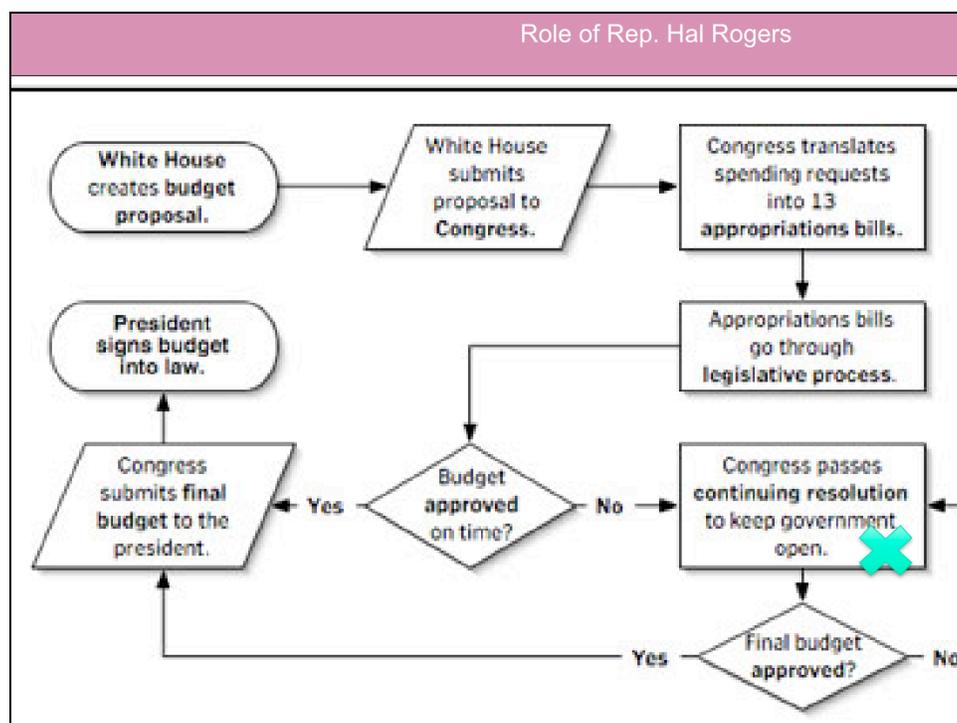
New Chair of the House Appropriations Committee



So now, Hal Rogers is Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. With all his power and influence, surely to goodness we can get some real help, not just superficial crumbs, to the 5th district?



This is the federal budgeting process. Theoretically, it starts with the President's proposal, but just as in Kentucky, the actual bill starts in the House of Representatives. Just as in KY, all those bills are born from the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Rogers chairs that committee. His work directs the work of that committee, and whatever comes out of that committee sets the stage for the rest of the budgeting process, both in terms of what programs and functions of our government get funded, and by how much.



This is kind of the process, but there's so much more to it. Under his leadership, there are two things going on. He's the point person for the GOP agenda to cut the budget, to cut the so-called "size" of government. But he's also the point person for using the budget process to dismantle all that's been won over the last 40 years, with hundreds of riders to dismantle the EPA, the protection of small streams which is entirely about mountaintop removal, health safeguards for families, public education, health care reform, and financial reform. It's not just about the money, but about the political agendas.

They're putting horrific policies—not budget related—into the budget documents.

Draft of the Labor, Health, and Education appropriations bill:

- Guts heat subsidies for low-income families by nearly a third, despite rising demand
- Cuts family planning programs,
- Cuts NPR funding
- Blocks funding to implement health care reform
- Reduces eligibility for Pell Grants, which make it possible for low-income college students to go to school.

The budget documents do enough damage.

One that has won the support of Rep. Rogers but has been held up by other Republicans on the Appropriations Committee is the Labor, Health, and Education Appropriations Bill.

