

Arch Coal Shareholder Meeting Question
(as prepared for delivery)
Justin Danhof, Esq.
General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
The National Center for Public Policy Research
April 24, 2014

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, a free-market think-tank, representing shareholder David Ridenour, who is president of our think-tank. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

I'm here to ask you about what many people call a "war on coal" by environmental groups, the left and large parts of our government and to ask why we aren't fighting it harder.

More than shareholder value is at stake, although it is, but this fight is also important to our families, our communities and our country.

I assume the company has lobbyists, and I'm not here to say they aren't doing their job when they buttonhole Congressional staffers to talk about this or that regulation. Maybe they are or are not; I do not know. What I do know comes from the perspective of a think-tank that has worked in the areas of sound science as applied to the global warming theory since the Reagan Administration, and consistently and publicly defended the value of the energy industry to our nation and told the truth about the energy industry. And from that perspective, our think-tank can tell you, industry is not pulling its weight. It is not telling the American people its side of the story.

The staff of our think-tank are regular guests on radio and TV shows - on average, about 200 times per month, often on energy issues. Do you know how many fact sheets or talking points we get from the coal industry every year that we can review so as to include in our interviews information you have that is valuable for the public and policy makers to know?

The answer is zero. None. We don't get this information even though we are allies in the cause of jobs and economic growth and low-cost, reliable energy. Neither does anyone we know.

When the left or the environmentalists tell lies about the coal industry in public forums, does our think-tank get emails or press releases correcting the record? No. When someone steps up to defend the value of coal, or to criticize its attackers, are those quotes circulated to everyone possible in the policy community? Never that we've seen.

So my question is this. Why aren't you fighting? Or if you are, why can't we tell? Are you afraid of criticism from environmental groups? Because if you are, that doesn't matter. They and their mega-donors like Mayor Bloomberg want this industry and this company dead. If you are polite to them, they will still want you dead. You have no choice but to fight.

I know how valuable coal is to our economy, but can you honestly say that there are not politicians in Washington who would vote to close down this industry if the left demanded it, and damn the consequences? Of course there are, there are many of them, and if the coal industry does not start to do a far better job of telling its story, there soon will be many

more. And I don't mean hiring some expensive PR firm and calling it a day, or trusting the job to a trade association that so far this year has put out a grand total of one press release. I mean telling the stories of people who will lose their jobs if this war on coal continues; putting the left on the defensive and rebutting lies that are told with fact sheets and informational resources, every day?

In conclusion, then, will you commit to upping your game in terms of fighting to get the facts out there; to developing a comprehensive strategy to get your story told, and executing it?

Contact:

*David Almasi at (202) 543-4110 x11 or (703) 568-4727 (text-enabled) or
dalmasi@nationalcenter.org*

The National Center for Public Policy Research

501 Capitol Court NE

Washington DC 20002

(202) 543-4110

www.nationalcenter.org

www.conservativeblog.org

@NationalCenter