



[ABOUT ALEXANDER](#) | [CONSTITUENT SERVICES](#) | [VISITING D.C.](#) | [LEGISLATION](#) | [PRESS ROOM](#) | [STUDENTS](#) | [CONTACT](#)

"Be proud to say that we are all Americans." – Lamar Alexander

## PRESS RELEASES

PRESS ROOM

GO

Email This

Print This

### SENATORS CARDIN, ALEXANDER INTRODUCE BILL TO END THE DUMPING OF MINING WASTE INTO STREAMS

**March 25th, 2009** - WASHINGTON - U.S. Senators Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) today introduced bipartisan legislation that would prohibit the dumping of mining waste into streams, effectively ending the practice known as mountaintop mining. The Appalachia Restoration Act would amend the Clean Water Act to prevent the dumping of what is known as "excess spoil" from mountaintop mining into streams and rivers.

Mountaintop mining is a method of coal mining in which the summit of a mountain is removed to expose the coal beneath, and the resulting millions of tons of waste rock, dirt and vegetation are dumped into nearby stream and river valleys. More than 1 million acres of Appalachia have already been affected. An estimated 1,200 miles of headwater streams have been buried under tons of mining wastes. More than 500 mountains have been impacted, and homes have been ruined and drinking water supplies contaminated.

"My goal is to put a stop to one of the most destructive mining practices that has already destroyed some of America's most beautiful and ecologically significant regions," said Senator Cardin, Chairman of the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. "This legislation will put a stop to the smothering of our nation's streams and water systems and will restore the Clean Water Act to its original intent."

Coal is an essential part of our energy future, but it is not necessary to destroy our mountaintops in order to have enough coal," said Senator Alexander, a member of the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Committee on Environment and Public Works which has jurisdiction over this issue. "Millions of tourists spend tens of millions of dollars in Tennessee every year to enjoy the natural beauty of our mountains -- a beauty that, for me, and I believe for most Tennesseans, makes us proud to live here."

Mountaintop mining produces less than five percent of the coal mined in the United States. This bill does not ban other methods of coal mining, but instead would prevent this particular type of coal mining.

###

[« Previous Press Release](#)

[Next Press Release »](#)

[Press Releases](#)  
[News Articles](#)  
[Floor Statements](#)  
[Weekly Columns](#)  
[Photo Gallery](#)  
[Audio / Video](#)  
[Newsletter Archive](#)  
[Newsletter Sign-Up](#)

Office of Senator Alexander  
 SD-455 / Washington, DC 20510  
 Voice: (202) 224-4944  
 Fax: (202) 228-3398  
[State Offices](#)  
[Staff Directory](#)

**March 2009 Press Releases:****BROWSE BY:**

March (29)

2009 (73)

Go

-  March 25, 2009 - [Alexander: "President Obama's America Will Be Difficult for Our Children and Grandchildren to Afford"](#)
-  March 25, 2009 - [current Press Release](#)
-  March 25, 2009 - [Kerry, Alexander Introduce Medicare Patient IVIG Access Act to Ease Lifesaving Treatment](#)
-  March 24, 2009 - [Alexander on Administration's Budget: "This 10-year Budget Is a Blueprint for a Country Our Children and Grandchildren Can't Afford."](#)
-  March 23, 2009 - [Alexander Announces Ingram to Leave Senate, Names New Staff to Senate and Leadership Offices](#)
-  March 20, 2009 - [Alexander Says Budget Puts U.S. on Fast Track to Doubling National Debt](#)
-  March 19, 2009 - [Alexander, Byrd, Kennedy Push U.S. History in the Classroom](#)
-  March 19, 2009 - [Alexander: "It's the economy, Mr. President"](#)
-  March 19, 2009 - [Alexander, Corker, Wamp: Green McAdoo and Trail of Tears Bills Pass Senate](#)
-  March 16, 2009 - [DODD, ALEXANDER ANNOUNCE FINDINGS OF GAO ARTS EDUCATION STUDY](#)
-  March 16, 2009 - [Alexander Statement on President Obama's Speech on Credit Problems Facing Small Businesses](#)
-  March 12, 2009 - [Alexander Statement on Confirmation of David Ogden as Deputy Attorney General](#)
-  March 12, 2009 - [Alexander to Secretary Geithner: "President Obama Needs to Say 'I Will Fix The Banks'"](#)
-  March 12, 2009 - [Tennessee Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program](#)
-  March 12, 2009 - [Alexander, Corker, Duncan Announce Grant Funding to Aid Tellico Plains Volunteer Fire Department](#)
-  March 11, 2009 - [Alexander to Secretary Chu: "Clean Up Carbon Emissions From Existing Coal Plants"](#)
-  March 11, 2009 - [Alexander, Corker, Roe Announce \\$82,745 in Grant Funding to Aid Fall Branch Volunteer Fire Department](#)
-  March 11, 2009 - [Alexander, Corker, Gordon Announce Grant Funding to Aid Walter Hill Volunteer Fire Department](#)
-  March 10, 2009 - [Alexander Statement on President Obama's Announcement of Support for Merit Pay for Teachers](#)
-  March 10, 2009 - [Alexander Statement on Final Passage of the Omnibus Appropriations Act](#)
-  March 10, 2009 - [Alexander Announces Funding for Tennessee Projects](#)
-  March 10, 2009 - [Alexander: "Employee No Choice Act Is the Most Radical Piece of Legislation Before Congress"](#)
-  March 9, 2009 - [Alexander, Corker, Davis Announce Grant Funding to Aid Fire Departments in Tennessee's 4th Congressional District](#)
-  March 9, 2009 - [Alexander, Corker, Roe Announce Grant Funding to Aid Fire Departments in Tennessee's 1st Congressional District](#)
-  March 9, 2009 - [Alexander Statement on EPA Coal Ash Investigation](#)
-  March 5, 2009 - [Alexander Statement on Resolution Calling for Inspection of TVA and Nation's Coal Ash Facilities](#)
-  March 5, 2009 - [Alexander Gains Lead Role Over Smokies, National Parks](#)
-  March 4, 2009 - [Alexander Statement on D.C. School Vouchers](#)
-  March 4, 2009 - [Alexander, Corker, Davis Announce \\$258,320 for Fentress County Recycling & Solid Waste Program](#)

 Radio Clip | 
  Television Clip



[About RSS and Podcasting](#)

close

false

Galleries  
of  
by