It zeroes out funds for Obama's "Race to the Top" education program and Title X family planning; cuts funds for the National Labor Relations Board by 17 percent; and slashes \$8.6 billion in an effort to block the implementation of health-care reform. It also brings back recently contentious fights, eliminating all federal funding for NPR and Americorps and trying to reinstate the so-called "Stupak amendment" that nearly derailed the Affordable Care Act.

The measure would cut heating subsidies for the poor by \$1.3 billion, or 28 percent, despite demand elevated by the weak economy and high heating oil prices.

Cuts to education would mean, according to the Department of Education, that more than half a million students would be kicked out of Pell Grant eligibility because of tighter restrictions on the number of semesters students can qualify, how much money you can earn for basic living expenses, and by counting public assistance against grant eligibility. So, if you're a single mom who gets the EITC or food stamps and is working your way through school, you're hurting.

Cutting child nutrition programs don't
lead to healthy families, or jobs, or help kids learn.

Estimates are that
about 10,600
women and
children would be
impacted in
Kentucky.



This is coming after a bill that passed out of Rogers Committee that cut funding for the WIC program by more than \$733 million—more than 12%. Estimates are that 700,000 low-income women and children would be turned away from food stamps next year. 10,600 of these would be Kentuckians.

Dismantling the EPA through riders



The riders, which don't have anything to do with the budget, do even more.

Unprecedented restrictions on the EPA's air pollution rules, and a Republican aide confirmed on Monday that House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers "will fight hard for the bills that have passed the House" as budget negotiations continue.

Why now?

Hal Rogers' choices are **Old Power**: Support the coal industry, deregulate, and cut taxes for the wealthy

AP: Rogers Named Coal Miner of the Year

Kentucky, Dec 31, 2010 - The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, KY — The Kentucky Coal Association has named U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers the 2010 Coal Miner of the Year.

The group's president, Bill Bissett, said Rogers was selected for the honor because of his "tireless support" of Kentucky's coal miners in Washington.

Bissett said the coal industry faces challenging times, and Rogers has been a supporter who has stressed the importance of the natural resource in the nation's Capitol.

And still, after 30 years, he's still committed to Old Power.

Why now?

Hal Rogers' choices: Not in Kentucky's best interests...

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The Nation / By Katrina vanden Heuvel

160 COMMENTS

has been a supporter who has stressed

10 Congresspeople Making Life Worse for Their Constituents

What the Terrible Ten and their kind would have you believe is that we can no longer afford safety net programs due to the budget deficit. They're wrong.

September 28, 2011 |

Why now?

...and he's earned a bad reputation.

AP: Rogers Named Coal Miner of the Year

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The group's president, Bill Bissett, said Rogers was selected for the honor [Name] Kentucky's coal miners in Washington.

The Nation / By Katrina vanden Heuvel

188 COMMENTS

Bissett said the coal industry faces challenging times, and Rogers has [Name] the importance of the natural resource in the nation's Capitol.

10 Congresspeople Making Life Worse for



CREW's

MOST CORRUPT

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We deserve better.

Why now?



Rep. Rogers has had 30 years to grapple with these challenges. His constituents met with his staff person awhile back, in the cafeteria in DC. They asked him what he planned to do to bring jobs, a better life, a better future. Were any of you in that meeting? Can you tell us what his solution was?

Prisons!

**We have opportunities that we deserve
to make Kentucky better.**

- EPA is being more responsive to the needs of our people and to our health, and Americans support a strong EPA.
- Americans of all stripes support raising taxes on the very wealthy to protect our jobs, education, and health.
- We need to create jobs, and people are shouting that from street corners across the nation.

