

**From:** Lamanna, Isabelle  
**Sent:** Sat, 8 Feb 2025 01:03:05 +0000  
**To:** CHamilton@wvcoal.com  
**Cc:** Hebert, Ashley  
**Subject:** RE: Invitation For Secretary Wright to Address the West Virginia Coal Association Annual Meeting  
**Attachments:** Sec. Chris Wright\_Event Request Form.docx

Good evening, Chris!

I hope you are having an awesome Friday! Thank you so much for reaching out and for the invite for the Secretary to join you guys in April.

Please have the appropriate member of your team fill out the attached event request form and return it (b)(6) - Secretary Wright for our records and consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks so much, have a great weekend!

Izzy Lamanna

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**From:** Chris Hamilton <[CHamilton@wvcoal.com](mailto:CHamilton@wvcoal.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 1:44 PM  
**To:** Secretary <(b)(6) - Secretary Wright >  
**Cc:** Jessie Gibeaut <[jgibeaut@wvcoal.com](mailto:jgibeaut@wvcoal.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Invitation For Secretary Wright to Address the West Virginia Coal Association Annual Meeting



## West Virginia Coal Association

200 Association Drive, Ste. 160, Charleston, WV 25311 • (b) (6) • Fax (b) (6)  
▪ [www.wvcoal.com](http://www.wvcoal.com)

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February 5, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

I am writing to invite you to address our Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium and Coal Show scheduled for April 15-16, 2025, in the Grand Ball Room of the Charleston Coliseum and Conference Center in Charleston, West Virginia.

The Mining Symposium is the premier mining program of the year in West Virginia, attracting over 400 mining professionals from West Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

A general review and discussion of the nation's energy challenges and the role of coal under your administration would be desirable and timely.

Ideally, we would prefer to feature you with Governor Patrick Morrisey in our Keynote Session on the morning of Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> but would accommodate whatever time or day best fits your schedule. This year's program begins at 9 a.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup> and runs through 4:30 pm on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

We applaud President Trump's energy actions and policy statements over the past couple weeks and look forward to a "new era of domestic energy production" under your leadership and administration.

We hope our 2025 Mining Symposium lines up with your schedule and availability and your personal interest to engage with our members.

We look forward to working with you and your team over the coming years and equally look forward to your presence and remarks in April.

Sincerely,

Chris R. Hamilton  
President and CEO



Chris Hamilton  
West Virginia Coal Association  
President  
[chamilton@wvcoal.com](mailto:chamilton@wvcoal.com)

(b) (6)

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# Event Information Request Form

Thank you for your interest in hosting the U.S. Secretary of Energy at your event. To ensure that the appropriate individual within the Department of Energy is participating in your event and because the Office of the Secretary is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards, we need the information requested below before we can agree to confirm a speaker.

**Please respond to the questions below and send your response to (b)(6) - Secretary Wright.**  
If you have any questions you may contact the Secretary's Scheduling Office at (b) (6) .

Title of the Event (please note if the event is a weekly, monthly, annual, etc.):	
Date of Event (please note if the date is flexible):	
Event Location (venue, address, city and state/country):	
Point(s) of Contact (Name, Email, Phone):	
Briefly describe the event in detail including the purpose and desired role of the Secretary (i.e. deliver keynote remarks, attend an event, meet with attendees etc.):	
Is the event a fundraiser? If yes, please explain who it is benefiting (i.e. specific charity, a political candidate, etc.):	
<b>Audience</b>	
Approximately how many people are expected to attend the event?	
Please describe the target audience of the event (elected officials, local community leaders, academics, industry representatives, public sector representatives, etc.).	
Will the attendees at the event include persons with a diversity of views or interests, or representatives from throughout an industry or profession, or the range of persons interested in a matter? (If yes, please describe.)	

Is the event open to the public (this includes ticketed individuals)? If not, please describe who is privately invited.	
Who are other VIPs or speakers <u>confirmed</u> and in what role?	
Who are other VIPs or speakers <u>invited</u> ?	
<b>Remarks</b>	
If you are requesting remarks, are there any specific issues you would like the Secretary to highlight/address in his remarks?	
What is the desired format of his remarks (will he be delivering the keynote, sharing the stage, participating in a panel or roundtable, etc.)?	
What is the public registration/ticket fee to attend/participate in the event?	
Will there be a teleprompter available? Will there be a podium?	
<b>Communications/Press</b>	
Is the event open or closed to press?	
If open, are you expecting local, state, or national news coverage?	
If this is an annual event, which news outlets typically cover the event?	
Will you be advertising or live streaming the event on any social media outlets or websites? (If yes, please explain.)	
<b>Logistics/Other*</b>	
If this invitation includes any gifts to the Secretary (e.g., waived registration/conference event fee; meals or refreshments; receptions or other entertainment; informational materials; award; transportation; memento or token of appreciation), please identify them and provide their monetary value. Please also identify how the value was determined. (Please attach separate sheet if necessary.)	
Does the invitation extend to the Secretary's spouse or other guest? If yes, will others in	

