

Sample News Release

FORUM RESULTS



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NEWS

For Immediate Release
September 12, 2006

Citizens support a different direction on energy

Questionnaires completed following an August 22 Public Life Foundation forum on coal-fired power plants indicate that citizens support a different direction on energy development in our area. More than 50 citizens participated in the three-hour session and 37 completed questionnaires following the forum.

The preferred option with 92 percent agreement: We should conserve and invest in renewable energy alternatives. Five percent disagreed and three percent were not sure.

Ninety-four percent said that new plants should be allowed, but we should insist on higher standards, better regulation, and that we should put an end to loopholes and emissions trading. Three percent disagreed and three percent were not sure.

Sixty-one percent said we should not halt construction of new coal-fired power plants. Twenty-eight percent said we should. Eleven percent were not sure.

Eighty-nine percent said we should not stay on course with the current system of permitting and regulation. Six percent are satisfied with the current system. Three percent were not sure.

Forum participants also said that:

Our priorities should focus on protecting the environment and the public over economic development and employment.

They would be willing to pay higher taxes and utility rates for cleaner, safer air and water.

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FORUM RESULTS *(continued)*

To reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we should not increase coal production at the risk of environmental quality. However, we should increase coal production if environmental safeguards are in place, but reduce/phase out coal production and invest in clean, renewable energy alternatives.

New power plants should be allowed as older, more polluting plants are phased out.

To reduce environmental and public health dangers, Kentucky should stop building power plants that serve other areas.

Kentucky's coal reserves represent a unique and valuable resource that should be maximized through mining and coal-fired power plants. At the same time, they support development of alternatives to coal because mining is dangerous, harmful to the landscape and ecosystem, and the burning of coal pollutes our air and water.

Coal mining is an important occupation for our region and should be supported while safety is improved.

They were evenly split on whether or not surface mining reclamation leaves the land in good, if not better condition, than it was before the mining occurred.

However, mountaintop removal in eastern Kentucky is devastating to the environment and should be prohibited.

A complete report on the forum results and participant questionnaire responses, including demographic data on the participants, is available on the Public Life Foundation's website: www.plfo.org.