



Published March 26, 2008

Readers' views

FAIR SHAKE FOR MINING

It seems that when a few people attack coal mining, it gets a lot of press, while the benefits of mining are largely ignored by the news media.

The so-called Stream Saver Bill would, if passed, basically eliminate mining of all types in Kentucky -- not just mountaintop removal -- because even underground mines could not have been faced where it is necessary to store the dirt and rock from the initial excavation in a hollow.

Sadly, it has come to the point where coal miners can no longer simply get out of bed, go to their jobs and put in a hard day's work to feed and clothe their families while providing this nation with domestic energy.

We must now take time out of our busy schedules to make the general public aware of the truth about coal mining, or we could wake up one day and not have jobs.

Mountaintop removal provides flat land upon which industries and health care facilities are built. The coal industry pumps money back into the economy and into the tax base, and the coal industry provides thousands of jobs and helps reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

There are more than ample laws to ensure that the land is reclaimed. Today's miners are good stewards of the land.

I ask only that the *Herald-Leader* give coal mining a fair shake and print the truth.

*Jerry Ingram
Whitesburg*