**LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR CLEAN SAFE JOB GROWTH BEYOND COAL IN WV, with cc to President Obama**

**You were elected to protect ALL the citizens of West Virginia, just as the President was elected to protect ALL the citizens of America. Neither of you were elected to represent the interests of a corporate few at the expense of the rest of us.**

**In case you had not been paying attention while you were an attorney in Washington protecting the special interests of corporations that might be polluting or otherwise poisoning ALL the citizens of the America, the US Supreme Court declared that the Clean Air Act DID give the EPA the ability, indeed the responsibility, to regulate the emission of greenhouse gasses to mitigate global warming.**

**That includes cross border pollution.**

**So, as an engineer who has been dealing with the challenges of air quality for 50+ years, allow me to remind you of the realities of climate change (global warming to the uninformed). I might add that I have lived in West Virginia longer than you have, and thanks to an appointment by then Governor Manchin to the West Virginia Public Energy Authority, I have continued to study the science and engineering facts about coal fired power and its devastating health effects on the WV citizens…indeed citizens across the border in other States…like Virginia where my grandchildren live.**

**Coal is a Neanderthal fuel and energy source that is dying, and it should. (Its parallels to the demise of asbestos are remarkable, and should be studied by some academician someday.) We surely now know that the science is quite clear; coal mining is poisoning and killing too many miners, poisoning the mine neighbors, the truckers, and downwind residents of coal fired power plants, many of whom are “cross border”. Even more critically, it is poisoning the planet. There are less costly clean jobs creating alternatives.**

**The dangers of coal mining are well documented. Transporting it in trucks and trains through communities leaves a layer of toxic coal dust on everything they pass by every day. WVU studies of scientific evidence from health studies prove it. There are clean, less costly alternatives.**

**Burning coal is the worst single source of greenhouse gasses that are poisoning the planet. There is NO ALTERNATIVE PLANET!**

**From killing miners to killing the planet, we must and can transition to clean better jobs and a clean State, Country and planet...and even teach the power companies how to transition profitably to renewable distributed power. However, it will take visionary leadership, not regressive protection of out of date thinking.**

**The solid global economic evidence and trends are showing that the alternatives do none of this…and today cost less. Installed solar energy is now as low as $0.74 per watt…and still falling according to Moore’s Law. It is clean…no one has died EVER making or installing solar cells, and they cost less than coal. (I would be happy to bring all the evidence you would require to postulate these truths.)**

**For the sake of our children and their health, we ought to be embracing what is clearly a major global trend to employ renewable energy, particularly solar…and once installed, its free!**

**Your job, Mr. Attorney General, is to protect ALL the citizens, not the privileged few that have comprised your past law practice. Recognize that, and make the transition. Join President Obama in increasing the controls of GHG emissions under the Clean Air Act, as the US Supreme Court has decided they can and must do, so that ALL the citizens will be freed from the horrors of health destroying pollution. You, me, our children, our grandchildren, indeed all our citizens nationwide, deserve nothing less than Clean Air and Water, and no corporation has the right or privilege to poison our critical and natural life support resources.**

**p.s. Mr. President: Congratulations on your recent address and leadership in addressing the mitigation of the emissions of GHG’s for the health of all of us…and the planet! We *the majority* elected you to do that…and we know you will create jobs doing it.**