



For Immediate Release

July 27, 2016

The 2016 Democratic Party Convention approved the [party's Platform](#) for the next four years. The [Alliance for Appalachia](#) is overjoyed to note that included in the Platform is the following plank:

The fight against climate change must not leave any community out or behind—including the coal communities who kept America's lights on for generations. Democrats will fight to make sure these workers and their families get the benefits they have earned and the respect they deserve, and we will make new investments in energy-producing communities to help create jobs and build a brighter and more resilient economic future. We will also oppose threats to the public health of these communities from harmful and dangerous extraction practices, like mountaintop removal mining operations. ([pg. 29](#))

Mountaintop Removal coal mining is a practice that has leveled mountains, buried streams, polluted our drinking water, and endangered the health of the people of Central Appalachia. Coal companies have declared bankruptcies and left the land ravaged and barren.

"I am delighted that the Democratic party has recognized the environmental and health harms of mountaintop removal and that they oppose this dangerous practice. Policies to support this statement are needed as soon as possible to protect the health and economy of the region where I live and make my home" --Laura Miller, Southwestern Virginia

The Alliance for Appalachia has worked for years to end the practice of Mountaintop Removal. Activists in Appalachia and beyond understand how the continued practice blocks a just, sustainable economy that is sorely needed in communities in this region.

This statement by the 2016 Democratic Party Convention acknowledges the extreme harm that has come to our region as a result of this damnable practice. Our prayer is that this declaration will lead to an increase in efforts by our governments to hold coal companies accountable for the damage they have caused and force them to live up to their promises to reclaim the land.

(The Alliance for Appalachia is a grassroots organization made up of member groups in eastern KY, southern WV, southwest VA, northeastern TN, and southwestern PA with the goals of ending mountaintop removal coal mining, putting a halt to destructive coal technologies, and supporting a sustainable and just economy in Appalachia.)