

# The State of Justice


## We thought West Virginia was “Open For Business.”

It is a sign of the times that the reaction of Chesapeake Energy Corp. to being found guilty of fraud and being hit with a 134.3 million compensatory verdict and a 271 million punitive damage verdict in a Roane County suit by West Virginia property owners was to threaten to abandon plans to build a regional office in Charleston, and call on help from the Governor and other officials to

enact legislation to protect the industry from “similar” verdicts, as reported by The Charleston Gazette, in a February 11, 2007 article.

After all, it takes a lot of gas to pay for those “golden parachutes” for Columbia executives that were valued at about \$155 million, and West Virginia is supposed to be “Open for Business.”

Unfortunately, it appears that many believe this means that every industry, and not just the coal industry, should be able to exploit our resources or defraud our citizens without fear of accountability in a court of law.

Why can't we be more like China? 

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### Commentaries

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