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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Bluegrass Bill

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House 3

Blue | BG 35

Authors: Jack Koontz, Nate Peters, Holden Schroeder, Nick Clark	Action on the Bill	
School: South Oldham HS	House	Senate
	□ Passed	🗆 Passed
City: Creswood	☐ Defeated	☐ Defeated

An act to restrict the volume of coal mining slurry ponds.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: A slurry pond is a body of water filled with coal ash, sludge, and other harmful mining byproducts. These ponds can be over 100 million gallons which is a high risk to the health of the environment if it were to leak or collapse.

Section 2: Leaving ponds of this size unregulated is a danger to not only the environment but public health in the surrounding areas. Ponds of 132,000,000 gallons have broken through dams and flooded over 500 homes, 30 businesses, and left more than 4000 homeless in one flood. Leaving ponds of this size unregulated proposes an extreme risk to public safety and can be easily fixed.

Section 3: Restricting these ponds to sizes of 10 million gallons would greatly reduce the risk of a large scale spill or in the event that one does happen it will be much less dangerous to the people and environment due to the lowered volume of the slurry pond.

Section 4: In addition, no two slurry ponds can be within a square mile of each other.

Section 5: Any companies who currently have slurry ponds that are too large or are too close together will have 10 months to change the ponds the comply with this bill after it is passed.

Section 6: If a company is found to be in violation of any of these laws, there will be three offenses:

- First offense: Warning and \$1,000 fine
- Second offense: Warning and \$5,000 fine
- Third offense or any after: \$20,000 fine

Section 7: This bill will go into effect 6 months after enactment