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KOGA & the Kentucky General Assembly: The “Voice of the Industry”

The “voice of the industry.” It’s a motto KOGA has employed for decades. It has several different meanings and, perhaps more important, several different relevant arenas.

We push the industry’s story in the media – example the Economic Impact study – and in various conferences and meetings – like the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference.

KOGA’s the industry’s voice when we reach out to regulatory agencies in state government. For the past two months, KOGA has been discussing the EPA storage vessel clean air rules with the state Division of Air Quality (DAQ). This regulation and our industry is unlike anything Kentucky DAQ has ever implemented. Their programs deal with affected “facilities” (factories, power plants, commercial distribution warehouses, etc.) and an oil and gas well site doesn’t fit easily into their typical processes. KOGA was their resource to get their arms around the industry so they could design a program that met the Clean Air requirements - but did it in a way that didn’t place an unnecessary and unworkable burden on Kentucky’s operators. We’re still a couple months away from getting everything locked down but, if things keep moving in the same direction, I think we’ll have good news to report on this front when the process is over.

For the next two months, KOGA’s “voice” will be most noticeable at the Kentucky General Assembly. This is a critical role KOGA plays on behalf of our members. Much of what is motivating the effort to further regulate oil and gas in the country is based on misinformation put out by radical groups whose end-goal is the end of fossil fuels in the United States energy portfolio.* No matter how often their propaganda gets debunked, the media continues to lend credibility to their lies. Think about it. The assertions put forward by “Gasland” have been disproven time and again. And yet, when the same moviemaker was set to release “Gasland 2” he gets covered in the *New York Times* and on *National Public Radio*.

How does that fit with the Kentucky General Assembly? It is undeniable that the national conversation, strongly influenced by the national media, shapes the issues facing the oil and gas

* For an excellent argument along these lines, see Robert Bryce’s recent Wall Street Journal editorial, “The Real Climate ‘Deniers’ Are the Greens.” 02/02/14 www.wsj.com

industry in Kentucky. KOGA is on the front lines, speaking with legislators and policymakers and personally countering the media narrative that the oil and gas industry is likely to cause the next environmental Armageddon. We're also talking about the jobs the industry creates, how domestic oil and gas is moving our country towards energy independence, how low energy prices are playing a critical role in re-shoring heavy industry back to the United States. Our Legislative friends in the Kentucky General Assembly understand the bigger picture when they have the facts. It's up to KOGA to make sure they're getting the information they need to make informed decisions.

This is where we need your help. Get to know your state legislator. Tell them the industry's story. Let them know about the jobs you create in your communities.

AND – join us for KOGA's ["Day at the Capital"](#) on February 20. This is a great opportunity for KOGA to show a united front in promoting and defending Kentucky's oil and gas industry. KOGA is the "voice of the industry" and we speak with more authority when we have our members speaking with us. Join us for KOGA's ["Day at the Capital"](#) and help us send the message that oil and gas is a vital industry for Kentucky and deserves support from the Kentucky General Assembly.

Thank you for all your support!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew V. McNeill".

Andrew V. McNeill
KOGA Executive Director