

# Mountaintop Removal Resolution

RESOLUTION: Passed at the Business Meeting of the Appalachian Studies Association, March 20, 1999, Abingdon, Virginia

WHEREAS, mountain top removal coal mining is extremely profitable to the coal companies who practice it, and

WHEREAS, a large part of its profitability is that many fewer miners are required than in the usual traditional methods of coal mining, and

WHEREAS, entire tops of mountains have been removed in the Appalachian areas of the states of West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Ohio, and

WHEREAS, the removal of mountaintops has resulted in severe and unlawful damage to the homes of persons living in the nearby communities, along with damage to wells, the bombarding of their homes with "blast rock," and massive amounts of dust, and

WHEREAS, the millions and millions of tons of earth and rock removed from the tops of mountains are dumped into the valleys next to these mountains totally destroying the springs and the headwaters of streams in these valleys, along with all animal and plant life in them, and

WHEREAS, mountain top removal mining, by destroying home places, is also destroying ancestral ground, sacred ground where generations after generations have lived, worshiped as their God has led them, married, made and birthed babies, taken family meals, slept in peace, died and been buried, and

WHEREAS, Environmental Protection Agency staff has stated that the long-term effects of mountain top removal mining is unstudied and unknown and that increasing the acreage of these valley fills prior to studying the long-term effects on the environment is ill-advised, and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian region has a long history of outside corporations profiting from the extraction of the region's resources in such a way that the prosperity is not equitably shared with the residents of the region, and that the environment has been damaged by such outside resource extraction, and that this damage harms the region's current economy and future economic potential, and

WHEREAS, the sanctity and sacredness of all life and the natural environment created by God should not be destroyed in the name of corporation profit,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Appalachian Studies Association implores the Governors, legislatures, and other appropriate agencies in the Appalachian coal-producing states to require that mountain top removal/valley fill mining be stopped immediately.

