

April 26, 2012

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Jackson:

America's dependence on fossil fuels puts our economy, environment and health at risk. The introduction of new industrial carbon pollution standards which will limit the pounds of carbon dioxide coming from new electric generating units is an important first step towards reducing fossil fuel usage.

We believe that the new standards proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are essential to protect public health, spur innovation in clean technologies that will create jobs, and reduce the effects of air pollution that worsens smog and triggers asthma attacks and other health consequences.

Reducing the nation's reliance on fossil fuels is an important objective that these standards will help to achieve. It is critical that the consumer and environmental benefits of these standards are maximized by rejecting efforts throughout the rulemaking process to raise the maximum amount of CO₂ allowed above 1000 pounds per megawatt hour of electricity.

These new standards are an important step towards protecting public health. Today, 154 million Americans already suffer air pollution levels that are deemed dangerous by health organizations. Scientists warn that unchecked carbon pollution is creating conditions, including warmer temperatures, which increase the risk of unhealthy ozone levels in the air we breathe.

Just as importantly, these new standards provide a clear timetable for the industry to prepare and plan on how to meet the standard while considering future electric generation. They are not a threat to any existing, or in the pipeline, facilities. This will allow approximately 15 proposed coal-fired power plants that have already received pre-construction Clean Air Act permits to move forward. The proposed rule has taken a balanced approach in dealing with these plants by allowing them to not meet the rule as long as construction begins within one year.

For more than 40 years, the Clean Air Act has protected America's health and with improvements based on new science it can do so for generations to come. These new standards are a necessary tool for EPA to meet its obligation under the Clean Air Act. As state legislators, on behalf of our constituents we urge the EPA to ensure the standards as strong as possible throughout the rulemaking process.

Sincerely,

Maryland Delegate James W. Hubbard
Assistant Majority Leader

Alaska Representative Beth Kertulla
House Minority Leader

Arizona Senator Linda Lopez
Chair, Rules Committee

Delaware Representative John Kowalko
Chair, Energy Committee

Illinois Representative Karen May
Chair, Environment and Environmental Health Committees

Illinois Representative Ricca Slone

Iowa Senator Bill Dotzler
Assistant Majority Leader

Iowa Senator Charles Isenhardt
Ranking Member, Environmental Protection Committee

Iowa Representative Dan Kelley

Kentucky Representative Mary Lou Marzian

Maine Representative Roberta Beavers

Maine Representative Elsie Flemings

Maine Representative Paul Gilbert

Maine Representative Denise Harlow

Maine Representative Chuck Kruger

Maine Representative Ann Peoples

Maine Representative Linda Sanborn

Maine Representative Sharon Treat

Maine Representative Melissa Walsh-Innes

Maryland Delegate Dan Morhaim
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Maryland Delegate Al Carr

Maryland Delegate Elizabeth Bobo

Maryland Senator Karen S. Montgomery

Massachusetts Representative Lori Ehrlich
Vice Chair, Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Minnesota Senator Scott Dibble

Minnesota Senator Linda Higgins
Ranking Member, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Minnesota Senator Charles Wiger

Minnesota Representative Mindy Greiling

Minnesota Representative Kate Knuth

Missouri Representative Jeanette Oxford
Vice-Chair, Ethics Committee

Montana Senator Gary Branae

Montana Senator Ron Erickson

Montana Representative Dick Barrett

Montana Representative Margie MacDonald

Montana Representative Mary McNally

Nebraska Senator Donald Preister

New Hampshire Representative Judith T. Spang

New Hampshire Representative Susan Almy
Democratic Policy Leader, Ways and Means Committee

Former New Hampshire Senator Richard Russman

New Jersey Senator Bob Smith
Chair, Environment and Energy Committee

New Mexico Senator Stephen Fischmann
Chair, Science and Technology Interim Committee

New York Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo
Chair, Legislative Commission on Science and Technology

New York Assemblyman Fred Thiele

Nevada Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Chair, Natural Resources Committee

North Carolina Representative Rick Glazier

North Carolina Representative Pricey Harrison

Ohio Representative Nancy Garland
Chair, House Democratic Women's Caucus

Ohio Senator Michael Skindell

Oregon Senator Jackie Dingfelder
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Oregon Representative Phil Barnhart

Pennsylvania Representative Phyllis Mundy
Democratic Chair, Finance Committee

Pennsylvania Representative Greg Vitali

Rhode Island Representative Art Handy
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Tennessee Representative Brenda Gilmore

Texas Representative Lon Burnham

Vermont Representative Sarah Edwards

Virginia Delegate Patrick Hope

Virginia Delegate Kaye Kory

Virginia Delegate Scott Surovell

Virginia Senator Barbara Favola

Washington State Senator Maralyn Chase
Vice-Chair, Economic Development, Trade and Innovation

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Washington Representative John McCoy

