

Statewide Candidate & Officeholder Responses to WV SORO Questionnaire

(I) = Incumbent/Officeholder D = Democrat R = Republican W= Write-In		1 Requiring landowner notice before coming onto property.		2 Requiring a face-to-face meeting before the permit application is filed.		3 Negotiation or mediation to give surface owner input.		4 Surface owner determines the road location.		5 Surface owner chooses vegetation replacement type.		6 Value the land taken at market value, not the value of its current use.		7 Compensation for total value of the surface owner's losses.		8 Requiring the operator to offer residential gas service, at cost.	
Candidate/Officeholder (Office Held or Sought)	Party	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor	Would vote to support	Willing to co-sponsor
Melvin (Mel) Kessler (Governor)	D		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES
Russ Weeks (Governor)	R	YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES	
<p>Comments: I checked the space "Would vote to support" on all questions but we need to discuss a couple of these as they are, in my opinion, too broad a wording for legislation. Also the choices would be a little different for a gubernatorial candidate.</p> <p>I told Mr. McMahon that we would get together to discuss this issue and that I would include in my legislative package, legislation that is agreed upon by everyone associated with the WV Surface Owners' Rights Organization.</p> <p>Those who know me, know that Property Owners Rights are high on my priority list. In fact, my first time speaking from the floor of the West Virginia Senate was on an issue concerning property owners rights.</p> <p>I look forward to meeting and discussing future legislation with you, should I be elected.</p>																	
James Davis (Governor)	W	YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES	
Wayne Casto (Commissioner of Agriculture)	D	YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES	
<p>Comments: Mr. Casto is supportive of the goals of your organization. However he is a candidate for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture. As such he will not be a member of the legislature and will not be able to cosponsor or vote on the legislation you organization has pending before them.</p>																	
Gus R. Douglass (I) (Commissioner of Agriculture)	D	YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES		YES	
<p>Comments: If I were a legislator I would support all eight noted questions. We already pay to investigate many complaints.</p>																	
Lawrence T. Beckerle (Commissioner of Agriculture)	R																
<p>Comments: If a landowner has horses, a public utility should not be allowed to plant tall fescue on that property, because tall fescue can kill a horse. The same principle should be applied to companies that lease land.</p> <p>The Noxious Weed Act of 1976 gives the Commissioner of Agriculture to outlaw the use of plants that are a threat to either public health, the economy or the environment. For plants about which the issues are not clear, the Commissioner of Agriculture can require that the user get a permit from the Department Agriculture. Unfortunately, the law has not been enforced. [See http://www.wvsoro.org/news/misc/2004_11_14.html for more information.]</p> <p>As you can see from the November 14, 2004 publication date this is an issue that I have been working on for a long time. So in that sense I have proven record of working to protect landowners.</p>																	
J. Michael Teets (Commissioner of Agriculture)	R	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<p>Comments: I am a landowner and this is not asking too much.</p>																	