February 23, 2012

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Zients:

We are writing to express concern about reports that the Environmental Protection Agency plans new regulations for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at new and modified power plants through the New Source Performance Standards program. We are concerned about the regulation’s impact on jobs and the economy and that it will not comply with the President’s Executive Order 13563 and its predecessor Executive Order 12866.

It is our understanding that EPA may intend to propose GHG standards for new and modified coal-fired power plants that could only be achieved through the use of costly technologies such as Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS). Affordable, reliable electricity is critical to keeping and growing jobs in the United States and such a standard will likely drive up energy prices and threaten domestic jobs. A recent USA Today article stated that electricity rates have already skyrocketed in the past five years, which has added about $300 a year to what households pay for electricity. A GHG standard will make that trend worse.

Forcing a transition to commercially unproven technologies could send thousands of U.S. jobs overseas and raise electricity rates on families and seniors at a time when the nation can least afford it. We respectfully ask that you stop EPA’s GHG rulemaking because of the devastating impact it will have on jobs and the economy.

Sincerely,

Ed Whitfield
Chairman of the Energy and Power Subcommittee

John Barrow
Member of Congress

CC: Mr. Jacob Lew, Chief of Staff to the President
    Mr. Cass R. Sunstein, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress

Todd Akin  
Member of Congress

Rick Berg  
Member of Congress

Jason Altmane  
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress

Steve Austria  
Member of Congress

Diane Black  
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

Roscoe Bartlett  
Member of Congress

Paul Broun, M.D  
Member of Congress

Joe Barton  
Member of Congress

Jq Bonner  
Member of Congress
Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress

Dan Boren  
Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy  
Member of Congress

Larry Bueshon M.D.  
Member of Congress

Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress

Dan Burton  
Member of Congress

Howard Coble  
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess  
Member of Congress

Mike Conaway  
Member of Congress

Dave Camp  
Member of Congress

Geoff Davis  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress

Francisco "Quico" Canseco  
Member of Congress

Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress
Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

Harold Rogers
Member of Congress

Phil Roe
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

Nick Rahall
Member of Congress

Martha Roby
Member of Congress

Denny Rehberg
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci
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Mike Ross
Member of Congress

Reid Ribble
Member of Congress

Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress

Scott Rigell
Member of Congress

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

John Shimkus
Member of Congress
Jerry Costello  
Member of Congress

James Lankford  
Member of Congress

Larry Kissell  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress

Wally Herger  
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Steve Scalise  
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Kevin Yoder  
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Raúl Labrador  
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Rick Crawford  
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Aaron Schock  
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Mike Kelly  
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Tim Huelskamp  
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Adam Kinzinger  
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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston  
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Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta  
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Lynn Jenkins  
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Billy Long  
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Candice Miller
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Thaddeus G. McCotter
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Trey Gowdy
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Tom Latham
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Tim Scott
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Tom Cole
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Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

Sandy Adams
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Chip Cravaack
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Don Manzullo
Member of Congress
Kevin Brady
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Jeff Miller
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Rich Nugent
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Austin Scott
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Steven LaTourette
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Mary Bono Mack
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Sam Graves
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Tom Marino
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Bill Posey
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Steven Palazzo
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Justin Amash
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Devin Nunes
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Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
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Patrick Meehan
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Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress
Ed Royce  
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress

Gary Miller  
Member of Congress

Kay Hagan  
Member of Congress

Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Steve Southerland  
Member of Congress

John Campbell  
Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling  
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress

Todd Russell Platts  
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress

Jerry Lewis  
Member of Congress

Howard "Buck" McKeon  
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

Kerry Marchant  
Member of Congress

Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Scott Garrett
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress