



SIERRA
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April 30, 2009

Dr. Gordon Gee
President, The Ohio State University
205 Bricker Hall
190 N Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Gee:

As one of the largest grassroots environmental organizations in Ohio, the Sierra Club Ohio chapter would ordinarily have been pleased with your appointment as co-chair of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Energy Initiative Advisory Committee. We have long advocated that Ohio move towards an energy future of increased energy efficiency, clean, renewable energy generation and reduction in our contribution to global warming. We expect The Ohio State University to take a leadership role in developing truly green energy technologies.

Our congratulations are tempered by a serious concern that your continued service on the board of Massey Energy is a conflict of interest. Massey Energy is notorious for its disdain of the environmental impacts of its business. It is one of the largest practitioners of surface coal mining, including mountain top removal. This practice has destroyed over 500 mountaintops in Appalachia and polluted the surrounding watersheds. In response to the charge that it violated the Clean Water Act more than 4,500 times, Massey Energy agreed to pay \$20 million, the largest civil penalty in EPA's history levied against a company for wastewater discharge permit violations.

We cannot take The Ohio State University's commitment to renewable energy jobs and sustainable technology seriously when its president is associated with an industry responsible for such extensive environmental damage. We urge you to immediately resign from the board of Massey Energy. Only then will you be credible as a leader for green energy in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Enid Nagel
Chair, Sierra Club Ohio chapter

Mary Beth Lohse
Vice Chair, Sierra Club Ohio chapter