

**Thomas H. Adams**  
Executive Director  
American Coal Ash Association

Tom Adams has served as the Executive Director of the American Coal Ash Association (ACAA) since 2009, where he leads efforts to advance the beneficial use of coal combustion products through environmentally sound and technically robust practices. With more than 30 years of senior management experience in the ready-mixed concrete industry, Mr. Adams has held leadership roles in sales, marketing, technical services, and operations. Before joining ACAA, he worked with the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and the American Shotcrete Association, where he directed international programs and industry relations. He also serves as President of the ACAA Educational Foundation, furthering educational and outreach initiatives in the field.

Mr. Adams has been recognized as a Fellow of ACI and an honorary member of ASTM International's Committee C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates, reflecting his long-standing contributions to the industry. His achievements include receiving the Richard D. Gaynor Award from the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association and active involvement with organizations such as ASTM, ACI, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, the Electric Power Research Institute, and the Worldwide Coal Combustion Products Network. A Detroit native, Mr. Adams studied business administration and strategic management at Wayne State University and Aquinas College.

**Ana Amicarella**  
Chief Executive Officer  
EthosEnergy

Ana Amicarella, originally from Venezuela, is the Chief Executive Officer of EthosEnergy and a former Olympic synchronized swimmer who later earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from The Ohio State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Oakland University. She built a 22-year career at General Electric in field services and leadership before joining Aggreko, where she served as Vice President and Managing Director for the Americas Power Projects. In 2019, she became Chief Executive Officer of EthosEnergy, bringing over three decades of experience in the energy sector. EthosEnergy provides support work to coal-fired power plants.

At EthosEnergy, Ms. Amicarella has driven the company's transformation through the "OneEthos" strategy, streamlining operations, strengthening customer alignment, and advancing sustainability initiatives. She emphasizes circular economy principles, diversity in leadership, and guiding the energy transition with a balance of decarbonization and reliability. Recognized as Energy Executive of the Year in 2021 and among the 2023 Influential Women in Energy, Ms. Amicarella is admired for her inclusive leadership style, focus on execution, and commitment to empowering her teams.

**Adam Anderson**

Chief Executive Officer  
Western Fuels Association

Adam Anderson serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Western Fuels Association and has more than 20 years of experience in the energy sector. He has also worked at Arch Resources and Armstrong Energy. Mr. Anderson served in the United States Air Force for over 25 years and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He serves as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in engineering and legal studies from the United States Air Force Academy. He also earned a master's degree from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas.

**Shannon M. Angielski**

Executive Director  
Carbon Utilization Research Council

Shannon Angielski is the Executive Director of the Carbon Utilization Research Council, President of the Clean Hydrogen Future Coalition, and a Principal at Van Ness Feldman LLP, where she co-leads the Government Advocacy and Public Policy group. With a background in environmental science and public policy (master's degree from Johns Hopkins University) and political science and international affairs (bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire), she has built her career at the intersection of energy policy, technology development, and legislative advocacy, including as it pertains to coal. Through her leadership, she has advanced carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) initiatives and federal clean hydrogen policies, guiding major industry coalitions and fostering collaboration between energy companies, research institutions, and policymakers.

Ms. Angielski has been instrumental in shaping key federal policies and incentives, including the Internal Revenue Code Section 45Q carbon sequestration and Section 45V hydrogen production tax credits, as well as provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Energy Policy Act of 2020. She has also helped clients secure hundreds of millions in federal grants for advanced energy projects and pioneered new partnership models with the government. Recognized for her expertise, she has testified before Congress, spoken at high-profile energy forums, and earned professional recognition such as being recommended by Legal 500 for government relations. Her work continues to position her as a leading voice in advancing carbon management and clean hydrogen.

**Randall W. Atkins**

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer  
Ramaco Resources

Randy Atkins is a founder of Ramaco and has served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors since its inception in 2015. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer in 2021. Randy has been involved in energy and commodity-related development, investment, and financing activity for over 40 years. Prior to forming Ramaco, he was with J.P. Morgan & Co. and had previously worked in various investment banking and private equity positions in the mining and energy fields. Mr. Atkins served as the immediate past Chairman of the United States Department of Energy's National Coal Council, has testified before the Energy Committees of both the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and has appeared on CNBC, Bloomberg News, Fox Business, Sky News London, and more. He is a Member of the International Energy Agency's Coal International Advisory Board and is on the Board of Directors of the National Mining Association. Mr. Atkins holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a juris doctor degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law.

**Richard A. Bajura**

Director Emeritus

National Research Center for Coal and Energy

West Virginia University

Dr. Richard Bajura is Director Emeritus of the National Research Center for Coal and Energy and Professor Emeritus of Mechanical, Materials, and Aerospace Engineering at West Virginia University (WVU). A graduate of the University of Notre Dame with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering, he led WVU's energy research initiatives for more than two decades. As director, he expanded interdisciplinary and interinstitutional research efforts, managing programs with budgets of up to \$14 million annually and securing over \$50 million in support for faculty research. He also played a key role in international collaborations, including serving as acting director of the U.S.–China Energy Center.

Beyond WVU, Dr. Bajura has held leadership roles with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and advisory positions with the National Coal Council, the Coal Utilization Research Council, and other energy-focused organizations. His more recent work has centered on advancing coal-to-products innovations, including carbon fibers, activated carbon, graphene, and rare earth elements, aimed at fostering economic development in West Virginia and beyond. Through his career, he has been a prominent voice in energy policy, technology roadmapping, and cross-border clean energy research, leaving a lasting legacy of leadership and innovation in the energy sector.

**Brent Bilsland**

Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer

Hallador Energy Company

Brent Bilsland is a visionary leader with two decades of experience in the energy sector, building transformative relationships and driving strategic growth. As a founding investor of Sunrise Coal in 2004, which was acquired by Hallador Energy in 2006, Mr. Bilsland served as President of

Sunrise before advancing to President and Director at Hallador. In 2014, he became Chief Executive Officer, leading Hallador through significant acquisitions and growth as an independent power provider.

Mr. Bilsland holds leadership positions in industry associations such as the Reliable Energy Association and the National Mining Association. He also serves on the board of America's Power. Before joining Hallador Energy, he co-founded Knapper Corporation. Brent graduated from Butler University in Indianapolis.

**Michelle Bloodworth**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
America's Power

Michelle Bloodworth is the President and Chief Executive Officer of America's Power, a national trade association representing coal-fueled electricity and its supply chain. Since assuming the role in 2018, she has led the organization's efforts to advocate before Congress, regulators, and the administration on issues of energy reliability, electricity markets, and coal's role in the nation's power mix. Ms. Bloodworth's career spans more than two decades in the energy industry, including senior leadership roles such as Chief Operating Officer at America's Power, Executive Director of External Affairs at the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and Vice President positions at America's Natural Gas Alliance and Energen/Alabama Gas Corporation.

A graduate of Auburn University with a degree in mechanical engineering, Ms. Bloodworth began her career as a power plant engineer before moving into executive leadership and policy advocacy. She is actively involved in national energy discussions, serving as Vice-Chair of MISO's Advisory Committee and on the board of the Keystone Policy Institute. Widely recognized for her expertise in electricity reliability and energy policy, she has recently spoken out against premature coal plant retirements and rising grid vulnerabilities, underscoring her commitment to ensuring affordable and dependable electricity in an era of growing demand and transition.

