

Biography – Douglas Ray Killen, II

House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Public Witness Hearing – 3/18/15

My name is Douglas Ray Killen, II. To say that I am a family man would be an understatement. I have seven kids, three of my own, one adopted, one in the adoption process, and two foster. I have also been involved with the foreign exchange program in my hometown.

I grew up the oldest of three in a small neighborhood that consists of a bunch of coal miners. Accustomed to being around adults, I was mature for my age. By the age of 13, I felt pressure placed on me by my family for higher expectations. I gradually stopped my extracurricular activities and chose to work instead until the age of 25. Then the promise of good money from coal and a better life for my family and I came knocking at my door.

Coal mining is a profession made honorable by the hardworking Appalachian people who make daily sacrifices with the hope of providing a better life for themselves and their families. It was a profession that they made the best of, standing shoulder-to-shoulder going through decades of struggle.

My generation was told to do well in school so we wouldn't have to face working in the coal mines. Those people were wrong. I am a coal miner, a proud miner, with deep love for my family and friends at the mines. From the first day I stepped foot in the mines I have loved it. I have worked as a contractor, an equipment operator, and boss.

I am currently at a union job, serving on the mine committee and chairman for the safety committee. I work with numerous people on both sides – labor and industry. I work with both federal and state inspectors, along with our legislators, senators, and congressmen. I am outspoken and will go fight for what's right. Love me or hate me, I am respected by my peers in the coal industry for standing up for what's right.