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Dear Friends,

'Tis the late winter season, the season to be wary- wary of the West Virginia Legislature, that is.

The 2018 regular legislative session began on January 10th. As we write this, it's the mid-session, 5th week of activity. So this is our annual request for your financial contributions to help support the WV Environmental Council lobby team.

While the winter season in West Virginia is normally hectic for everyone, here at WVEC we are walking the marble hallways of the Capitol every day. We have an experienced lobby team working diligently to promote our campaign priorities. But we are up against an army of well paid industry lobbyists representing, among others, the coal, gas, oil and electrical power industries whose agenda seems always to legalize activities that further despoil the air, water and land we depend on for sustenance of all living things.

Since October we have been meeting with Delegates and Senators during legislative interim meetings. We are already spending the money we are asking you to provide!

It's a simple request that doesn't need a lot of explanation. For 29 years the WV Environmental Council (WVEC) has been your voice at the West Virginia legislature- for the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the mountains, rivers and valleys you love so much. And the money that funds the WVEC lobbying effort comes from you, our friends.

We are facing critical issues this session. For example, already in this legislative session we are seeing bills to allow commercial logging in our State Parks! We are seeing bills that would allow the extraction of oil and gas minerals without the consent of owners of those mineral properties. We see bills to eliminate the office of Environmental Advocate at the WV Department of Environmental Protection, and to institute an office of *Industry Advocate* there. And we see the usual bills designed to further loosen requirements for responsible coal mining practices and to loosen coal mining lands reclamation requirements.

Will the DEP rules allow the coal industry to dump more **toxic aluminum** in our rivers and streams? Will the legislature step up to the plate and require more protections from **air pollution, dust and noise** at shale drilling sites? Will the governor and our legislature **EVER** do anything to support **renewable energy** in this state?

These are just a few of the reasons you need the WVEC lobby team at the Capitol.

Recently we received the following note from a Delegate who is one of our biggest supporters: "To all of the activists who keep the Environmental Council alive, please accept my deepest thanks for your hard work . . . What you do is so incredibly important . . . I cannot imagine what I would do without your timely help . . . You need to brag more - things would be SO MUCH WORSE without WVEC!!!"

So please help us continue to be your credible and effective voice for environmental issues at the legislature. Your financial support is more important than ever. Please send us your contribution today so that we can continue to fight the good fight for another 29 years!

Donations to WVEC are not tax deductible. To make your contribution tax deductible, make it payable to our 501c3 sister organization: **WV Fund for the Environment**.

Thanks so much for your support.

Keena Mullins, WVEC President

Frank Young, WVEC Treasurer

**WV Environmental Council- Representing West Virginia "Special Interests":
People Who Want to Breathe Clean Air and Drink Clean Water**