**Todd Brickhouse**

Chief Executive Officer and General Manager  
Basin Electric Cooperative

Todd Brickhouse is the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a position he assumed in December 2023 after serving as interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. A graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in economics and business, he began his career in financial services before transitioning to the energy sector with Old Dominion Electric Cooperative in 2000. Over two decades at Old Dominion, he advanced through leadership roles in treasury, risk management, and financial reporting before joining Basin Electric in 2022 as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

At Basin Electric, Mr. Brickhouse leads a cooperative that serves around 3 million members across nine states, overseeing a diverse energy portfolio including coal, natural gas, wind, hydro, and solar. He has emphasized major infrastructure investment, guiding plans for roughly \$12 billion in capital projects to strengthen generation and transmission capacity. Known for his focus on reliability, affordability, and teamwork, Mr. Brickhouse has also represented Basin Electric before Congress, advocating for balanced energy policies and reliable grid operations to meet the needs of rural America.

**James A. Brock**  
Executive Chairman  
Core Natural Resources, Inc.

Jimmy Brock is the Executive Chairman of Core Natural Resources, a role he assumed in January 2025 following the merger of CONSOL Energy and Arch Resources. A native of Middlesboro, Kentucky, and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Mr. Brock began his mining career in 1979 as a summer student at CONSOL's Matthews Mine. Over the decades, he rose through operational ranks to senior leadership positions, eventually serving as Chief Operating Officer of CNX/CNSL's coal segment, Chief Executive Officer of CONSOL Coal Resources LP, and later Chief Executive Officer of CONSOL Energy. His leadership has been marked by a strong focus on safety, operational excellence, and guiding his companies through significant industry transitions.

Mr. Brock's contributions have earned him recognition across the mining sector, including induction into the West Virginia University Coal Hall of Fame (2016) and the Charles F. Rand Memorial Gold Medal (2024) for leadership and commitment to mine safety. He has also served as a board member for key industry organizations such as the National Mining Association and the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance. Now, as Executive Chairman of Core Natural Resources, Mr. Brock leads the strategic direction of one of the largest United States coal producers, leveraging his decades of experience to navigate both challenges and opportunities in the evolving global energy landscape.

**James Bunn**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Central Coal Company

Jim Bunn is a seasoned coal industry executive with more than two decades of leadership experience across several mining enterprises. He began his career in coal as a Managing Member of Coal River Energy, where he served from 2003 to 2015, overseeing operations and development in West Virginia. Following this, he became Vice President of Operations and Development at Cutlass Collieries between 2015 and 2018, further strengthening his expertise in managing coal mining ventures and navigating the challenges of a changing energy market. Since 2018, Mr. Bunn has held senior leadership roles at Central Coal Company, where he served as Vice President and President/Chief Executive Officer, reflecting his central role in guiding the company's strategy and operations. His career reflects a consistent focus on developing,

managing, and sustaining coal enterprises, and his work has connected him to a broader legacy of coal leadership that includes ties to multiple firms in Appalachia. Mr. Bunn's professional record highlights a longstanding commitment to the coal industry and its ongoing place in the United States energy sector.

**John C. Butler, Jr.**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
NACCO Industries, Inc.

J.C. Butler is the President and Chief Executive Officer of NACCO Industries, Inc. and its subsidiary NACCO Natural Resources Corporation, roles he has held since 2017 and 2015, respectively. Over nearly three decades with NACCO, Mr. Butler advanced through a series of senior leadership positions, including Senior Vice President of Finance, Treasurer, and Chief Administrative Officer, as well as roles in corporate development and project administration within the company's coal, aggregate, lithium and other minerals mining operations. His career began in finance and investments, first as an analyst at Prudential Agricultural Realty Group and later as an investment banker at Drexel Burnham Lambert and McFarland Dewey & Co., where he specialized in mergers and acquisitions before joining NACCO in 1995.

Mr. Butler studied agricultural economics at Purdue University, earning a bachelor's degree with highest distinction and a master's degree, and earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School. In addition to leading NACCO, he serves on the boards of Hyster-Yale Materials Handling, Hamilton Beach Brands Holding Company, and the National Mining Association, as well as the Lignite Energy Council's Management Committee. His blend of financial expertise, strategic leadership, and industry experience has positioned him at the center of NACCO's evolution as a diversified natural resources company.

**Anthony Campbell**

President and Chief Executive Officer Advisor  
East Kentucky Power Cooperative

Tony Campbell oversaw the executive staff and all employees as East Kentucky Power Cooperative's top executive, and he now serves as an advisor to the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer. East Kentucky Power Cooperative includes coal in its generation portfolio. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Electric Corporation, a transmission and distribution cooperative in St. Genevieve, Missouri. During his tenure there, Citizens Electric's load grew 46 percent. He also worked in Illinois as Vice President of Corn Belt Energy Corporation, a distribution cooperative, and as Manager of Power Marketing for Soyland Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative.

Mr. Campbell has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Illinois.

**Joseph Craft III**

President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director  
Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.

Joe Craft is the President, Chief Executive Officer, and a Director of Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.—one of the largest coal producers in the eastern United States. He has held these roles since August 1999 and, in January 2019, also became Chairman of the Board of Directors. His career began in law and energy: after earning a bachelor's degree in accounting (1972) and a Juris Doctor degree (1976) from the University of Kentucky, he joined Mapco Incorporated where he served as General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer before rising to Senior Vice President of Legal and Finance and head of Mapco's coal division. In 1996, he led a management buyout of Mapco's coal unit, forming Alliance Coal LLC; in 1999, he took the company public as Alliance Resource Partners and assumed its leadership.

Beyond his executive leadership, Mr. Craft has been widely recognized: He's an alumnus of prestigious honors including Tulsa Hall of Fame (2007), Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Southwest Region in Energy, Chemical & Mining (2008), University of Tulsa's Business Hall of Fame (2009), and University of Kentucky's Hall of Distinguished Alumni (2010). Mr. Craft also plays key roles in industry and civic leadership, serving on boards for organizations such as BOK Financial Corporation, the National Mining Association, America's Power, and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

**Rob Creager**  
Executive Director  
Wyoming Energy Authority

Rob Creager, a Casper native and graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in finance and economics, built his career in public service through his work with Governor Mark Gordon. He began as a field representative on Gordon's 2018 campaign and later served as a senior policy advisor, where he was responsible for administering \$600 million in federal pandemic relief funds, expanding broadband access, and launching initiatives to improve budget transparency. His leadership extended to serving as the governor's liaison to the White House, giving him valuable experience in navigating state and federal energy and economic policy.

In May 2023, Mr. Creager was appointed Executive Director of the Wyoming Energy Authority, an agency that unites Wyoming's infrastructure, pipeline, and energy offices to strengthen the state's energy portfolio. He champions a balanced approach that supports both traditional resources like coal, oil, and natural gas, as well as emerging technologies such as carbon capture, hydrogen, and nuclear energy. Mr. Creager emphasizes education, advocacy, and innovation as central to Wyoming's energy future, while recognizing the challenges of shifting markets. With a vision of leveraging Wyoming's resource wealth, workforce, and favorable policies, he is focused on ensuring the state remains a leader in the evolving United States energy economy.

