



May 5, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

On behalf of Dependable Power First Kentucky (DPK), a coalition of Kentucky leaders and citizens bound by a shared concern for the future of Kentucky's electricity grid, we write to express our strong support for your efforts to roll back harmful regulations that would undermine Kentucky's affordable and reliable electricity supply.

Kentucky ratepayers and industries benefit from some of the lowest retail electricity rates in the region, due in large part to a resource mix anchored by coal and natural gas which provide more than 90 percent of Kentucky's electricity. While we support an all-of-the-above energy strategy, coal remains the backbone of a reliable, resilient, and secure electricity grid in Kentucky.

We appreciate your leadership in reconsidering regulations that fail to adequately account for these realities. In particular, we support your efforts to repeal the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) that would have imposed significant compliance burdens even though effective emission controls are already widely deployed across the coal fleet.

Recent analyses further reinforce the importance of maintaining this foundation. A [December 2025](#) study by Energy Ventures Analysis found that continuing to operate existing coal plants is significantly more cost-effective than replacing them with new renewable generation. Even under favorable assumptions, replacement scenarios impose materially higher costs on consumers, in some cases increasing system costs by billions of dollars annually.

Recent events have also demonstrated the indispensable role of coal in maintaining reliability under stress. During Winter Storm Fern, coal-fired generation increased by [more than 30 percent](#) compared to the prior week, more than double the increase from natural gas, while wind and solar output declined. [Analysis of the event](#) found that coal generation reduced peak-day electricity costs by approximately \$1 billion and helped prevent significantly higher prices across impacted regions.

As electricity demand continues to grow, ensuring a reliable and resilient grid is more important than ever. Policy decisions must be grounded in observed system performance, not theoretical

assumptions that fail to account for dispatchability, fuel security, and real-world operating conditions.

Kentucky's economic future, continued development, and public safety depend on maintaining access to affordable and dependable electricity. We strongly support your efforts to craft balanced, durable policies that protect the environment while recognizing the essential role dispatchable resources play in preserving the reliability and affordability that have long defined Kentucky's electricity grid.

Sincerely,

Dependable Power First
Kentucky

Russell Coleman, Attorney
General of Kentucky

America's Power

East Kentucky Power
Cooperative

Big Rivers Electric
Cooperative

Kentucky Electric
Cooperatives

Kentucky Power

Kentucky Industrial
Utility Customers

LG&E and KU

Commonwealth Policy
Center

Kentucky Coal
Association

Hancock County
Industrial Foundation

Somerset-Pulaski Economic
Development Authority

DJ Johnson,
State Representative

Mayor Andrew Scott,
City of Coal Run

Charlie Castlen,
Judge Executive of
Daviess County

Steve Henry,
Judge Executive of
Webster County

Mack McGehee,
Judge Executive of
Muhlenberg County

Jack Whitfield,
Judge Executive of
Hopkins County

Jon Park,
Deputy Judge Executive of
Shelby County

Chris Skates,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission

Fancy Farm Vineyard