

COAL ASH WALL OF SHAME

260 House Members Vote to Protect Polluters, not Constituents

On June 21, 2012, the House voted 260 to 138 to include an industry-sponsored coal ash provision in the final transportation bill. The 260 members who voted to oppose health and safety, often of their own constituents, are posted on our “Coal Ash Wall of Shame.”

What they voted for:

These 260 members voted for a provision that would:

- Allow hundreds of dangerous coal ash ponds, like the one that collapsed in 2008 in Kingston, Tennessee, to operate indefinitely without basic safety standards like mandatory inspections and appropriate engineering safeguards;
- Prevent the EPA from ever regulating coal ash and establishing national health and safety standards; and
- Allow states full discretion to ignore the urgent need for regulating coal ash disposal despite the fact that:
 - there are over 260 coal ash ponds that currently present a significant or high hazard to human health and the environment; and
 - there are nearly 200 sites where coal ash has already contaminated water with lead, arsenic and a range of toxic heavy metals.

Who these members are protecting:

These 260 members together represent districts that account for:

- 78 percent of the coal-ash contaminated sitesⁱ in the U.S.;
- 77 percent of the high hazard coal ash ponds;
- 85 percent of the significant hazard-rated coal ash ponds;
- 79 percent of the total coal ash ponds in the U.S.; and
- 78 percent of the coal ash ponds rated in “poor” condition following inspections by EPA.

Profile of the Members:

Notable among those who are leading the charge are members who have the highest number of coal ash ponds (or the largest ponds) and multiple coal ash contaminated sites in their districts. The following 10 members, with the exception of Reps. Tammy Baldwin, and David Loebsack, are also indebted to polluters, pulling their highest 2012 corporate campaign contributionsⁱⁱ from the electric utility and/or mining industries. These are only a few of the members with multiple ponds and coal ash-contaminated sites in their districts—there are 25 members with at least 8 coal ash ponds in their districts *who voted to prevent EPA health and safety regulations:*

- Rep. David McKinley (R- WV): 4 coal ash ponds (including 2 high hazard ponds, which include the largest coal ash pond in the U.S.) and 3 coal ash-contaminated sites;
- Rep. John Shimkus (R- IL): 19 coal ash ponds (including 3 significant-hazard ponds) and 3 coal ash-contaminated sites;
- Rep. Ed Whitfield (R- KY): 12 coal ash ponds (including 6 significant-hazard ponds) and 2 coal ash-contaminated sites;

- Rep. Peter Visclosky (D, IN): 22 coal ash ponds (including 2 high hazard ponds) and 2 contaminated sites;
- Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D- WI): 8 coal ash ponds (including 2 significant hazard ponds) and 2 contaminated sites;
- Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN): 29 coal ash ponds (including 18 significant hazard ponds) and 5 contaminated sites;
- Rep. James Clyburn (D- SC): 9 coal ash ponds (including 1 significant hazard dams) and five contaminated sites;
- Rep. Shelly Capito (R-WV): 6 coal ash ponds and 4 coal ash-contaminated sites;
- Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX): 7 coal ash ponds and 1 coal ash-contaminated site; and
- Rep. David Loebsack (D- IA): 26 coal ash ponds.

Check the Coal Ash Wall of Shame for your Representative. Demand that your Member represent *you*, not the polluter in your district. If your Representative is not on this shameful list, thank him or her for protecting your health and safety and the welfare of all Americans.

ⁱ <http://earthjustice.org/features/campaigns/in-harm-s-way-coal-ash-contaminated-sites>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.opensecrets.org>