Thank you for attending this month’s UNITY Community Listening Session! We are happy to have your participation. UNITY is a joint group in the local area that advocates for various overlapping social, economic, and environmental issues.

**UNITY Stands For Understanding the Need for Innovation by Talking with You.** We are composed of local groups Appalachian Voices, Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, and The Clinch Coalition. We greatly value your opinion and your voice in the local community that we are all a part of.

**A Little Bit About Each Organization**

Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards (SAMS) is an organization of concerned people working to build just and equitable communities while addressing current and legacy costs of extraction in our region. Recently, they have focused on their Lonesome Mutual Aid Food Drive in Big Stone Gap, and a curated hub for all environmental organizations.

Appalachian Voices is an American environmental non-profit organization. Their stated environmental concerns include eliminating air pollution, ending mountaintop removal, cleaning up coal ash pollution and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. Recently, their office in Norton has focused their efforts on expanding solar energy in SWVA, restoring abandoned mine lands, and working towards carbon removal.

The Clinch Coalition is a community based environmental organization that believes in the importance of appreciating, understanding, and protecting our environment. Their recent work highlights sustainable economic development with trail maintenance, education on the natural world for all ages, and best logging practices.

*All organizations are involved in the New Economy Network (NEN).*
While in attendance, the participant agrees to adhere to The UNITY Code of Conduct:

**Code of Conduct for Participation**

- Respect each other and session leaders
- Our purpose is to share how we are feeling and learn from each other. We are not here to debate political candidates, policies, or positions or to convert others to our way of thinking.
- Conversation is as much about listening as it is about speaking.
- Resist crosstalk. When someone says something that interests you and you would like to chime in, write it down for you to share later so that you do not limit the other person’s ability to speak.
- Remain open minded during discussion.
- Tell your story to the degree that it’s comfortable for you. Think about how you have experienced the issue at hand.
- Share what’s important to you. Speak authentically from your personal experience. Be considerate of others who are doing the same.

By signing below, the participant agrees to having their audio recorded for accurate accounts of how to improve the social, economic, and/or environmental state of their town/region.

Printed Name:________________________________________

Signature:___________________________________________      Date:_______________

☐ I consent to having audio and video recordings of me taken.

**Questions for Big Stone Gap**

1. Have you always lived in the Big Stone Gap area?
   a. Did you ever leave the area and return later in life?
   b. If not, did you move here and stay long term? If so, why?
2. What do you value most about the area of Big Stone Gap?
3. What are some strengths and weaknesses that you feel Big Stone Gap has?
4. What, in your opinion, is the most major problem in Big Stone Gap?
5. Where do you see the town of Big Stone Gap in 10 years?
6. How can we, as local organizations, help your community?
Your Community with UNITY

We’re happy to have you with us this evening. Please see the agenda below:

Introductions (6 PM - 6:15 PM)
  Appalachian Voices, SAMS, and The Clinch Coalition
  Our mission
  What about y'all?

Call & Response (6:15 PM - 7:55 PM)

Questions are listed in the overview of participation. For your reference we’ve listed them here, as well:

1. Have you always lived in this town? What about Southwest Virginia, or Central Appalachia?
   a. Did you ever leave the area and return later in life?
   b. If not, did you move here and stay long term? If so, why?
2. What do you value most about your town/community?
3. What are some strengths and weaknesses of this town?
4. What, in your opinion, is the most major problem to economic or cultural growth here?
5. Where do you see this town in 10 years?
6. How can we, as local organizations, help your community?

Closing Remarks (7:55 PM to 8:15 PM)

We’re in no rush unless you are! Take this time to expand on answers, circle back to questions, and get to know your fellow Southwest Virginians.

With Unity and in Partnership,

Emma, Jess, & Jala
Follow-Up Questions?

You’re our community, much like a chosen family. If you have questions after the meeting, don’t hesitate to reach out. Use the contact information below!

Emma Kelly (Appalachian Voices, NEN Field Coordinator) - emma@appvoices.org  (865) 585-4939

Jess Mullins Fullen (SAMS, Community Organizer) - jesswithSAMS@gmail.com  (276) 701-8601

Jala Tyler (The Clinch Coalition, Program Director) - info@clinchoalition.org