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

Todd Akin  
Member of Congress

Jason Altmire  
Member of Congress

Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

Steve Austria  
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

Roscoe Bartlett  
Member of Congress

Joe Barton  
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress

Rick Berg  
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress

Diane Black  
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn  
Member of Congress

Paul Broun, M.D  
Member of Congress

Jq Bonner  
Member of Congress
Renee Ellmers  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Jo Ann Emerson  
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher  
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress

Jeff Flake  
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress

Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress

Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper  
Member of Congress
Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis  
Member of Congress

Jim Matheson  
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Tom McClintock  
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David McKinley  
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Member of Congress

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Sue Myrick  
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem  
Member of Congress

Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

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Collin C. Peterson  
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Bill Shuster  
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Glenn Thompson  
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Michael Simpson  
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Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress

Cliff Stearns  
Member of Congress

Fred Upton  
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Adrian Smith  
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Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress

John Sullivan  
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Joe Wilson  
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Lee Terry  
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Steve Womack  
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Pat Tiberi  
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Michael Turner
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Michele Bachmann
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Tom Rooney
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Ben Quayle
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Robert J. Wittman
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Jim Gerlach
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Judy Biggert
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Michael Grimm
Member of Congress
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Member of Congress  

Mark Critz  
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Chuck Fleischmann  
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Ralph Hall  
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Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress  

Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress  

Greg Walden  
Member of Congress  

Lamar Smith  
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Todd Young  
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Tim Johnson  
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Jeff Duncan  
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Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress  

David Schweikert  
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