

ANDY BARR – E.P.A.  
3 Questions - Talking Points  
Tuesday, August 8, 2017 Meeting

**QUESTION 1: Richard Branson, Mining and Retraining.**

Donald Trump wants to “Make America Great Again.” Deregulation, and other tactics, will create more jobs, hence greater prosperity for all Americans. Central to this ambitious program is his desire to revitalize the coal mining industry. That sounds wonderful...to his loyal supporters, Trump’s “Base.”

The British billionaire Richard Branson disagrees. In a recent article written by Julia La Roche, finance reporter for *Yahoo Finance*, Branson says Trump is wrong. The man is leading the country in the wrong direction. The correct path, for Branson, is retraining coal miners for jobs in clean energy industries. Great Britain did something similar for its unemployed coal miners when the industry disappeared decades ago. The U.S.A, and Trump, should follow.

A hard copy of the La Roche/Branson article accompanies this question. Please read it, and then respond to these questions in detail:

- a. Do you agree with Andrew Liveris, the CEO of Dow Chemical and head of Trump’s jobs Initiative? If so, then...
- b. Exactly what have *you* done to *really* address the plight of coal miners in Appalachia, and elsewhere in Kentucky? We are aware of no speeches, and no bill in Congress that you have sponsored, co-sponsored or voted for that will provide a *realistic* solution to *their* plight (e.g., unemployment, health issues, etc.). If we are incorrect, please explain in detail what you have done, or what you propose to do. Or, if you admit to having done nothing to address the issue thus far, then why not?

\*\*\*\*\*

**QUESTION 2: Herrington Lake, Kentucky Utilities, and Mercury.**

Kentucky Utilities (KU) operates the E. W. Brown coal-fired power plant near Burgin in Mercer County. It is adjacent to a Lake Herrington. Well-known since 1925 as a “Fisherman’s Paradise,” and only 31 miles south of Lexington, this reservoir also attracts numerous in-state and out-of-state visitors who swim, enjoy sailing a boat, and rent or own houseboats at numerous marinas. It also is the source of water for the residents of Mercer, Boyle, and Garrard Counties.

Six million cubic yards of coal-ash are stored at the E. W. Brown facility. Environmental groups have recently detected that mercury, one component of this lethal waste product, is leaking into a part of Lake Herrington. The groups are suing KU to repair or replace the defective impoundment. KU says no way; re-written environmental regulations from State Government, and reduced involvement from the EPA in Washington, absolve KU from any responsibility for cleanup, repair or replacement.

The environmental groups have little chance of success. KU is owned by PPL (Pennsylvania Power and Light), a multinational corporation with “deep pockets.” It

reported \$7.5 billion in annual revenue as of December 31, 2016. This is the source from which KU's lawyers will obtain money to litigate.

PPL also gave Andy Barr \$500.00 MORE than the ENTIRE amount of money given to ALL Democrats in the SENATE during the same campaign cycle of 2016! No surprise here. The bills and resolutions that Andy has introduced, co-sponsored, or voted for in the House of Representatives, as well as his public statements, demonstrate his admiration for free market capitalism, for economic activity unencumbered by government regulation of any kind.

So, Andy, tell us this. *How* do you convince residents in this part of Kentucky, whom you represent in Washington, D.C., that the health of their families, their source of income, are of *secondary importance* to the economic welfare of a multinational corporation and its shareholders? Be specific; be truthful; be thoughtful. And please, spare us; no "canned" response. We have heard it before. In other words, why should people vote for you next time around if you don't act on their behalf? They deserve, we deserve, better.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **QUESTION 3: Mortality and Regulation.**

On June 20, 2017 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Lexington, you told the audience how religion affects your political perspective. Your responses to several questions asked clearly indicate the following: For you, national defense is a constitutional requirement. This justifies ever-increasing money for the Pentagon. Everything else is secondary; addressing non-military social issues are not the responsibility of government. Health care, for example, is not a constitutional right; it is a scarce resource, and its allocation by government, if any, to the American public must be subjected to a cost-benefit/cost-effectiveness analysis.

This is market place jargon. In brief, does profit exceed expenditure? If not, stop doing what is being done. In business, this is common sense, and it constitutes the core of your political ideology. Change the words and the logic results in this: Is the existence of a program that protects peoples' health justified by its cost? Do benefits exceed the price paid for such aid?

Now read (or listen to) the following and then answer a simple question. First the background: You have either co-sponsored, or not contested, EPA-related House bills that promote the deregulation of emissions from coal-fired power plants. You also object to any of these facilities being shut down. The result is an increase in air-borne molecules of lead, mercury, arsenic and seven other toxic metals that travel hundreds of miles from their source. Ingestion of these substances leads to organ failure, cancer, heart attacks, adverse pre-natal development, and premature death.

This scenario is not theory; it is fact. There are coal-fired plants in your Congressional district, in the counties adjacent to it, and in the Commonwealth.

Now here is the question: How many deaths among the people whom you represent in Congress are you willing to accept as the cost for your advocacy? At what point is human suffering more important than corporate profit?

Don't fudge, Andy. Refrain from telling us that no deaths are permissible. If this is what you believe, then why have you waited so long to do so little to prevent them?

Employ your cost-benefit/cost effectiveness analysis “mind-set” and state a precise number. Perhaps 10 deaths per 100 people is an acceptable statistic? How about 10 individuals dying among 1,000 residents in your congressional district? You choose, Andy. Your rhetoric implies the existence of a number; we are just trying to help you identify it. We wait for your answer.

\*\*\*\*\*