

Please find Congressman Barr's response and stance on the different areas of concern from the August 8th meeting. If you have any further questions please let me know.

“Thank you for taking the time to meet with my staff regarding your concerns on a variety of policies. Your communication is a vital part of the legislative process and I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns.

Environmental Protection Agency

First and foremost, I do not support the complete abolishment of the Environmental Protection Agency. While I have opposed onerous regulations and actions taken by the EPA in the past, I believe the best approach is to work collaboratively with the Agency and provide rigorous congressional oversight to ensure that the EPA works with stakeholders, as is often required by statute, to achieve statutorily authorized objectives.

I ran for Congress to remove impediments to job creation, promote our country's energy independence, and get our economy back on track. While I share your concern about climate change, I am concerned that overregulation of the energy industry will put Kentuckians out of work and raise the cost of energy, all while doing little to prevent climate change. I look forward to working with the EPA moving forward on these important matters and I will be certain to keep your views in mind when considering policy proposals that come before the 115th Congress.

Coal

I certainly understand your specific concerns related to the environmental impact of coal mining. I too believe that commonsense regulations are needed to ensure that Kentucky's natural resources are preserved for generations to come. Importantly, many county governments, as well as Kentucky's state government, rely upon coal excise taxes to fund infrastructure investments, public services, and education services. The elimination of Appalachian coal mining would have a ripple effect adversely impacting all citizens of our Commonwealth. While we can certainly agree that appropriate environmental regulation is a necessity, specifically in regards to health concerns you brought up in your meeting with my staff, I believe the unilateral executive prohibition of an entire industry by unelected officials without even consulting with those most directly impacted by these regulations (both in favor of and opposed to greater regulation) simply goes too far.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have joined as a cosponsor of the Miners Protection Act to address two pending issues that retired miners face related to their benefits – the crumbling fiscal condition of both the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of American (UMWA) Pension Plan. In addition, I voted for H.R. 244, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, which addresses the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan specifically by providing the

funding needed to adequately support existing liabilities for current retiree's healthcare benefits. This legislation was subsequently signed into law by President Trump on May 5, 2017. Rest assured, I will continue to monitor the long-term solvency of these pension plans, educational opportunities, and other funding initiatives for these retired miners to ensure that they are afforded the benefits and opportunities they deserve.

Foreign Policy

The federal government's first and primary responsibility is the safety and security of the American people. You may be interested to know that with my support the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3364, the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, on July 25, 2017. Subsequently, President Trump signed this legislation into law on August 2, 2017. These three nations (Iran, Russia, and North Korea) have continually challenged American interests and it is imperative, now more than ever, that we are proactive in our response. The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act will put increased pressure on these belligerent actors who threaten their neighbors and the United States while participating in cyber-crimes, illicit missile and nuclear programs, and crimes against humanity.

As you likely know, it is the responsibility of Congress to set forth the budget of the federal government and appropriate necessary funding pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. With the upcoming consideration of appropriations for fiscal year 2018, I will be certain to keep your views in mind, specifically in regards to the Department of State, should these pieces of legislation come before the full House of Representatives.

Thank you again for sharing your views on these issues. If you would like to stay informed on current actions in Washington, D.C. and within the Sixth District, I encourage you to receive my e-newsletter by visiting <http://barr.house.gov?ENews> ”

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to assist you. Have a great day!

Best,

Shelby Williams
Constituent Services Representative
Congressman Andy Barr (KY-06)
Phone: [\(859\) 219-1366](tel:(859)219-1366)
Fax: [\(859\) 219-3437](tel:(859)219-3437)
2709 Old Rosebud Road
Lexington, KY 40509

Keep up with Rep. Barr: