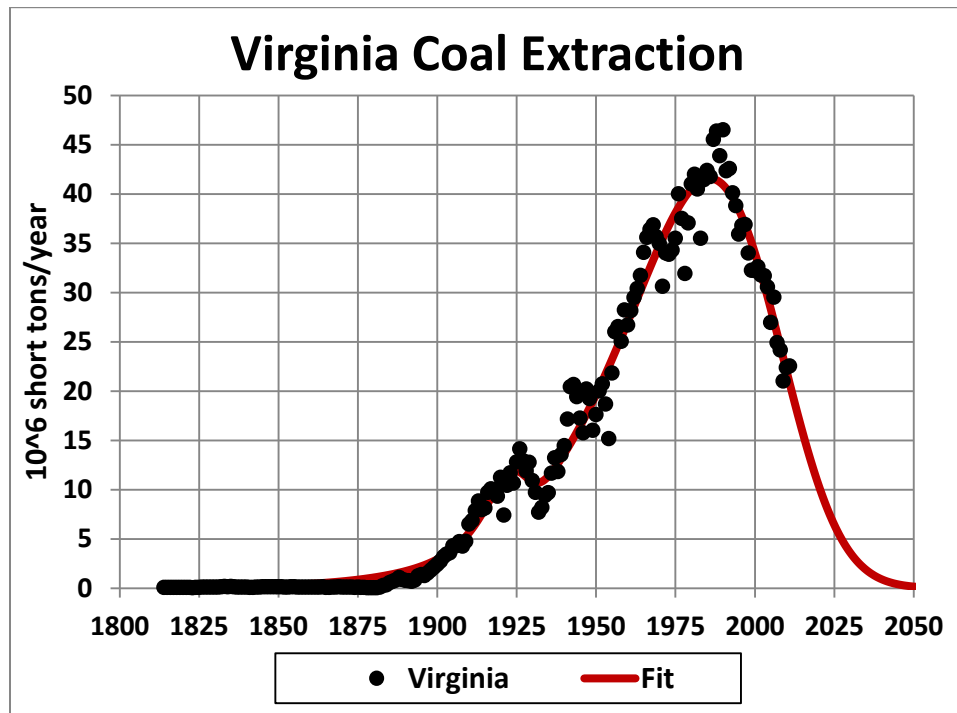


## Decline of Virginia Coal Extraction Began in 1992

Much has been written recently about the decline of coal extraction in Virginia. The following graph shows that it peaked in 1992 during the George H. W. Bush administration:



The decline continued rapidly during the William Clinton, George W. Bush and now in the Barack Obama administration. So, it does not make sense to blame the decline of coal extraction in Virginia on the current administration.

There are many reasons for the decline of coal extraction in Virginia, which were cogently discussed in the "War on coal" is all smoke" editorial in the 17 November 2013 issue of The Roanoke Times. That article mentioned that current emphasis should be installing renewable energies in Southwest Virginia to replace the jobs that have been declining in coal extraction. It did not mention that the areas of removed mountain tops for coal extraction are ideal places to install solar and wind farms. Jobs would be created immediately to install those facilities and permanent jobs would be created to maintain them.

Come on governors, state legislators and federal legislators; let's immediately create jobs in Southwest Virginia and West Virginia by installing solar and wind farms.

