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JULY 2023 NEWS & NOTES

Meet KRC's Newest Team Member!

In June, Lesley Sneed joined the Kentucky Resources Council's team as KRC's first Environmental Permitting Specialist. Lesley graduated from Berea College with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resources. During her time at Berea, independent study options gave her the opportunity to explore her passion for native freshwater mussels. She continued her education at Kentucky State University, furthering her research into Kentucky's mussels and helping support the ongoing studies related to mussel decline. She graduated from KSU with a Master of Science.

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teams throughout the Midwest and Northeast, Lesley returned to Kentucky as a field biologist for the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's Division of Water (KDOW). Most recently, Lesley had been writing 401 Certifications for KDOW.

We're thrilled Lesley has joined the KRC team. With her unique skill set and passion for those impacted by environmental decisions, we are going to accomplish great things for Kentucky!

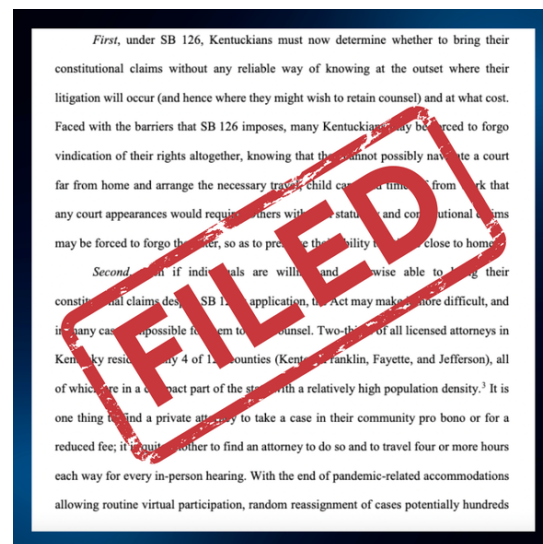
From Lesley

"I have wanted to join KRC since I discovered their advocacy work for environmental justice. It is a privilege to work alongside a team that is uncompromised by their funding source. I want to make a difference and protect natural resources by helping communities make a stand for their rights to clean air, water and healthy communities."

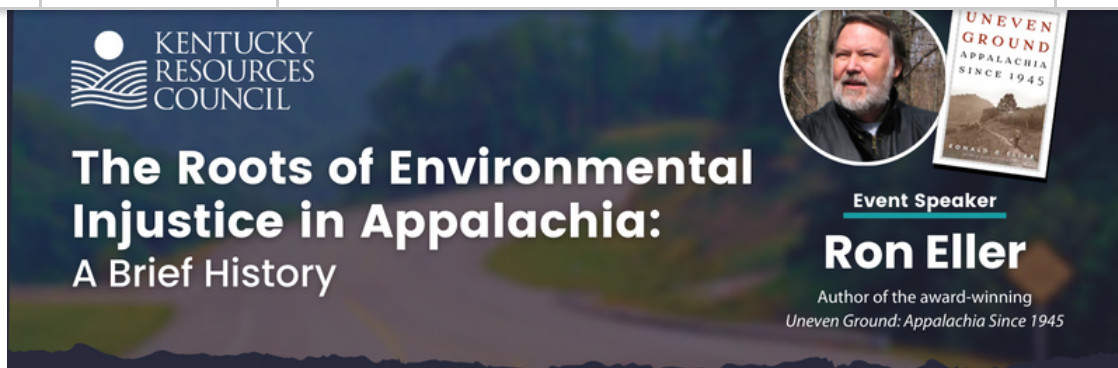
KRC and Allies File Amicus Brief Asking Court to Strike Down SB 126 "Change of Venue" Law

We partnered with the ACLU of Kentucky and Kentucky Equal Justice Center to file an amicus ("friend of the court") brief, asking the Kentucky Supreme Court to strike down Senate Bill 126, otherwise known as the "change of venue" law.

Under this law, when a civil action is brought to challenge the constitutionality of a state law, regulation, or order, the state official or agency can unilaterally force a transfer of the lawsuit to a randomly chosen circuit anywhere in the state. The law, passed during the 2023 legislative session, makes it more difficult for Kentuckians to access the courts and pursue their rights.



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The Roots of Environmental Injustice in Appalachia: A Brief History

Event Speaker
Ron Eller
Author of the award-winning
Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945

The Roots of Environmental Injustice in Appalachia: A Brief History

Virtual Event with Ron Eller

Thursday, June 29, 7:00pm | Zoom

Join KRC and speaker Ron Eller for a virtual discussion exploring the historical instances of environmental injustice in Appalachia and how it has shaped the region today.

About the Speaker

Ron Eller is a Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus University of Kentucky. Originally from southern West Virginia, Ron Eller has spent more than forty years writing and teaching about the Appalachian region. A descendent of eight generations of families from Appalachia, Dr. Eller served for 15 years as the Director of the University of Kentucky Appalachian Center. Dr. Eller's most recent book, [Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945](#), was the winner of the 2008 Willis D. Weatherford Award for the best publication about Appalachia by the Appalachian Studies Association and the 2009 V.O. Key Award for the best book on Southern Politics by the Southern Political Science Association.

[Register for "The Roots of Environmental Injustice"](#)



KENTUCKY
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Reporting on Environmental Justice

Event Speaker
Jim Bruggers
Award-winning Environment
& Energy Journalist

Reporting on Environmental Justice

Join Inside Climate News Reporter Jim Bruggers for a discussion on how he writes for impact and develops groundbreaking environmental justice news reporting. Learn how Jim uses data tools like the Toxic Release Inventory and the EPA FLIGHT database in his work.

About the Speaker

James Bruggers covers the U.S. Southeast, coal and plastics for the national nonprofit newsroom Inside Climate News. He previously reported on energy and the environment for The (Louisville) Courier Journal. Before moving to Kentucky in 1999, Bruggers worked as a journalist in Montana, Alaska, Washington and California. His work has won numerous recognitions, including best beat reporting, Society of Environmental Journalists, and the National Press Foundation's Thomas Stokes Award for energy reporting. He served on the board of directors of the SEJ for 13 years, including two years as president. He lives in Louisville with his wife, Christine Bruggers.

Register for "Reporting on Environmental Justice"

Kentucky Bar Foundation Awards KRC \$15,000 Grant to Advance Environmental Justice

We are thrilled to announce that the Kentucky Bar Foundation awarded the Kentucky Resources Council with a 2023 grant! This funding will support the work of our new Legal Fellow, Audrey Ernstberger, and increase our capacity to provide free legal aid on environmental health and justice issues to under-served communities across Kentucky. According to the Legal Services Corporation's 2022 "Justice Gap Report," low-income Americans do not get any or enough legal help for 92% of their substantial civil legal problems. Kentuckians who cannot afford to hire private legal representation when faced with environmental harm to their lives, land, or health have few places to turn other than KRC. This funding from the Kentucky Bar Foundation will help us elevate local voices, hold polluters accountable, and advocate for healthier lives for all Kentuckians.

Thank you to our donors!

Thank you to all of our KRC donors! In the month of May, many of you gave to help us achieve goals set during KY Gives Day and as part of our \$40,000 matching opportunity. When all was said and done, KRC raised over \$5,000 as part of KY Gives Day. And each KY Gives Day gift helped us raise over \$40,000 to meet the matching gift opportunity.

With this additional support adding to the momentum from individual donors, we are actively expanding our capacity to impact the Commonwealth. Recently hired employees

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to protect Kentucky's land, air, water, and communities from environmental harm.



Elizabeth Graves

Director of Development



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