**Michael Day**

Chief Executive Officer

Eagle Summit Resources

Michael Day is the Chief Executive Officer of Eagle Summit Resources and a seasoned leader in the coal mining industry with more than three decades of experience. A graduate of the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering, he has held senior roles at leading firms including Leeco, Arch Coal, Magnum Coal, Patriot Coal, and Blackhawk Mining, and previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of ArcelorMittal Mining Operations. A licensed Professional Engineer, Mr. Day has also chaired the West Virginia Coal Association and served on boards such as the National Mining Association, the Kentucky Coal Association, and the University of Kentucky Mining Engineering Foundation. His leadership and contributions to the industry have earned him significant recognition, including being named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2016 and induction into the University of Kentucky Engineering Hall of Distinction in 2018.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Day is deeply committed to philanthropy and community engagement. Together with his wife, he founded the Michael and Jacalyn Day and Friends Coal Community Endowment Fund, which provides annual scholarships to high school seniors in Boone and McDowell Counties, West Virginia. In 2022, he further demonstrated his dedication to education by establishing the Michael D. Day Mining Engineering Scholarship Endowment Fund at the University of Kentucky, aimed at supporting the next generation of mining engineers. Through both his professional leadership and philanthropic work, Mr. Day has made a lasting impact on the mining industry and the communities connected to it.

**Claude E. "Ed" Elkins**

Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer

Norfolk Southern Corporation

Ed Elkins is the Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer of Norfolk Southern Corporation, where he leads the company's commercial operations, including Intermodal, Automotive, Industrial Products, Real Estate, Industrial Development, Short Line Marketing, Field Sales, and Customer Logistics. Norfolk Southern is a significant coal transporter. He began his career with Norfolk Southern in 1988 as a railroad brakeman after serving in the United States Marine Corps and later worked as a conductor, locomotive engineer, and yardmaster before moving into marketing. Over the years, he built deep expertise in intermodal marketing and advanced through leadership roles, becoming Group Vice President of Chemicals Marketing in 2016, Vice President of Industrial Products in 2018, and ultimately assuming his current executive role in December 2021.

Mr. Elkins holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Virginia's College at Wise and a Master of Business Administration degree in Port & Maritime Economics from Old Dominion University, complemented by executive education at Harvard Business School, the University of Virginia's Darden School, and the University of Tennessee Supply Chain Institute.

Beyond Norfolk Southern, he is Chair of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, making him the first railroad executive to do so. He also serves on the boards of the National Association of Manufacturers, TTX Company, and the East Lake Foundation, and is active in professional organizations such as the Conference Board's Council for Chief Marketing Officers and the Georgia State University Marketing RoundTable.

**William J. Fehrman**

President, Chairman of the Board, & Chief Executive Officer  
American Electric Power

Bill Fehrman is chairman of the Board of Directors, president and Chief Executive Officer of American Electric Power which includes coal in its generation mix. Prior to joining American Electric Power, Mr. Fehrman was President and Chief Executive Officer of Centuri Holdings Inc. and successfully helped launch Centuri as a public company, while leading their efforts to partner with regulated utilities to build, modernize, and maintain energy infrastructure.

From 2018 to 2023, he served as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director of utility holding company, Berkshire Hathaway Energy (BHE), a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. BHE serves more than 12 million customers throughout the United States, Great Britain and Alberta, Canada. In this role, Mr. Fehrman drove significant financial growth and customer service improvement.

From 2007 to 2018, Mr. Fehrman served as President and Chief Executive Officer of MidAmerican Energy Company. He has held multiple executive leadership roles over the course of his career, including, President and Chief Executive Officer of PacifiCorp Energy and President and Chief Executive Officer of Nebraska Public Power District.

Mr. Fehrman earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree in business administration from Regis University. Fehrman currently serves on the Boards of American Electric Power, Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, The Columbus Partnership, Edison Electric Institute, Nuclear Energy Institute, and Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited.

**Jeremy Fisher**

Chief Business Officer and Executive Vice President, Business Operations  
Tennessee Valley Authority

Jeremy Fisher is the Chief Business Officer and Executive Vice President at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which operates coal power plants, where he oversees corporate planning, commercial strategy, customer engagement, and communications. With more than 25 years of service at TVA, Mr. Fisher has held senior leadership roles including Senior Vice President of Business Strategy and Commercial Affairs, Chief Information and Digital Officer, and Vice President of Technology and Innovation. His career has spanned key areas such as transmission,

power operations, finance, information technology, and system planning, giving him a broad perspective on TVA's operations and long-term strategy.

A native of Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee, Mr. Fisher earned both a bachelor's degree in marketing and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and completed the Executive Business Program at Vanderbilt University. He is also a graduate of Leadership Chattanooga and actively supports local community organizations. Mr. Fisher combines his professional expertise with a strong regional connection, embodying TVA's mission of service to the people of the Tennessee Valley.

**Jonathan Fortner**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Lignite Energy Council

Jonathan Fortner serves as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Lignite Energy Council (LEC), where he leads policy, regulatory, and strategic advocacy in support of North Dakota's lignite coal industry. He has been with LEC since 2018 and assumed the CEO role in March 2025 after previously serving as Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs. Mr. Fortner works closely with policymakers, regulators, utilities, and industry partners to advance energy reliability, affordable electricity, and policies that support coal-reliant workers and communities.

In addition to leading LEC, Mr. Fortner serves in several state and regional advisory roles. He is Chairman of the Lignite Research Council and Chairman of the Environmental Review Advisory Council for the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, both by gubernatorial appointment. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) Advisory Committee Affiliate Sector, providing a voice for coal in the regional electricity marketplace. Mr. Fortner holds master's degrees in business administration and a public administration from the University of North Dakota and is a Policy Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

**Katherine T. Gates**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
SunCoke Energy, Inc.

Katherine Gates is the President and Chief Executive Officer of SunCoke Energy, Inc., having been appointed President in January 2023 and elevated to Chief Executive Officer in May 2024 as part of the company's leadership succession plan. Since joining SunCoke in 2013, she has held a series of senior roles, including General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief Human Resources Officer, reflecting her broad expertise in legal, compliance, human resources, and environmental matters. Her leadership emphasizes operational efficiency, growth, and sustainability, strengthening SunCoke's position as a leading independent coke producer and coal consumer.

Before SunCoke, Ms. Gates built her career in environmental law and regulatory policy, earning her Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center and serving as a Principal at Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., where she specialized in litigation and regulatory counseling. She also gained experience through clerkships with the United States Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency. With her legal and compliance background, she has been instrumental in advancing SunCoke's environmental strategies, particularly through innovative heat-recovery technology that set new benchmarks for environmentally responsible cokemaking. Today, as Chief Executive Officer, she continues to drive SunCoke's commitment to sustainable practices and long-term strategic growth.

**Charles D. Gorecki**

Chief Executive Officer  
Energy and Environmental Research Center  
University of North Dakota

Charlie Gorecki is Chief Executive Officer of the Energy and Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota, where he leads a multidisciplinary team of 230 people who focus on research and development of innovative energy and environmental technologies. Mr. Gorecki oversees strategic initiatives focused on coal utilization and emissions, carbon management, oil and gas research, alternative fuels and renewable energy, and the energy–water nexus.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Gorecki served as Director of Subsurface Research & Development at the Energy and Environmental Research Center, where he focused on conventional, unconventional, and enhanced oil and gas production; geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>; geothermal; the carbon capture, utilization, and storage value chain; and other subsurface energy and environmental research. In this role, he served as Program Manager for the Plains CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Partnership and the Bakken Production Optimization Program, two major collaborative industry–government programs.

Mr. Gorecki joined the Energy and Environmental Research Center in 2007. He holds a master's degree in petroleum engineering and a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from the University of North Dakota. He has authored and coauthored numerous papers and given presentations on a variety of topics in the United States and throughout the world. Charlie served in the Minnesota and North Dakota Army National Guard for nine years. He's a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to Iraq with the 141<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion's Company B out of Jamestown, North Dakota.

**Daniel L. Gray**

Executive Vice President-Strategy and Business Operations  
Green Cement, LLC

Danny Gray has more than 40 years of service in the electric utility, engineering, and coal ash management industries. He manages strategic planning and business operations for Green

Cement, LLC, an Eco Material company. Prior to joining Green Cement, he served as Executive Vice President at Charah Solutions Inc., and Mineral Resource Technologies (a Cemex company). Mr. Gray has served as Vice Chairman of Associate Members of Southern States Energy Board and served on the Committee for Clean Coal Energy Policies & Technologies. Mr. Gray earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering, with honors, from The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

**James Grech**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Peabody Energy

Jim Grech is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Peabody Energy, a role he has held since June 2021 while also serving on the company's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. With more than 30 years of experience in the coal, natural resources, and energy industries, he has developed deep expertise across operations, commercial strategy, utilities, and capital markets. His career includes leadership roles such as Chief Executive Officer of Wolverine Fuels, President of Nexus Gas Transmission, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer at CONSOL Energy, and Vice President at DTE Energy.

Beyond his executive career, Mr. Grech has been active in industry organizations, serving on the boards of America's Power, the National Mining Association, and Blue Danube Incorporated. He is also a member of the International Energy Agency's Coal Industry Advisory Board and the United States Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Grech holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Lawrence Technological University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan, and he completed the Executive Development Program at the Wharton Business School.

**Donald Gulley**

President & Chief Executive Officer  
Big Rivers Electric Corporation

Don Gulley currently serves as Big Rivers Electric Corporation's President and Chief Executive Officer. Gulley previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative based in Marion, Illinois. Mr. Gulley has over 35 years of diverse utility management experience working for regulated and merchant investor-owned utilities, as well as G&T cooperatives. Mr. Gulley holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Southern Illinois University (SIU) – Edwardsville and bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and geology from SIU – Carbondale.

**Chris Hamilton**

President  
West Virginia Coal Association

Chris Hamilton began his mining career as an underground miner with the Valley Camp Coal Company in northern West Virginia. He eventually earned his mine foreman papers and worked as a section foreman/fire-boss and became a certified Mining Safety & Health Administration training instructor. Mr. Hamilton started his own mine training and safety company and in 1981 accepted a position with the West Virginia Department of Mines as Deputy Director. In 1981, he began his career with the West Virginia Coal Association as its Director of Health and Safety, and in 1986, he was promoted to be the organization's Vice President of Mine Safety and Environmental Affairs. Following the merger of West Virginia Coal Association and the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association in 2001, he became the Senior Vice President, responsible for state and federal legislative and regulatory affairs.

Mr. Hamilton was promoted to President of West Virginia Coal Association in 2021. Mr. Hamilton serves as the Co-Chair of the West Virginia Coal Forum and as Chairman of the West Virginia Business and Industry Council, the West Virginia Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety and the West Virginia Mine Safety and Technical Review Commission. He earned his undergraduate and Master of Business Administration degrees from West Virginia University. Over the past 40 years, Mr. Hamilton has been involved with every regulatory change and legislative program impacting the industry from operations to safety, environmental, tax and a host of legislative programs designed to improve the competitiveness and long-term viability of the industry.

**Buddy Hasten**

President & Chief Executive Officer  
Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

Buddy was born and raised in Iowa. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1986 as a submarine reactor operator and was selected for the Navy's Nuclear Enlisted Commissioning Program. He attended Auburn University and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Mr. Hasten was assigned to nuclear submarines and shore assignments over a 20-year career.

Mr. Hasten retired from the Navy in 2007 and returned to Iowa, where he served as the Regional Director of Generation for Iowa-based power plants at Alliant Energy. He then joined Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Springfield, Missouri in 2011 and served as Vice President of Engineering and Construction until moving to Arkansas. Mr. Hasten became the President and Chief Executive Officer of Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. in October 2019. AECC includes coal in its generation portfolio, including partial ownership of the John M. Turk power plant, one of the cleanest and most efficient coal-fired power plants in the nation.

**Jason Hess**

Senior Vice President-Marketing and Sales  
Union Pacific Railroad

Jason Hess was named Vice President - Bulk at Union Pacific Railroad in March 2021 and later named Senior Vice President - Bulk in May 2023. Bulk encompasses numerous markets including coal, coke, grain, grain products, food and refrigerated products and fertilizer.

Mr. Hess started his career with Union Pacific as an account representative in 1994 and, since then, has worked in agricultural products, chemicals, intermodal and industrial products. His recent assignments include Vice President - Premium, Vice President - Intermodal, Vice President - National Customer Service Center and Vice President - Agricultural Products.

Mr. Hess has a bachelor's degree from Coe College. He is also a graduate of Union Pacific's Leadership Development program. Jason is an active member in several Union Pacific organizations and currently serves as a member of the March of Dimes Nebraska/Iowa Market board.

**Douglas Kimmelman**  
Executive Chairman/Founder  
Energy Capital Partners

Doug Kimmelman is the Founder and Executive Chairman of Energy Capital Partners, a leading private equity firm focused on energy and infrastructure, including coal. He began his career at Goldman Sachs in 1983, where he became a General Partner and helped launch its electricity trading and power generation investing businesses. In 2005, he co-founded Energy Capital Partners, which has since grown into one of the largest energy-focused investment firms, managing over \$30 billion in assets and executing landmark deals such as taking Calpine private in 2018 and its record \$26.6 billion sale to Constellation Energy in 2025. Mr. Kimmelman currently serves on the boards of Calpine Corporation, United States Development Group (USD), and USD Partners, and has held leadership roles across multiple energy and infrastructure companies. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton School.

**Matthew Z. Leopold**  
Environmental Partner  
Holland & Knight

Matthew Leopold is a Partner at Holland & Knight, where he serves as a member of the Public Policy & Regulation Group and co-chair of the national Environmental Team. He brings over two decades of experience in both federal and state government service, including his role as General Counsel of the United States Environmental Protection Agency from 2018 to 2020, where he oversaw one of the nation's largest environmental legal teams and guided rulemakings under key statutes such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Toxic Substances Control Act. Before that, he served as General Counsel of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and as a trial attorney in the United States Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, where he led high-profile cases, including litigation arising from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

At Holland & Knight, Mr. Leopold focuses his practice on helping clients create pragmatic and strategic solutions to complex environmental regulatory, litigation and enforcement challenges. He is particularly well versed in environmental regulations that impact the oil and gas, chemical, agriculture and energy industries. He has played a key role in shaping major environmental policies, such as the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, and the SAFE Vehicles Rule, and has been recognized for his expertise by Chambers USA and The Legal 500. A graduate of the University of Florida and Florida State University College of Law, he is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and multiple federal appellate courts, bringing both strategic insight and deep legal knowledge to his practice.

**Vern Lund**

Chief Executive Officer  
Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC

Vern Lund is the Chief Executive Officer of Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC (NTEC), a leading coal producer. He began his career in 1996 with North American Coal Corporation, where he advanced through engineering, operations, and leadership positions over 25 years. His roles included Vice President of Operations at Falkirk Mining and President of Liberty Fuels Company, where he oversaw development of a \$240 million lignite mine in Mississippi. He later served as Vice President of Engineering and Business Development at North American Coal before joining NTEC in 2021 as Vice President of Commercial and Operations. In early 2022, he was appointed Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Lund holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Auburn University, and he completed the Advanced Management Program at the Wharton School. He is also a registered Professional Engineer.

As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Lund has emphasized operational excellence, safety, and profitability while steering NTEC toward growth and diversification for the benefit of the Navajo Nation. He has strengthened stakeholder relationships and advanced community initiatives, including establishing the Navajo Transitional Energy Company School of Energy Resources Excellence Fund at the University of Wyoming in 2024. Nationally, he represents coal producers as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee. His leadership combines technical expertise and strategic vision, positioning NTEC as both a strong energy producer and an advocate for innovation, education, and long-term sustainability in the energy sector.

**Charles "Chuck" MacFarlane**  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Otter Tail Corporation

Chuck MacFarlane is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Otter Tail Corporation, a role he has held since 2015 after serving as President and Chief Operating Officer. He previously led

Otter Tail Power Company as President and later Chief Executive Officer, where he oversaw major growth in customer satisfaction, safety, wind generation, and transmission expansion. Otter Tail has coal in its generation portfolio. Mr. MacFarlane began his career at Xcel Energy and Northern States Power Company before joining Otter Tail in 2001, quickly advancing through financial and leadership roles. His tenure has been marked by stability and significant contributions to strengthening both the utility and manufacturing segments of the corporation. Mr. MacFarlane holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of North Dakota and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of St. Thomas, and he completed the Minnesota Executive Program at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

Beyond his corporate responsibilities, Mr. MacFarlane serves on several boards, including the University of North Dakota, Edison Electric Institute, and Lake Region Healthcare, and remains active in community organizations. Recognized for his leadership, he also maintains significant ownership in Otter Tail Corporation and receives performance-driven compensation reflecting his role in driving the company's long-term growth and success.

**James Matheson**

Chief Executive Officer

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Jim Matheson is Chief Executive Officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states. He joined NRECA in July 2016 following distinguished careers in both the public and private sectors.

Prior to joining NRECA, Mr. Matheson served as principal, public policy practice for the international law firm Squire Patton Boggs based in Washington, D.C. From 2001 to 2015, Mr. Matheson was elected to serve as a United States Representative from Utah for seven terms. During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Jim was known as a legislator who was able to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He was chief deputy whip for the House Democratic Caucus and served as co-chairman of the Blue Dog Coalition. He also was a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science Committees. The House Energy and Commerce and Science Committees have significant jurisdiction over federal coal policy.

Prior to entering government service, Mr. Matheson worked in the energy industry for several years. He was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Matheson earned a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University and a Master of Business Administration degree in finance and accounting from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Samuel McKown**

President and Executive Director

## Kentucky Coal Association

Sam McKown is the President and Executive Director of the Kentucky Coal Association, a position he assumed in July 2025. A native of Beaver Dam in Ohio County, Kentucky, Mr. McKown brings a strong background in politics and public service to his leadership role. He previously worked as a national political consultant and pollster, served as Political Director for United States Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's 2023 presidential campaign, and held staff positions with both Congressman Brett Guthrie in Washington, D.C., and former Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Kentucky.

In his current role, Mr. McKown leads the Kentucky Coal Association in advocating for Kentucky's coal industry at both the state and federal levels. Working closely with members, policymakers, and industry leaders in Frankfort and Washington, D.C., he represents the interests of coal producers and helps guide the association's strategic direction. As president, he plays a central role in shaping the dialogue around coal's future in Kentucky while serving as a key liaison between the industry and government decision-makers.

## Karl Moor

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Powerscape Global

Karl Moor is the Chief Executive Officer of Powerscape Global, where he leads the company's efforts in carbon capture, utilization, and storage, a suite of advanced coal technologies. Under his leadership, Powerscape has engaged in key collaborations, such as its partnership with Glenrock Energy to monetize Wyoming's carbon resources, and he has represented the company at major industry events, including the University of Houston's 2025 "Energy Transition Winds of Change" conference. Mr. Moor emphasizes the adaptability of Powerscape's technology, designed to process a variety of fuel sources, positioning the company at the forefront of energy transition strategies.

Before joining Powerscape, Mr. Moor built an extensive career in both government and the private sector. He served as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air Policy at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where his tenure followed years of legal and corporate leadership in energy and environmental law. At Southern Company, he was Senior Vice President and Chief Environmental Counsel, and earlier, he was a partner at Balch & Bingham LLP, where he litigated major cases on EPA regulations, including Supreme Court challenges to carbon and toxic emissions standards. Mr. Moor holds degrees from the University of Montevallo, The George Washington University, and Georgetown University Law Center, reflecting a strong foundation in policy and law that has shaped his leadership in energy and environmental innovation.

## Robert D. Moore

President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc.

Robert Moore is the President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of American Consolidated Natural Resources (ACNR), the largest privately held coal mining company in the United States. With over three decades of experience in finance, management, operations, and acquisitions, Mr. Moore has played a pivotal role in shaping the coal industry. Before leading ACNR, he held key executive positions at Murray Energy Corporation, including Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Executive Officer, and was instrumental in high-profile transactions such as the \$3.05 billion acquisition of Consolidation Coal Company from CONSOL Energy. He also serves in leadership roles at Foresight Energy LP, further expanding his influence across the sector.

Mr. Moore assumed leadership of Murray Energy in October 2019, guiding the company through its Chapter 11 bankruptcy and overseeing its 2020 restructuring into ACNR, which eliminated over \$8 billion in debt. His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance and a Master of Business Administration degree from The Ohio State University, along with certification as a Certified Public Accountant in Ohio. Through his strategic and financial acumen, Robert has established himself as a key leader in the coal industry, steering ACNR through challenging transitions while maintaining its position as a major force in United States energy production.

**Jason Motyka**  
Co-Founder and Director of Business Development  
Terra Energy Center Corporation

Jason Motyka is the Co-Founder and Director of Business Development of Terra Energy Center Corporation and an entrepreneur based out of Denali, Alaska, where his businesses serve over one million people per year. Terra Energy Center Corporation is a center which is mobilized to respond to Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Funding Opportunity Announcement for carbon capture and sequestration demonstration projects and, if selected by the DOE, will provide carbon capture and sequestration for the planned 400 megawatt coal and biomass fueled Susitna power plant in Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Valley. Mr. Motyka is a graduate of Western Washington University.

**Michael J. Nasi**  
Partner  
Jackson Walker, LLP

Mike Nasi is a partner at Jackson Walker LLP in Austin, Texas, with nearly three decades of experience in environmental and energy law. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston Law Center, he previously served as an Assistant Attorney General for Texas. His practice spans regulatory, permitting, and litigation work under major environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. Widely

recognized for his expertise in the advanced coal technology field of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), he chairs Jackson Walker's Climate Change & Carbon Management group and has played a key role in shaping state and federal policies supporting CCUS and energy infrastructure development.

Mr. Nasi is consistently ranked by Chambers USA, The Best Lawyers in America, and Lawdragon among leading environmental and energy attorneys. Beyond his legal practice, he advises energy boards and academic institutions, serves as an expert witness before Congress and international bodies, and is actively involved in industry and community organizations. Mr. Nasi's contributions have earned him accolades such as the National Law Journal's Energy and Environmental Trailblazer Award, highlighting his role as a national leader at the intersection of energy, environment, and climate law.

**Stephen Nelson**

Chief Executive Officer

Mountain State Energy Holdings/Longview Power, LLC

Stephen Nelson is an experienced energy executive who joined Longview Power in 2014 to oversee the rehabilitation of its 700 MW coal-fired power plant in Maudsville, West Virginia. Serving as Chief Executive Officer, he draws on nearly four decades of industry expertise gained at Sacramento Utility District, Babcock & Wilcox, Pacific Gas & Electric, PPL Montana, Aptech Engineering Services, and Black & Veatch. At Longview, Mr. Nelson led efforts to modernize the plant through state-of-the-art engineering and operational strategies, strengthening both efficiency and environmental performance. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Saint Mary's College.

Under Mr. Nelson's leadership, Longview Power underwent a significant transformation, becoming one of the cleanest and most efficient coal-fired facilities in the country. By implementing advanced automation controls such as Emerson's Ovation™ system, he improved the plant's reliability to over 98% availability, reduced fuel use, increased output, and cut carbon dioxide emissions by about 15% compared to the national coal plant average. His stewardship ensured Longview avoided costly outages while enhancing long-term stability, positioning the plant as a model for modern, environmentally responsible coal generation.

**Kenneth J. Nemeth**

Secretary and Executive Director

Southern States Energy Board

Ken Nemeth has served as Secretary and Executive Director of the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) since 1975, following his start with the organization in 1972. Over his five decades of leadership, he has overseen the development and implementation of programs advancing energy policy, technology, and regional collaboration. Mr. Nemeth has been a driving force

behind the SSEB's carbon management portfolio, serving as principal investigator for the Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, the largest project of its kind funded by the United States Department of Energy. His leadership produced landmark carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstrations, including the first integrated carbon dioxide capture pilot plant at a coal-fired power plant in the United States, which laid the foundation for the commercial-scale Petra Nova demonstration project in Texas. Beyond technical innovation, he has guided efforts to address policy, regulatory, and economic barriers to CCS deployment.

In addition to his domestic leadership, Mr. Nemeth has fostered international partnerships, from early cross-border natural gas collaborations with Mexico to clean energy projects with countries like Uzbekistan, Brazil, Thailand, and Vietnam. He has represented the United States in the International Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, served on the National Coal Council, and advised National Academy of Sciences committees. More recently, he helped launch the DAC RECO<sub>2</sub>UP initiative with Aircapture and the National Carbon Capture Center, marking SSEB's first direct air capture demonstration. A graduate of Florida State University, Mr. Nemeth was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of the Cumberlands, recognizing his lifelong contributions to energy policy, innovation, and international cooperation.

**Rich Nolan**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
National Mining Association

Rich Nolan is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Mining Association (NMA), where he leads the organization's advocacy efforts on behalf of the United States mining industry before Congress, federal agencies, and the media. Since becoming Chief Executive Officer in 2019, he has guided NMA's policy agenda and expanded its membership across emerging minerals and traditional minerals, like coal. Under his leadership, NMA launched its first Sustainability Task Force, created an employee-led inclusion group, and completed its first rebrand in more than two decades. Mr. Nolan is also a frequent voice in national media and serves on the board of the United States Energy Association.

Before becoming Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Nolan spent 13 years as NMA's Senior Vice President of Government and Political Affairs, part of a career spanning more than two decades of advocacy in natural resources and energy. He began his career on Capitol Hill as an aide to members of Congress and advisor on campaign committees, later holding leadership roles at the American Forest & Paper Association, CropLife America, and the United States Chamber of Commerce. Known for his deep policy expertise and strategic vision, Mr. Nolan continues to emphasize the importance of domestic mining in ensuring a resilient supply chain for energy, infrastructure, national security, and advanced manufacturing.

**James Pfeifer**  
General Counsel  
JENNMAR

James Pfeifer is the General Counsel of JENNMAR Holdings LLC, a position he has held since 2014. In this role, he oversees the company's day-to-day legal operations, manages its intellectual property portfolio, and leads mergers and acquisitions activities. His responsibilities are central to supporting JENNMAR's corporate growth and ensuring that the company's legal and strategic interests are protected. JENNMAR services provides plant maintenance, excavation services, and reliable transportation for oil & gas, manufacturing, coal, and power companies.

Before joining JENNMAR, Mr. Pfeifer built his career as a litigation associate at McGuireWoods LLP and Pepper Hamilton LLP, where he gained extensive experience in complex legal matters. He earned his bachelor's degree from Indiana University and later obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, equipping him with the foundation to guide JENNMAR's legal strategy at a senior leadership level.

**Carson Pollastro**

Chief Executive Officer  
Wolverine Fuels

Carson Pollastro is a fourth-generation coal miner from Spring Glen, Utah, with deep family roots in the industry. After graduating from the University of Utah in 2008 with a degree in mining engineering, he began his career at Bridger Mine in Wyoming, where he quickly rose to Chief Engineer. He later joined Murray Energy Corporation, serving as Assistant Vice President of Operations and gaining broad leadership experience across mines and ports. Encouraged by mentor Robert Murray, he pursued a Master of Business Administration degree from Washington University in St. Louis, which prepared him for executive roles. In 2019, he returned to Utah and soon became Chief Operating Officer, then Chief Executive Officer, of Wolverine Fuels, overseeing major coal operations in the state.

At Wolverine, Mr. Pollastro manages Utah's largest coal network, including the Skyline, Sufco, and Dugout mines, while also directing reclamation projects in Colorado. He is a strong advocate for coal's continued role in providing reliable base-load energy, highlighting the fuel's importance amid global energy transitions and crises such as the Russia-Ukraine war. Mr. Pollastro emphasizes the advantages of Utah's low-sulfur, high-BTU coal and addresses industry challenges like labor shortages and negative public perceptions of mining. Guided by his heritage and engineering background, he argues that coal, along with natural gas and nuclear, will remain essential to meeting energy demands for decades to come.

**Martin Purvis**

Chief Executive Officer  
Westmoreland Mining

Martin Purvis is a Mining Engineer by trade with close to 40 years in the industry. Mr. Purvis started his career with Anglo American Corporation in the deep level gold mines in South Africa,

after completing a BSc Honours degree on a scholarship at Leeds University in the United Kingdom.

Since that early gold experience, he has occupied a number of senior leadership roles in a broad range of operational and corporate positions, across a diversified portfolio of commodities, with international coal trade and developments being a key component of that journey.

Mr. Purvis is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, holds a post-graduate diploma in business management, and was previously nominated by an independent panel for CNBC Asia's Business Leaders Awards.

**Robert Rasmus**

Chief Executive Officer  
Arq

Robert Rasmus has been the Chief Executive Officer of Arq since July 2023. Between 2012 and 2020, he founded and served as Chief Executive Officer and director of Hi-Crush, Inc., a fully integrated provider of proppant and logistics services for hydraulic fracturing operations. Prior to this, he was a Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Red Oak Capital Management, and was President of Thunderbolt Capital Corp., a venture firm focused on start-up and early-stage private equity investments. He has a bachelor's degree in government and international relations from the University of Notre Dame.

**Brian R. Rich, Sr.**

President  
Reading Anthracite

Brian Rich, Sr., is a graduate of Boston University and a third-generation owner and President of the famous Reading Anthracite Company, an historic supplier of high rank coal. The company mines, crushes, washes, sizes and dries coal for both domestic and international markets. Mr. Rich served on the Pottsville Hospital and Waren Clinic board and chaired the Pennsylvania Anthracite Council. He also volunteers with the Boy Scouts.

**Corbin J. Robertson, Jr.**

Chief Executive Officer & Chairman of the Board  
Natural Resource Partners LP

Corbin J. Robertson, Jr., is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where he was an All-American linebacker. Mr. Robertson began working in the family's natural resources enterprises as a teenager and went on to build a vast coal empire in the 1980s. He has served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Natural Resource Partners L.P. since 2002, while also leading multiple other energy and mineral ventures including Quintana Minerals Corporation, Western Pocahontas Properties, and Great Northern Properties. Beyond his business endeavors, he has

been active on influential boards such as the American Petroleum Institute, National Petroleum Council, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Houston Energy Advisory Board.

Outside of his corporate leadership, Mr. Robertson is well known for his philanthropy through organizations such as the Cullen Trust for Higher Education. He has been inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame and remains a major figure in United States coal ownership.

**Walter J. Scheller III**

Chief Executive Officer  
Warrior Met Coal

Walt Scheller is the Chief Executive Officer of Warrior Met Coal, bringing more than four decades of leadership experience in the coal and energy industries. A graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in mining engineering, Mr. Scheller also holds a Juris Doctor degree from Duquesne University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He began his career with CONSOL Energy, later serving in executive roles at CNX Gas Corporation and Peabody Energy before becoming President and Chief Operating Officer of Jim Walter Resources. In 2011, he was named Chief Executive Officer of Walter Energy, leading the company until its restructuring and subsequent acquisition by Warrior Met Coal in 2016, at which point he assumed his current role as Chief Executive Officer and director.

As the head of Warrior Met Coal, Mr. Scheller has overseen the company's operations, governance, and shareholder value strategies, guiding it through both growth and challenges, including the 2021–2023 labor strike involving over 1,100 union miners in Alabama. Under his leadership, Warrior Met Coal remains a major player in the metallurgical coal industry, balancing operational demands with workforce and stakeholder challenges.

**Robert Shields**

Senior Director-Rates & Regulation  
Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

Robert Shields serves as the Senior Director of Regulatory Rates and Compliance at Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation, a nonprofit generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Little Rock. Arkansas Electric Cooperative includes coal in its power generation portfolio, including partial ownership of the John M. Turk power plant. In this role, he is responsible for guiding Arkansas Electric's regulatory strategies, ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements, and shaping the cooperative's approach to rate design. His expertise has placed him at the forefront of policy discussions around net-metering, where he has represented Arkansas Electric's position on how such programs affect rate structures and customer cost allocation.

Beyond his regulatory duties, Mr. Shields actively participates in industry groups, most notably the Southwest Power Pool's Regional Tariff Working Group, where he has served as a delegate

for multiple years. His contributions in these forums help influence tariff design and transmission policy across the region.

**Randy Short**

President & Chief Executive Officer  
Prairie State Generating Company

Randy Short is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Prairie State Generating Company. Mr. Short joined Prairie State in 2014 as its first Chief Operating Officer. Prior to 2014, he experienced more than 25 years in the utility industry, with previous roles as Plant Manager at both the coal-fueled Baldwin Energy Complex and the coal-fueled Wood River power plant. Additionally, he served as Senior Director for Generation Programs at Dynegy corporate headquarters in Houston.

Mr. Short is responsible for the overall direction and leadership of Prairie State Generating, and oversees coordination with the Prairie State ownership group, which includes nine non-profit power companies serving 2.5 million member-owners across eight states. He is recognized as a skilled power industry leader with unique experience working in Illinois and with Illinois coal.

Mr. Short holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is an executive board member for the Council of Owners and Construction Associates.

**Eric Skrmetta**

Commissioner  
Louisiana Public Service Commission

Eric Skrmetta, born in New Orleans, is an attorney and mediator, who has served as Commissioner of Louisiana's Public Service Commission for District 1 since 2009. The Louisiana Public Service Commission has state regulatory authority over coal power projects. A graduate of Louisiana State University, Southern University Law School, and Tulane Law School with a specialization in admiralty law, Mr. Skrmetta built his legal career before entering regulatory service. He has held leadership roles in the Louisiana Republican State Central Committee and has represented Louisiana on several national and regional utility regulatory organizations, including NARUC, Southeastern Association of Regional Utility Commissioners, and the Organization of Midcontinent Independent System Operator States. Mr. Skrmetta is presently Chairman of the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

**Conrad J. "C.J." Stewart**

Energy Director  
Crow Nation

C.J. Stewart is the Energy and Water Resource Director for the Crow Nation and a longtime leader in tribal energy policy. A member of the Big Lodge Clan and child of the Greasy Mouth

Clan, he brings both cultural grounding and professional expertise to his role. Mr. Stewart previously served two terms as a Senator in the Crow Nation Legislature, where he chaired the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Development Committees. During this time, he helped secure significant coal development agreements with Cloud Peak Energy and Westmoreland Coal. He later became the Crow Nation's Energy Advisor and Legislative Liaison, while also co-founding the National Tribal Energy Association to advance Indian energy development nationwide. His career began with 10 years as a coal miner, giving him firsthand experience in the energy sector.

Beyond tribal leadership, Mr. Stewart has held numerous influential state and federal appointments. He was the first Native American named to the Montana Coal Board, serving as Vice Chairman, and was elected Vice Chairman of Congressman Ryan Zinke's Natural Resource Advisory Committee. In 2019, United States Energy Secretary Rick Perry appointed him to the National Coal Council, with a reappointment under Secretary Dan Brouillette through 2022. Mr. Stewart continues to represent tribal interests in national energy discussions, including the Department of Energy's Tribal Working Groups.

**Brian Thompson**

President, Soft Rock Mining Division  
Komatsu Mining Corporation

Brian Thompson is the President of Komatsu Mining's (previously Joy Global Inc.'s) Soft-Rock Mining Division, based in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. In this role, he oversees operations, product management, engineering, and strategic direction for Komatsu's underground coal and other soft-rock mining equipment and solutions. His division focuses on serving industries that extract coal, salt, gypsum, and other industrial minerals. Mr. Thompson previously worked for Joy Global for 25 years before it was acquired by Komatsu in 2016/2017. Mr. Thompson has a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Kentucky.

**Justin F. Thompson**

Owner & Chief Executive Officer  
Iron Senergy

Justin Thompson is the Founder, Proprietor, and Chief Executive Officer of Iron Senergy, where he brings more than 16 years of experience in the mining and minerals sector. A United States Air Force veteran and graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in mining engineering, Mr. Thompson has built his career across engineering, marketing, and business development roles within the coal industry. His leadership has been instrumental in guiding Iron Senergy as a privately owned energy company with operations spanning regulated utilities as well as thermal and metallurgical coal markets.

