

Appalachian Juju Public Initiative

Follow the Money

A fill-in-the-blank letter for asking who benefits, who pays, and what was promised

USE THIS WHEN: Use this when a project is promoted with promises of jobs, investment, growth, tax revenue, or community benefit and you want public costs and commitments explained clearly.

BEFORE YOU WRITE

What project, company, or proposal are you asking about?

What benefits have been promised?

What public resources or costs concern you?

What local question needs to be added?

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK LETTER

Subject: Questions about public costs and community benefits for [PROJECT OR COMPANY]

Dear [TITLE AND NAME / OFFICE OR AGENCY],

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I live in [CITY, COUNTY, OR COMMUNITY]. I am writing about [PROJECT, COMPANY, DEVELOPMENT, OR AGREEMENT].

The public has been told that this project may provide [JOBS, INVESTMENT, TAX REVENUE, INFRASTRUCTURE, OR OTHER PROMISED BENEFIT]. I am asking for clear information about the public commitments and measurable community benefits connected to this proposal.

Please provide or direct me to public information answering the following:

1. How many permanent local jobs are expected, and what is the expected pay range?
2. What tax incentives, grants, rebates, infrastructure spending, utility commitments, land arrangements, or other public resources are being offered?
3. What water, electricity, road, emergency service, or other public infrastructure demands are projected?
4. What written commitments or performance requirements must the company meet?
5. What happens if the promised jobs, investment, or other benefits do not materialize?

I would also like to know [ADD A LOCAL QUESTION SPECIFIC TO YOUR COMMUNITY].

Appalachian communities have heard economic promises from extractive and outside industries before. Clear public information helps residents understand who benefits, who bears the cost, and how decision-makers will protect the community.

Please direct me to the relevant agreements, incentive records, impact studies, meeting minutes, or other public documents.

Thank you for your time. I would appreciate a written response.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR CITY / COUNTY]

[YOUR EMAIL OR PHONE — OPTIONAL]

Pick one thing. Ask clearly. Expect an answer.

Appalachian Juju Public Initiative • Plain-language tools for accessible civic participation