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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

January 2022 E-mail Bulletin

Martha Woodward, 1st VP, woodward@marshall.edu
Wendy Thomas, 2nd VP, wxtomas@frontier.com



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Voting Rights ... Everyone's Right

The League of Women Voters Huntington Chapter, proudly endorses the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.



Recently, a committee was authorized to identify strategies to remind our members and community advocates to contact our Senators in support of the two Bills.

The committee launched a writing campaign to urge members to contact Senator Shelly Moore Capito to express support for the bills. Members were also asked to contact Senator Joe Manchin to support filibuster reform for the Voting Rights Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. In addition, a letter to the editor from the League was written to the Herald Dispatch in support. The committee also created a platform to gain support through social media.

Both bills are significant pieces of voting rights legislation that tackle different challenges. The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act will restore the original Voting Rights Act of 1965 and will strengthen the freedom to vote. It will ensure that every vote is counted, protect against election destruction and prevent voting

discrimination. The Freedom to Vote Act will extend our voting rights, protect dark money, end gerrymandering and protect elections from voter suppression. Together, these two bills will restore election integrity and strengthen our democracy.

Please join us in our efforts to protect voting rights. For democracy to work for us all, we all have a responsibility to stand up and be heard.

Marsha Dawson – chair; Marcia Daoust; and Janice Gossett

Bitcoin Blockchain Data Processing and the Use of Fossil Fuel Energy Sources

Nyoka Baker Chapman,
LWVWV Natural Resources
Committee



A few simple searches and one can see the trails of the Bitcoin ‘gold rush.’ The use of fossil fuel energy sources to meet the outrageous energy demands required to produce cryptocurrency has prompted royalty owners and their corporations to buy out entire coal-fired power plants or rely on entire gas well sources to operate off the grid to run algorithms to solve problems that authenticate blockchain proof-of-work. With walls lined with computers up to the ceilings and packed like bricks, running 24/7, these facilities spit out greenhouse gases like any other fossil fuel industry to the detriment of the living entities within their realms. Such data centers can also create noise at around 95 decibels (the sound of a freight train is typically at 85 decibels) and the relentless nuisance compounds community complaints.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFRfSAAzRYg>

Our LWVWV Natural Resources Committee discovered in early December that a facility with similar characteristics had applied for an air quality permit with the WVDEP. Marion Energy Partners, LLC, had requested the permit to build a facility at 5900 Morgantown Industrial Park and would be relying on its own gas well to

provide energy to run its generators. We were informed that there was a deadline to request a public meeting with the WVDEP. Our committee responded and along with other submitters received verification that a public meeting would be held on 1/11/22.

The LWVWV worked in coalition with members of the WV Sierra Club and advocate citizens in the Morgantown area to coordinate discovery and questions for the public meeting. Our committee held a Zoom meeting on 1/05 and was joined by WVDEP Advocate Edward Maguire to open a dialogue on the pending 1/11 meeting. Findings from research and the environmental impact of such data centers were shared. For the WVDEP the issuance of an air quality permit would only require that a business prove that they could meet current air quality standards. We learned that Air Quality Permits do not address noise and that the details of a facility's function are not required to be defined when permit applications are submitted.

The Seneca Lake Guardian, an environmental group from the Finger Lakes region of NY, became aware of activities in WV that were similar to what they were dealing with in their own state and reached out to one of our Morgantown colleagues. Yvonne Taylor, Vice President of the organization and two of her associates met with our group by zoom on 1/08. The meeting made clear the real impacts that Bitcoin mining can have on towns and communities.

<https://senecalakeguardian.org/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/bitcoin-mining-and-its-environmental-costs/#x>

The State of NY has active legislation at this time that once signed into law would place a moratorium on operations that use fossil fuel energy sources to generate cryptocurrency.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S6486>

<https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2021/S6486B>

On 1/11 the public meeting was held with the WVDEP at 6 pm on the granting of the air quality permit to Marion Energy Partners, LLC. Members of the LWVWV were present to listen, ask questions and make additional remarks. I spoke as one of the registered commenters on behalf of the LWVWV. Several state legislators and a number of community leaders engaged in the question-and-answer session.

