

THE THOUGHTFUL COAL MINER

COAL, CLIMATE, & ENVIRONMENTAL BACKLASH



How did we get to this point?

After years of hard work, and millions of dollars invested into environmental advocacy campaigns, marches, and protests, something strange happened. The political landscape of the nation shifted once again to support economics over environmental protection. Regulatory agencies meant to protect public health and safety have been overtaken by industry officials yielding dangerous conflicts of interests. Important studies and enforcement initiatives are facing defunding, and even social justice has come under threat. As our country continues to broaden its political divide, many people are left wondering what went wrong?

Appalachia has risen as a microcosm to the nation's underlying socioeconomic problems, and while there exists a great potential to find truth within the Appalachian experience, there's a problem. Continued exploitation of Appalachia's social issues within the national media has left people focusing on the long-held stereotypes associated with the region. Without understanding the deeper contexts that shaped Appalachia into what it is today, little hope will be found in better understanding our national divide.

Beginning in October, Nick Mullins, former fifth generation underground coal miner, energy transition advocate, and author of the blog *The Thoughtful Coal Miner*, will be undertaking a nationwide speaking tour to discuss the economic and political forces that turned one of the nation's largest labor rights strongholds, into a region of pro-industry attitudes based upon modern conservative values. Through his presentations, Mullins hopes to help audiences understand the issues working-class communities face, while illustrating the need to rethink our communications framework so that we can build stronger relationships both politically and culturally.

Topics will include:

- Corporate Manipulation of Cultural & Political Values
- Environmental/Liberal Backlash in Rural Communities
- The Power of the Jobs vs. Environment Debate
- Audience Based Communications Strategies

Dates and Areas

October – November '17	Mid-Atlantic & Northeast (including Appalachia)
January – February '18	Southern US
March – April '18	West and Mid-West



Nick Mullins is a 9th generation Appalachian and was the 5th generation of his family to work in the underground coal mines of central Appalachia. He is a 2016 graduate of Berea College where he received his B.A. in communications with additional focuses in Appalachian studies and sustainability and environmental studies. Nick's writing and commentary [have been featured in a variety of publications](#) including *Yes! Magazine*, *Audubon Magazine*, *The Hill*, *The Washington Post*, C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, NPR's *The World* and many others. Nick's work in Appalachian issues earned him the 2015 Stammer Appalachian Service Award, and his research into the receptivity of environmentalists and environmental messaging in the Appalachian coalfields earned accolades within the undergraduate communications community. Nick's work has also included two cross-country public outreach tours, and the short documentary *Coal Mined*. When he isn't working, Nick enjoys spending time outdoors with his family.

Coal, Climate, and Environmental Backlash is a self-funded tour. For information on how to help support the tour, please contact Nick directly, or see the [support](#) website on.

In addition to presentations and lectures, screenings of the documentary film *Blood on the Mountain* (www.bloodonthemountain.com) are being offered separately. *

For information regarding speaking fees, donations, or to book an event, please contact

Nick Mullins
P.O. Box 261
Berea, KY 40403
Phone: (859) 868-8950 | E-mail: Nick.Mullins@BreakingClean.org
www.thethoughtfulcoalminer.com | www.breakclean.com

*Public Screening/Library Use licensing will be required for postsecondary institutions.

**Tour dates are flexible and subject to change dependent upon requests.



The Thoughtful Coal Miner



Breaking Clean
Communications. Media. Advocacy.



@thoughtfulminer