

Baker, West Virginia
or
4621 Que Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
November 19, 1970

Honorable Harley O. Staggers
(D.-W.Va.)
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Staggers:

Congratulations on your recent re-election. I am a resident, registered Democrat, and voter of Hardy County, West Virginia, and I am concerned, like you, with the future of our state. In this connection, I was distressed to read the enclosed article, and since reference was made to you by name, I want to call it to your attention and hope that you would give me an expression of your views on the basic issues concerned.

In this day and age, I hope we could be confident--as maybe we can--that the Congress of the United States would be responsive to the increasing concern that the voters and citizens have, lest we continue to ruin this country in the interest of quick profits as we have done so often in the past two hundred years.

I recently visited Shavers Fork and noted the tremendous inherent attractiveness of that region, but also noted evidences of water pollution and no evidence whatever of any native trout in the stream. I do believe that in those parts of West Virginia which have been mercifully spared the attentions of the strip-miners, such as Hardy County, people must fight to preserve what we still have. I know my neighbors increasingly feel this way and we hope that our representatives understand these feelings. I shudder when I read about still further efforts to introduce coal mining in the National Forest along Shavers Fork, for just one place. I hope the West Virginia Division of Water Resources has the guts to hold out against all kinds of special interests who will try to make a quick profit in that area also. I suppose if the State cannot protect itself in such areas as that, it cannot be protected anywhere. In any case, I would appreciate hearing how you stand on these questions and I'm sure my neighbors, with whom I'm in contact, would too.

Respectfully,

Ogden Williams

Enclosure:
As stated