Further comments were made by participants regarding the need to identify the purpose of the facility that would justify the tons of greenhouse gas emissions that would be forcing Morgantown area residents to share its air. The matter of the potential noise that would be produced was voiced by many. How this facility's emissions in combination with those from other existing industries in the area would play into a composite of total air quality was a question that remained to be answered. The outcome of the award of the Air Quality Permit has yet to be reported to us from the WVDEP as of 1/21.

Per a search it was found that a company named Bots Inc has already initiated a bitcoin operation in Parkersburg WV and even started a 'school' to train cryptocurrency technicians. Jobs can be found on ZipRecruiter for employment in our state. Yet, WV already has laws in place regarding activities involving cryptocurrency that other states do not, leaving their further existence in WV up to legal interpretation. Though taxation of cryptocurrency was addressed in the recent infrastructure bill the details have yet to be clarified. Bitcoin mining in the US appears to remain unregulated, defying tracking and appropriate taxation.

<https://time.com/nextadvisor/investing/cryptocurrency/crypto-regulation-talks-heat-up/>

<http://www.wvlegislature.gov/wvcode/code.cfm?chap=61&art=15>

<https://aithority.com/bs-mining/bots-inc-moves-forward-towards-new-bitcoin-mining-facility-in-west-virginia/>

Blockchain authentication derived from fossil fuel energy sources is now under intense market scrutiny. Proof-of-stake (not the same as proof-of-work) generated from renewable energy sources is becoming the preferred authentication for Ethereum. The industry seems to be steering itself by forcing internal ethical consensus standards about *how* cryptocurrency is produced.

A broader awareness is happening through the cooperation of concerned individuals and organizations who are bringing the issue of bitcoin mining onto the radar of lawmakers and government agencies who until recently were not even aware that a 'data center' could be bitcoin mine. What we do know is that WV should not be viewed as an open range for polluting energy profiteers.



GUIDE TO THE WV LEGISLATURE 2022

OFFICE OF REFERENCE & INFORMATION:

Address: Room MB-27, Building 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, 25305.

Phone: 877-565-3447; 304-347-4836

Website: <http://www.wvlegislature.gov>

- > Disseminates information on all facets of the legislative process
- > Provides written & electronic educational materials, publications & news releases regarding actions of the Legislature.
- > Can take messages from the public for WV Senators & Delegates

LEGISLATORS SERVING CABELL AND WAYNE COUNTY RESIDENTS:

SENATE:

President of the Senate: Craig Blair (R-Berkeley, 15)

Capitol Office: Room 229M, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7801

Committees: Chair of Rules.

5th SENATORIAL DISTRICT:

Robert H. Plymale (D-Wayne)

E-mail: robert.plymale@wvsenate.gov

Capitol Office: Room 218W, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: 206 Cliffview Dr., Huntington, WV 25704

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7937; District: (304) 638-7147

Committees: Confirmations; Education; Finance; Health and Human Resources; Pensions; Rules; Transportation and Infrastructure.

Senator Mike Woelfel (D - Cabell)

E-mail: mike.woelfel@wvsenate.gov

Capitol Office: Room 203W, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: 801 8th St., Huntington, WV 25701
Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7956; District: (304) 522-6249
Committees: Banking and Insurance; Economic Development; Enrolled Bills;
Government Organization; Judiciary; Natural Resources; Redistricting Committee.

6TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT:

Senator Mark R. Maynard (R - Wayne)

E-mail: Mark.Maynard@wvsenate.gov

Capitol Office: Room 217W, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: 15577 Route Rd., Wayne WV 25570

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7808; District: (304) 360-6272

Committees: Chair of Enrolled Bills; Chair of Government Organization;
Agriculture and Rural Development; Interstate Cooperation; Judiciary;
Transportation and Infrastructure.

Senator Chandler Swope (R - Mercer)

E-mail: chandler.swope@wvsenate.gov

Capitol Office: Room 229W, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District Address: 702 Three Springs Dr., Bluefield, WV 24701

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7843; District: (304) 920-2460

Committees: Chair of Economic Development; Vice-chair of Government
Organization; Vice-chair of Transportation and Infrastructure; Banking and
Insurance; Energy, Industry and Mining; Finance; Redistricting Committee.

7TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT:

Senator Rupie Phillips (R-Logan)

E-mail: rupie.phillips@wvsenate.gov

Capitol Office: Room 223W, Building 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District Address: P.O. Box 194, Lorado, WV 25630

Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7857

Committees: Vice chair of Energy, Industry and Mining; Vice chair of Military;
Judiciary; Natural Resources; Redistricting Committee; Workforce.

Senator Ron Stollings (D-Boone)

E-mail: ron.stollings@wvsenate.gov

Capitol Office: Room 209W, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: P.O. Box 365, Madison, WV 25130

Phones: Capitol: (304) 357-7939; District: (304) 369-6194

Committee: Confirmations; Economic Development; Education; Finance; Health and Humans Resources; Natural Resources; Rules.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

Speaker of the House: Roger Hanshaw (R - Clay)

E-mail: roger.hanshaw@wvhouse.gov

Capital Office Address: Room 228M, Building 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District Address: 5035 Wallback Rd., Wallback, WV 25285

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3210; District: (304) 587-9947

Committees: Chair of House Rules; Rule Making Review.

16th HOUSE DISTRICT:

Delegate Sean J. Hornbuckle (D - Cabell)

E-mail: sean.hornbuckle@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: Room 258M, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: P.O. Box 591, Huntington WV 25710;

Phones: Capitol: 304-340-3395, Home: (304) 360-1015

Committees: Minority chair of Education; Minority Vice-chair of Small Business and Economic Development; Finance; Redistricting.

Delegate Daniel Linville (R - Cabell/Lincoln)

E-mail: daniel.linville@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: 216 E., Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District Address: P.O. Box 475, Milton, WV 25541

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3277

Committees: Chair of Technology & Infrastructure; Finance; Redistricting; Senior, Children, and Family issues; Small Business and Economic Development.

Delegate John Mandt (R - Cabell)

E-mail: john.mandt@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: 231E., Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: 2445 Fifth Ave., Huntington WV 25703

Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3176

Committees: Vice chair of Small Business and Economic Development; Energy and Manufacturing; Select Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse; Senior, Children, and Family Issues

17th HOUSE DISTRICT:

Delegate Chad Lovejoy (D-Cabell)

E-mail: chad.lovejoy@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: Room 252M, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: 186 Graystone Dr., Huntington, WV 25701

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3280; District: (304) 638-7415

Committees: Minority chair of Judiciary; Minority vice-chair of Jails and Prisons; Banking and Insurance; Committee on Fire Departments And Emergency Medical Services; House Rules; Senior, Children, and Family Issues.

Delegate Matthew Rohrbach (R - Cabell)

E-mail: matthew.rohrbach@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: Room 215E-C, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: 25 Kensington Lane, Huntington WV 25705

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3221; District: 304-563-9040

Committees: Chair of Health and Human Resources; Finance; Redistricting; Select Committee on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse; Senior, Children, and Family Issues; Technology & Infrastructure.

18th HOUSE DISTRICT:

Delegate Evan Worrell (R - Cabell)

E-mail: evan.worrell@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: Room 476M, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District Address: 652 Main St., Barboursville, WV 25504

Phones: Capitol: (304) 340-3175; District: (304) 617-1378

Committees: Vice-chair of Homeland Security; Agriculture and Natural Resources; Banking and Insurance; Government Organization; Health and Human Resources.

19th HOUSE DISTRICT:

Delegate Josh Booth (R – Wayne)

E-mail: Joshua.booth@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: Room 223E, Bldg. 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: P.O. Box 908, Ceredo, WV 25507

Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3155

Committees: Government Organization; Senior, Children, and Family Issues; Technology & Infrastructure.

Delegate Ric Griffith (D - Wayne)

E-mail: ric.griffith@wvhouse.gov

Capitol Office: Room 6R, Building 1, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25305

District address: 748 Beech St., Kenova, WV 25530

Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3355

Committees: Minority chair of Agriculture; Minority vice-chair of Veterans Affairs; Education; Health and Human Resources; Political Subdivisions; Small Business and Economic Development.

Join or Renew Your Membership



MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor opposes candidates or parties. Membership is open to anyone of voting age. Dues are free for full-time students, \$50 for an individual, and \$75 for two persons in a household. Send your check to Patricia Scarr, 16 Nancy Lane, Barboursville, WV 25504.