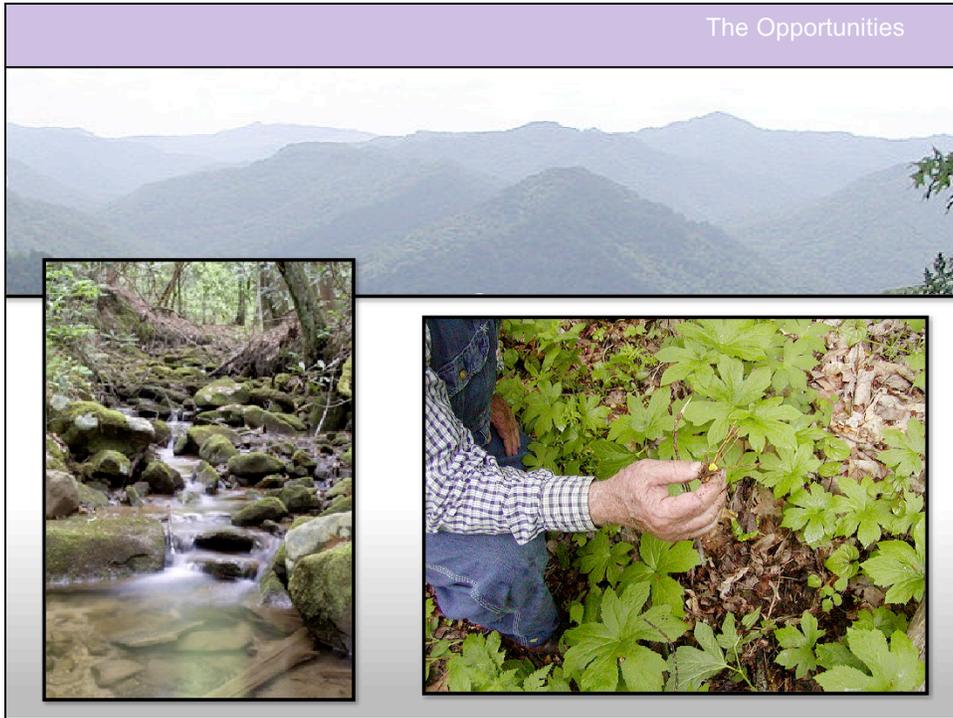


Patty Wallace quotes

I'd like for people to see the view like the one from Pine Mountain, where I took my girl scouts way back when. Those girls sat on the porch, and the clouds were in the hills, and you could see the tops of the hills, and an eagle flew down underneath us. It was beautiful.

I want my grandchildren to be able to work in jobs right at home that keep them safe and healthy. I clean my my bird bath every two days because the water turns red from coal plant pollution. What's in our drinking water?

Our mountains and our people are worth keeping. ...I tell my grandchildren, love this place where you're from. And I tell you, join us in building New Power for a clean energy future! It's time to turn this thing around!



Here's how Patty Wallace describes the land and the mountains. "I'd like for more people to see the view like the one from Pine Mountain, where I took my girl scouts way back when. Those girls sat on the porch, and the clouds were in the hills, and you could see the tops of the hills, and an eagle flew down underneath us. It was beautiful."

I want my grandchildren to be able to work in jobs right at home that keep them safe and healthy.
-- Patty Wallace



What are the
opportunities?

*Our mountains and our people are worth
keeping. ...I tell my grandchildren, love this
place where you're from. And I tell you, join
us in building New Power for a clean energy
future! It's time to turn this thing around!
-- Patty Wallace*

So what are we to do? We don't like it, but for years we've been, what can anyone do.

Our opportunity is to demonstrate how out of touch he is with the people in his state, and It can weaken the position in his state. To the degree that we can amplify our vision and our needs, be louder, it can help give strength to those who need it, and weaken his hand. Long term, we need to change the political alyout of his district. Shortterm, we have an opportunity to point out .

What's Next?

- Amplify our vision
- Learn more
- Get louder
- Spread the word
 - Action on the 14th
 - We are the 99 percent



What else?

So what are we to do? We don't like it, but for years we've been, what can anyone do. What do you all think of this? What would we need to do to demonstrate how out of touch Hal Rogers is?

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