

Paul Corbit Brown

Keeper of the Mountains Foundation



Speech at Société Générale Annual General Meeting

May 22, 2013, Paris

Hello, my name is Paul Corbit Brown and I am speaking to you today on behalf of the Keeper of the Mountains Foundation and the people of Appalachia.

I'd like to start by sharing some numbers with you.

4,000 people die every year in Appalachia as a result of exposure to coal toxins.

2,000 miles of streams and rivers have been forever buried by Mountaintop Removal coal mining.

1,000 different species of plants and animals live on each mountain in Appalachia.

500 mountains have been brutally destroyed by Mountaintop Removal.

More than 23 peer reviewed scientific studies show that

The 5 counties that produce the most coal in Appalachia are among the poorest and sickest counties in the entire United States.

Our water, soil and air are poisoned from this mining practice.

This is water from a kitchen sink in one of my communities.

[Paul lifts up a glass of water]

As a result of this poisoning, people in my communities are dramatically more likely to suffer from heart attack, lung disease, kidney disease and cancer. Children are dramatically more likely to be born with birth defects.

SG played a leading role in 4 bond issues for Arcelor Mittal in 2012 and as an arranger for a 1.8 billion US\$ loan to Mechel in 2012.

SG underwrote bonds for Patriot Coal in 2010, a company that has now filed bankruptcy and will leave an estimated 22,000 people without health care or the retirement benefits they worked for and were promised.

Mountaintop Removal continues to destroy the health, economies, water and communities wherever it is practiced.

Please don't allow the weakness of my government and it's epic failure to protect its citizens to be an excuse for continuing to do business with these companies.

I'm asking SG to follow the example of Commerzbank, Credit Suisse and UniCredit. Exclude financing this practice. Show your strength by not engaging in business with any company that violates the environment and our human rights by practicing Mountaintop Removal.

Societe Generale can be the one bank that can help end his scourge against Appalachia and her people.

Thank you.

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