



VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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Building Opportunity in the Mountain State

The Honorable Alex X. Mooney, Congressman
United States House of Representatives

U.S. Congressman Alex X. Mooney (R-W.Va.), representing West Virginia's 2nd Congressional district, was sworn into office on January 6, 2015. He serves on the House Budget Committee, House Natural Resources Committee and Subcommittees on Energy and Mineral Resources as well as Oversight and Investigations.

He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. During his time at Dartmouth, he was a member of the football and rugby teams and served as president of the Dartmouth Coalition for Life.

He and his family reside in Charles Town, West Virginia, in Jefferson County.

When I visit the counties of the Eastern Panhandle, I've never heard one person tell me, "We need more government intervention into our personal lives and businesses." Instead, the concerns that I hear are that there is too much government intervention in our lives.

I agree with the citizens that I am blessed to represent in Congress. Unnecessary government intrusion is hurting our state's job creation, our businesses and our families by overregulating us to the breaking point.

Some of the newest crippling regulations handed down by the Office of Surface Mining are President Barack Obama's Stream Protection Rule and the Environmental Protection Agency's new ozone standard that will put West Virginia coal out of business. Recent studies conducted on behalf of the National Mining Association estimated that job loss in our region could be as high as 80,000. These new rules and standards are the type of government interference that is simply unacceptable and harmful to our state.

I fought back against our current administration and this regulation by submitting H.R. 1644, the Supporting Transparent Regulatory and Environmental Actions in Mining Act, also known as the STREAM Act. The STREAM Act seeks to prevent implementation of a new stream buffer zone rule designed to shut down all surface mining and some underground mining in the Appalachian region. My bill will stop this destructive regulation in its tracks.

You can count on me to keep fighting for our jobs in West Virginia. Too often, the federal government gets in the way of business which creates jobs. I believe the government's role is to create an economic environment that contributes to job growth.

I am working in Congress to pass common sense legislation that keeps the government out of West Virginians' lives and increases opportunities for our workers, small businesses and entrepreneurs. That's why I voted for the Small Business Tax Relief Act, which allows small businesses to



Congressman Alex Mooney visiting the Railside Market in Summit Point, West Virginia • photo credit: Office of the Congressman



*Congressman Alex Mooney visiting the Macy's Distribution Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia
photo credit: Office of the Congressman*

simple: "The people who live and work here are the hardest workers we have ever seen."

West Virginians are not looking for government handouts, they want jobs. Small businesses are the backbone that makes up the U.S. economy and it is my belief that the federal government should be enabling them to grow and create more jobs, not penalizing them.

If there is anything that I can do to be helpful to you and your business, please feel free to contact my Martinsburg office by calling (304) 264-8810. ▽

expense up to \$500,000 of investments in new equipment and property annually.

West Virginia entrepreneurs spend too much of their time trying to figure out complicated tax codes and worrying if their expenses will skyrocket due to burdensome laws like the Affordable Care Act. Small business owners should be able to spend their time creating jobs rather than complying with burdensome government regulations.

When government does not get in the way of job growth, we see our state do great things. The Eastern Panhandle is a prime example.

This is the fastest growing area in our state. The people of our community have come

together to create an environment that helps build industry. We have state-of-the-art career and technical colleges that train tomorrow's workforce. My hope is that we can continue to expand our state's community and technical college system. That's why, last year, I introduced the Technical Education and Career Help (TEACH) Act, which will direct more resources toward critical skills training, to better prepare our workforce to meet the needs of employers across West Virginia. The people of our state want to work and are some of the hardest workers in the country.

Just last month, I was touring an international business located in Kearneysville, and I asked them why they located their multimillion dollar business in the Eastern Panhandle. Their answer was plain and