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U.S. CONGRESSMAN
HAL ROGERS

KENTUCKY'S 5TH DISTRICT

Update From Hal

Dear Friend,

February proved to be a busy but inspirational month as I traveled around Southern and Eastern Kentucky to attend several events that are motivating people throughout our great region. Whether it was young people banding together to create new opportunities in their communities, or equipping our counties with the tools they need to enhance economic development- we have a lot to be proud of. Back in Washington, I had to ask some tough questions about the state of our budget and where we go from here.

In Kentucky, I was encouraged after I attended numerous events that left everyone with a greater sense of optimism for the future of our region. I started February by joining former Governor Paul Patton as a guest speaker for the Young Professionals of East Kentucky (YPEK) Forum in Hazard. Young men and women from across the district are stepping up to prepare themselves for the reins of leadership. Dozens of college graduates are networking, sharing ideas and committing their talents to the progress of Southern and Eastern Kentucky. For far too long we have had to export our best and brightest to other parts of our state for education and employment. I commend YPEK President Kevin Smith and all the members for organizing a combined effort to open more doors of opportunity for young professionals in our region.

IN THE NEWS

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[Pikeville College Installs Patton as President](#)

TAKE THE SURVEY

Do you think the EPA should have the sole authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions that impact the coal industry?

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SPOTLIGHT



Click [here](#) to watch Congressman Rogers question Secretary Janet Napolitano.

But the leadership and hard work doesn't end here. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Center for Rural Development are improving our communities one grant at a time. In 2005, ARC and the Center created a partnership to provide mini-grants and training for our distressed counties to develop and implement community strategies. Since then, \$210,000 has been delivered to 17 cities in our region. The years of planning for downtown revitalization, tourism and economic development projects are now coming to fruition in many of our communities. Thanks to these grants, our region has more opportunities to enhance tourism and lay the groundwork to attract new jobs. On February 8th, I had the privilege of delivering some of these grants to six more communities. I look forward to seeing the results from the recipients: Tri-Cities Heritage Development in Harlan County, Letcher County Convention and Tourism Commission, City of Prestonsburg, Wayne County Fiscal Court, City of Stanford and the Harlan County Fiscal Court.

I was also able to attend the inauguration of former Governor Patton as President of Pikeville College in mid February. As you know, my motto has always been to plan your work and work your plan and Governor Patton truly exemplifies this idea. Not only does he have a way of bringing people together, he has a record of getting things done. Pikeville College will be well served under the leadership of Governor Patton- his desire to learn and move our region forward is truly contagious.

Back in Washington I continue to stand up for our Kentucky values. As you may have heard, the Kentucky House recently passed a resolution that encourages Congress to stop the EPA's onerous mandates and regulations against our signature coal industry. I applaud our state legislators for their bold action, and stand with them against President Obama's war on coal. That is why I co-sponsored a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that puts Congress in control of our regulatory laws instead of unelected bureaucrats at the EPA. As you know, thousands of jobs in our region are dependent on the coal industry and it is time for the EPA to stop playing political games with the hard-working families of Kentucky's fifth district.

I'm also frustrated with misplaced priorities when it comes to protecting our nation's homeland. Last week I questioned Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on President Obama's proposed budget for 2011. This budget not only makes significant cuts to the men and women of our Coast Guard, it cuts border patrol agents positioned near Mexico. With a drug war waging throughout our country, now is not the time to take precious resources away. Every major American city has been affected by the Mexican drug cartels and their presence trickles down into our communities and further spreads the epidemic of drug abuse. It is outrageous that

in the midst of these challenging times, President Obama's budget proposes a double digit increase for Secretary Napolitano's personal staff yet slashes funding for our boots on the ground. I don't know about you but I was raised to live within my means- and I would argue that we should use our resources to stop the drug war at the border before giving bureaucrats a raise. To see clips from the hearing, visit my [YouTube](#) site by clicking [here](#).

There is no doubt that the debate in Washington will continue to heat up this wintry weather. I encourage you to send me an email and let me know what you think by clicking [here](#).

Warmest Regards,



Hal

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