

Talking Points Andy Barr Office Visit August 8, 2017

Andy Barr has indicated he cares about his constituents and listens to them. Yet his voting record indicates the opposite. Barr has consistently voted in favor of big businesses donating to his campaign over the interests of his constituents. Not just with regard to health care for his constituents and financial protections for his constituents, but also with respect to environmental regulations that directly affect their exposure to toxic metals and risk from environmental toxins.

#1. Would you please explain to your constituents why the contamination of their fresh water by leaking mercury and other toxins from coal ash containment facilities by coal fired power plants in Kentucky is far less important to you than cheaper electricity? How do you justify trading higher utility profits due to less regulation, for your constituents' health and well-being? Please do not resort to a canned response about how you are fighting regulations to avoid higher electricity prices, because the cost to your constituents' health and environment will greatly exceed their added electric bill expense.

#2. You have repeatedly supported deregulation of emissions from coal-fired plants by focusing only on their regulatory cost, and never the health benefits provided by of these regulations in reducing air borne lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxins which produce serious and even fatal health problems for Kentuckians. At what point do these serious health problems borne by Kentuckians justify your concern over corporate profits and electricity costs? How many Kentuckian deaths and serious disabilities do you consider an acceptable number before you start supporting regulations preventing more of them? If you don't feel any deaths or serious health problems are acceptable, then what are you doing to prevent instead of aggravate problems produced by coal-fired power plants?

#3. We are unaware of any speeches or bills in Congress you have sponsored, co-sponsored or voted for in the last 4.5 years that provides a **realistic solution** to the plight of coal miners (e.g. unemployment, health issues, financial protections, improved education and access to higher education, etc.). If this is incorrect, please explain in detail what you have done or propose to do. If you have done little or nothing, please explain why not.

#4. You have been deafly silent on the actions Scott Pruitt has taken inside the EPA to dismantle environmental protections by reducing the Board of Scientific Counselors from 68 to 11. EPA defunding of science and all work on climate change. His approval of the chlorpyrifos pesticide dangerous to infants and young children opposed by EPA scientific advisors. His proposal to repeal the WOTUS regulation and reversal of the Clean Power Plan. Provide a single instance in which you have placed the health and environmental concerns of your constituents before the profits and interests of mining and fossil fuel burning companies who have donated to your campaigns.