

J. SCOTT FINCH

125 Grove Road
Prosperity, PA 15329

724-225-1976
cell 724-350-4342

July 24, 2006

Dear Editor,

On July 18th, an interesting get together occurred at the South Franklin Twp. community building.

As a directly affected resident, under the terms of the law, acting on my own behalf, I arrived at the public conference/hearing being held by the PA.. D.E.P. with an armload of findings of fact, case law decisions, legal briefs giving jurisdictional and pre-emptive authority over the D.E.P. to a municipality or an individual aggrieved citizen granted by the Bituminous Mining Subsidence and Land Conservation Act, and a 60 day notice of intent, all to be placed into the public record of a local coal mine permit application. I quickly noted the strangers in attendance.

Being born and raised in South Franklin Twp. and now residing in Morris, I personally knew or recognized most everyone there. One well-dressed woman who was happily engaged in conversation all day with D.E.P. officials quickly caught my eye and no one in attendance seemed to know who she was. Towards the end of the four hour event I had a rare and divine opportunity to view a piece of paper she held in her hand. When I saw its matter I immediately interrupted her conversation. "Who are you?" and "Why is my name and address penciled on that blank sheet of paper?" I asked. Her first answer was her name and she described herself as being State House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese's "right hand man." Her answer to the second question was so lame and deceptive that I truly forgot what she even said due to the distraction of all the red flags waving in my head. What were her motives and why was she here? Rep. Bill DeWeese does not represent a single individual in the three municipalities in Washington County overlying this coal mining application revision. Why are you here? And why do you have my number? Could it be to find out who is stirring up all the bees? Could it be to find out who's been biting at the heels of one of your biggest benefactors? This well versed woman was standing here with a polite smile on her face while feeding me the biggest plate of BS I've ever been asked to digest, as to why my name and address, and only my name and address were penciled on a blank sheet of paper she held in her hand. My viewing of my name was truly by accident and she was truly caught off guard.

Since you have chosen to cross county lines and political boundaries Mr. DeWeese, so

too have I. Since no one wants to ask you these hard questions publicly, I'll step up to the liberty.

1. Why are your most courageous moves; the midnight passage of Act 54 (a coal mining law detrimental to most citizens), the midnight pay grab, and the midnight destruction of a local treasure, Duke Lake at Ryerson Station State Park, always perpetrated in the middle of the night when no one is watching, and who do these actions really serve?

2. Your being on the "Friends of Ryserson Committee," why not use your powerful influence to subpoena shift employees, mine records, and DEP and MSHA mine inspection reports to either support or deport the rampant rumors and reports of a local coal mine being dangerously flooded at the time of the midnight dam destruction? Could it be you don't want the public to know? In trying to get answers to some rather simple questions, your choice of 75 cent words at the local 25 cent store has alienated you from most of you constituents.

3. With agriculture being so important to our local and state economy, why have you stood idly by and not only permitted but actually promoted the rape and pillage of thousands and thousands of acres of prime farmland and the untold irreversible destruction and devastation to this areas water resources all in the name of short-sighted economic development?

4. In a recent Observer-Reporter newspaper article I could not help but notice you've had a political warchest of several hundred thousand dollars. I would like to ask every one of your constituents if they've ever given you money, and if they haven't, "where did you get it all?" Whose interests are you best serving? In your zeal to achieve the highest position in the House you've lost site of your homeland and the people who have enabled you to achieve such a position of power.

5. Have you done anything positive about the continuous destruction of Interstate 79 south of Waynesburg or the devastation to the gamelands near Kirby? I would be ashamed if this happened under my watch.

Laws supporting responsible coal mining coupled together with citizens' rights would not only protect our land and water resources, but also would create literally thousands of new mining jobs. Every coal operator would be on an even playing field with no more competitive edge over the competition than what is currently in place. The rules would be the same for all. In further conversation with your counterpart, I laughed when she told me "Mr. DeWeese actually opposes Act 54 and has tried to get it repealed and amended but can get no support from his colleagues."

The winds of change are beginning to blow strong like a globally warmed hurricane. With over three months before election day you still have time to shine Mr. DeWeese, but I believe the best we'll be seeing is a dim illumination. I believe you've finally met your match in this challenging, honorable, and brave young man hailing from Nineveh. People of Greene County, this man deserves your attention. You can go to bed on election day knowing you've been a critical and crucial part of making such an honorable and positive change to the rape of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

I advocate but don't anticipate a truly factual public response in plain English to these tough questions.