attendance generally be accompanied by a spouse or other guest?	
Will the Secretary be asked to sign a speaking/participation agreement or release related to this event? If so, please provide a copy.	
If the Secretary is not able to attend, is a surrogate desired? If yes, anyone specific?	
Any additional notes or information?	
<b>Event Host and Sponsor</b>	
Who is the <u>event host</u> ? (Please identify and provide background on the Event host as well as any other organization involved in the Event.)	
<u>Event host</u> website/url.	
Is the <u>event host</u> a registered lobbyist or lobbying organization, and/or registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? (If yes, please identify.)	
Is the <u>event host</u> a partisan political candidate, a representative of a political party or a registered political action committee (PAC)? (If yes, please identify.)	
Is the <u>event host</u> a 501(c)(3) organization or a media organization? (If yes, please identify.)	
Is the <u>event host</u> seeking or currently have any business interests with the Department such as permits, contracts, litigation, grants, etc.? (If yes, please describe.)	
Who are the <u>sponsors</u> of the event? Please identify and provide background information on the individual and/or entity.	
Are any event <u>sponsors</u> seeking or do they currently have any business interests with the Department such as permits, contracts, litigation, grants, etc.? (If yes, please describe.)	
With which Bureau or Agency does your agenda most align? Please list all, if more than one.	
<b>Partisan Political Candidate or Elected Official Participation</b>	

<p>Will any partisan political candidate or elected official participate in the event? If so, please identify and explain role.</p>	
<p>Is the coordination of any elected official's involvement being handled solely by their official staff, or is there any campaign staff involvement or coordination?</p>	
<p>If a candidate for office or elected official is participating in the event, is the event taking place in their respective district/jurisdiction, and will the entire delegation for the respective district/jurisdiction(s) been invited? If not, please explain.</p>	

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE: The purpose of these questions is to elicit information relevant to the ethics analysis and is not a solicitation or request for anything of value by the Department or any of its employees.**

DRAFT / DELIBERATIVE

**From:** Chris Hamilton  
**Sent:** Mon, 17 Feb 2025 22:46:06 +0000  
**To:** Lamanna, Isabelle  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] WVCA Release on Chris Wright Statements

pls share with the Secretary's press office. Ty



# West Virginia Coal Association

200 Association Dr. Suite 160, Charleston WV 25311 ▪ (304) 342-4153 ▪ Fax 342-7651

[www.wvcoal.com](http://www.wvcoal.com)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2025

### CONTACT:

Chris Hamilton  
(304) 342-4153

## WV Coal Association Commends Energy Secretary Chris Wright's Advocacy for Coal-Fired Power Plants

**Charleston, W.Va.** – The West Virginia Coal Association (WVCA) applauds U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright for his recent statements emphasizing the importance of maintaining coal-fired power plants across the United States. In a time when energy policy is increasingly scrutinized, Secretary Wright's commitment to halting the closure of additional coal plants aligns with the interests of West Virginia's economy and America's need for energy security.

Secretary Wright recently stated, "We should not close any more coal plants," highlighting concerns that retiring these facilities has led to increased electricity costs and grid instability.

His remarks resonate deeply with the West Virginia Coal Association's mission to ensure that West Virginia continues to benefit from its rich coal resources, which currently account for nearly 90 percent of the state's electricity generation.

Chris Hamilton, President of the West Virginia Coal Association, remarked, "Secretary Wright's comments reflect a clear understanding of the critical role coal plays in providing affordable and reliable energy. Our state has consistently enjoyed some of the lowest electricity rates in the nation thanks to our reliance on coal."

Hamilton further noted that West Virginia's retail electricity rates are nearly 20% lower than the national average, providing economic stability for families and businesses alike.

The recent white paper by Energy Ventures Analysis supports these claims, demonstrating that states heavily dependent on coal have experienced stable electricity prices compared to those that have shifted towards renewable energy sources. "Policies that force utilities away from coal often lead to price hikes and uncertainty for consumers," Hamilton added.

As discussions around energy transition continue, the West Virginia Coal Association urges policymakers to recognize the invaluable contributions of coal to both local economies and national energy security. The association remains committed to advocating for policies that support coal production and utilization as essential components of America's energy landscape.

For additional information, contact Chris Hamilton at (304) 342-4153.

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