

Bluefield Coal Symposium Opens with a Flourish



Jimmy Brock, Chairman & CEO, CONSOL Energy, Delivers Keynote Address

The long-awaited 2024 Bluefield Coal Symposium opened this evening with an address “NOT SO FAST” by Jimmy Brock, Chairman & CEO, CONSOL Energy with 200 attendees converging on the beautiful Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton, WV on August 12-14.

“The NOT SO FAST campaign is to advocate for a more realistic and more measured approach instead of rushing to the energy transition that’s going to put us on a collision course,” said Brock. “The campaign advocates to get out to policy-makers, corporate leaders, politicians, and the general public on why coal matters today and why it will matter in the foreseeable future.”

Fossil fuel power plants are retiring much faster than dispatchable and dependable replacement sources are being developed. Thus, there are higher risks of rolling blackouts. Brock described the benefits coal brings to society. Every year the U.S. average citizen indirectly uses 3,000 pounds of coal. Coal accounts for 90,000 direct jobs in the U.S. with an average income of \$93,000 a year. Coal indirectly generates another 200,000 jobs nationwide. Coal is valuable from a national security viewpoint.

With regard to global poverty, affordable and abundant energy sources like coal remain essential for meeting the basic needs of billions of people around the world. There are an estimated 774 million people still without electricity.

The Symposium has the theme ***Using U.S. Coal for a Better America*** and this national event is jointly presented by the **Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias** and **CoalZoom.com**.

Over the next three days, a distinguished list of speakers, comprising leaders in the industry, will present their experiences in achieving greater safety and increased productivity in both underground and surface mining. There are three technical sessions, two dinners, and one luncheon.

The American coal industry makes a \$40 billion economic contribution to the Nation each year. The Bluefield Coal Symposium will examine the future of the coal industry and is one of the major events in the 2024 coal calendar leading up to MINExpo®.

The Symposium includes entertainment and Brock's address was followed by a special live performance by **Twitty and Lynn: A Salute to Conway & Loretta**. This dynamic duo celebrated the music and friendship of their iconic grandparents with their performance of "A Coal miner's Daughter" bringing the house down!



Brock Says NOT SO FAST



Jimmy Brock Addresses Symposium



*Twitty and Lynn Perform for Symposium at Chuck Mathena Center
Princeton, WV*