

# Charles Atkins

As a proud citizen and resident of Sheridan County and a consultant to Ramaco Carbon LLC, I strongly support the Brook Mine application. This application has been thoroughly vetted over a number of years, and it should be approved. Ramaco has invested heavily in the Sheridan community over the past decade and it employs dozens of local citizens both directly and indirectly. Its coal to products research which will be centered in the new CARBON ADVANCED MATERIALS (iCAM) center is leading the nation toward not only a clean coal future, but a net carbon negative future. The Brook Mine is an important part of the realization of that objective. Much of the criticism of the proposed application is based upon misinformation and misunderstanding circulated by folks who have not carefully studied how this application and proposed mine plan dramatically differ from their understanding of how mining used to be done in this area. Ramaco Carbon close working relationships with the United States Department of Energy (DOE), the National Energy Technology Lab (NETL) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the five DOE grants that it has received over the past few years are adequate testimony to the environmentally sensitive and technologically innovative acumen of Ramaco and its employees. The Brook Mine will be a credit not only to Sheridan County but to the nation as a whole, and I strongly recommend its approval.