Beyond his business leadership, Mr. Thompson is also recognized for his philanthropic efforts. In 2024, he was honored with the West Virginia University Medicine Children's Community Service

Award for his commitment to improving healthcare, highlighted by a \$1 million donation to the hospital's Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. He has also supported community initiatives that bring joy to children and families, reflecting his dedication to using his influence and resources to make a meaningful impact beyond the energy sector.

**Brian X. Tierney**

Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer  
FirstEnergy Corporation

Brian Tierney is the Chair, President, and Chief Executive Officer of FirstEnergy Corporation, a role he assumed in June 2023. With more than 30 years of experience in the energy and utility sector, Mr. Tierney brings a deep background in finance, operations, and strategy. FirstEnergy utilizes coal as part of its power generation mix. Prior to joining FirstEnergy, he was a Senior Managing Director and Global Head of Operations and Asset Management at Blackstone's Infrastructure Partners, where he oversaw performance and investment in major energy assets. He also spent over two decades at American Electric Power, holding leadership positions including Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President of Strategy, and Executive Vice President of Utilities East, where he was responsible for customer service, financial performance, and regulatory engagement across multiple states.

Mr. Tierney's leadership is shaped by a diverse background that includes service as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and academic training with a bachelor's degree in history from Boston College and a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from the University of Chicago. At FirstEnergy, he is leading the company through a period of transformation focused on modernization and community responsiveness. Under his guidance, the company launched its *Energize365* initiative, a long-term capital program investing billions into grid modernization and reliability, including \$5 billion in 2025 alone. His focus on empowering local leadership, strengthening regulatory relationships, and advancing infrastructure investment positions FirstEnergy as a forward-looking utility prepared to meet both customer and community needs.

**Stacy Tschider**

Chief Executive Officer  
Rainbow Energy Center

Stacy Tschider is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Rainbow Energy Center, with more than 25 years of experience in the North American energy industry spanning wholesale electricity, natural gas, oil, propane, and retail energy. He has led transformative projects, including the acquisition of Coal Creek Station, a 1,151 MW coal-fired plant in North Dakota, which preserved over 600 jobs and generated an estimated \$1.5 billion in economic benefits for local communities. Mr. Tschider also directed Nexus Line's purchase of a 436-mile high-voltage transmission line and continues to advance infrastructure such as a new natural gas pipeline from the Bakken region, strengthening North Dakota's energy network.

As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Tschider emphasizes both economic sustainability and innovation, framing Rainbow Energy Center's projects as commitments to community preservation and the future of energy. He has been a vocal advocate for carbon capture and storage technologies, viewing them as essential for extending the life of coal plants while aligning with cleaner energy goals. Under his leadership, Rainbow Energy Center focuses on balancing reliable baseload power with forward-looking investments, blending traditional energy resources with new strategies to support long-term regional growth and environmental responsibility.

**Joseph Usibelli Jr.**

President  
Usibelli Coal Mine

Joe Usibelli Jr., a lifelong Alaskan and graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a degree in civil engineering, has been President of Usibelli Coal Mine (UCM) since 1987, becoming the third generation to lead the family-owned company. Beginning his career in operations roles, he assumed leadership at just 28 years old, continuing UCM's role as Alaska's only operating coal mine. Under his direction, the company has emphasized environmental stewardship, pioneering land reclamation practices well ahead of regulations, while also maintaining a key role in powering Interior Alaska and exporting coal to international markets. Beyond coal, Mr. Usibelli has expanded into related ventures such as Aurora Energy LLC, Usibelli Investments, and other hospitality and development businesses.

Recognized for his leadership and community contributions, Joe has been honored with numerous awards, including the University of Alaska Fairbanks' 2022 Business Leader of the Year, the William A. Egan Alaskan of the Year Award, and induction into the Alaska Business Hall of Fame. He has also served on influential boards such as the National Mining Association, Alaska SeaLife Center, and the University of Alaska Board of Regents. Known for fostering a family-oriented workplace, his leadership style blends business innovation, environmental responsibility, and community engagement—solidifying his reputation as a key figure in Alaska's business and civic life.

**John N. Ward**

Executive Director  
National Coal Transportation Association

John Ward is the Executive Director of the National Coal Transportation Association, where he leads the organization's efforts to address coal transportation, logistics, and regulatory challenges. With decades of experience in the energy sector, Mr. Ward has built a career at the intersection of coal, coal ash recycling, and public policy. He also serves as President of John Ward Inc., a public affairs consultancy specializing in energy and industrial materials, and has represented the National Coal Transportation Association in front of federal regulatory bodies such as the Surface Transportation Board. His background includes senior leadership roles in the coal ash marketing industry, notably as Vice President of Marketing and Government Affairs

for ISG Resources (later Headwaters), where he helped advance beneficial-use and recycling initiatives.

In addition to his executive responsibilities, Mr. Ward has played influential roles across several industry organizations. He has chaired the Government Relations Committee of the American Coal Ash Association, served as Vice Chair of the National Coal Council, and acted as Chairman of Citizens for Recycling First, an advocacy group promoting recycled materials in construction. A frequent author and speaker, he contributes thought leadership on coal ash management, coal transportation, and energy policy to industry publications and conferences. Through his leadership, Mr. Ward has become a recognized voice for advancing coal transport reliability, sustainable use of coal combustion products, and effective engagement with regulators and policymakers.

**Jeffrey H. Wood**

Partner

Baker Botts LLP

Jeff Wood is a partner at Baker Botts LLP in Washington, D.C., where he focuses on environmental and energy law, advising clients on compliance, litigation, enforcement, permitting, and policy matters. His practice spans air quality, water and wetlands, waste management, white-collar defense, and endangered species law, with a strong focus on industries such as energy, coal mining, and petrochemicals. Mr. Wood is widely recognized for his expertise and regularly speaks at leading law schools, professional conferences, and industry forums, while also contributing to publications and being cited in major media outlets on environmental and regulatory issues.

Before joining Baker Botts, Mr. Wood held prominent roles in government, serving as Acting Assistant Attorney General of the United States Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, where he oversaw more than 600 staff, a \$200 million budget, and a docket of 6,000 cases. He also served on the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and worked as in-house counsel in the private sector. A graduate of Florida State University with a bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor degree, magna cum laude, Mr. Wood remains active in professional organizations such as the American Bar Association and Federalist Society, while also serving on the board of Cornerstone Schools in Washington, D.C.

**Charles "Manny" Zeringue**

Vice President for Generation  
Big Rivers Electric Corporation

Manny Zeringue is the Vice President of Generation at Big Rivers Electric Corporation, a member-owned generation and transmission cooperative based in Owensboro, Kentucky. In this role, he oversees the cooperative's generation division (including coal) managing operations across multiple power plants including the Robert D. Green, D.B. Wilson, and Robert A. Reid power stations. His responsibilities include ensuring safe, reliable, and cost-effective generation,

guiding regulatory compliance, managing budgets, and driving operational efficiency. He also plays a key role in Big Rivers' energy transition strategy, including natural gas conversions and the integration of renewable resources such as solar.