



Kentucky Resources Council Welcomes Ashley Wilmes as New Director

The Board and staff of the Kentucky Resources Council are pleased to announce the hiring of Ashley Wilmes as the new Director of the Council, effective October 1, 2021. Tom FitzGerald, better known as "Fitz," Director of the Council for 37 years, will assume a senior staff role through the end of 2021 and will assist the Council in a part-time status in 2022.

"Since 1984, KRC has worked to protect those who live downhill, downwind, and downstream, and who have suffered the burdens of environmental pollution and injustice" said FitzGerald. "With the support of friends and members, KRC has achieved numerous successes in protecting Kentucky's built and natural environment. Under the leadership of Ashley Wilmes, and with our dedicated staff and volunteers, KRC's best days as a pragmatic, thoughtful, and unapologetic force for environmental accountability, environmental health and environmental justice, are ahead of us." said FitzGerald.

The selection of Ashley Wilmes followed an extensive national search, and the Board appreciates each of the candidates who applied for the position. Ashley's education, experience, and passion for environmental justice make her uniquely qualified to lead KRC as the organization looks forward to the challenges ahead, as Kentucky's only statewide source of pro bono legal assistance on environmental and energy matters.

Wilmes attended Centre College and the University of Oregon School of Law, where she earned a specialty certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. Before joining KRC, she practiced environmental law as a solo practitioner, served as a visiting lecturer at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and worked as in-house counsel for environmental advocacy organization WildEarth Guardians. Wilmes has represented organizations across the country on environmental matters and has argued cases before the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Ninth and Tenth Circuits. She is Chair of the Environmental Law Section of the Kentucky Bar Association.

"KRC's accomplishments with Fitz as director are truly inspiring, and I am honored to be leading the Council into its next chapter," Wilmes said. "I look forward to continuing the Council's work in protecting and improving Kentucky's land, air, and water, and to furthering its reach and impact."

About the organization:

Founded in 1984, Kentucky Resources Council (KRC) is a 501(c)(3) Kentucky nonprofit corporation that combines smart policy and pro bono legal advocacy to protect the Commonwealth's natural resources and ensure environmental justice for Kentucky's most vulnerable people and communities. KRC works to ensure that individuals impacted by environmental decisions have a voice in the policy-making process.

Across the Commonwealth, KRC provides consistent, aggressive advocacy on environmental and public health issues by monitoring and educating the public on permits, regulations, and legislation; facilitating networking among environmental and citizen groups.

Contact:
Amy Carpenter
Communications Associate
amy@kyrc.org | 502-875-2428