

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in Congress, we write to express our continued concern about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plans to issue greenhouse gas (GHG) new source performance standard regulations for new fossil fuel-based electric generating sources. The proposed rule will set a standard that is unprecedented under the Clean Air Act, and will hinder our continuing efforts to create jobs.

If adopted, the proposed EPA rule will effectively ban new coal fired power plants from being built. Further, EPA regulations will prevent existing sources from making upgrades that will improve efficiency, allowing for more electricity generation with less fuel and fewer emissions. This two-pronged plan to regulate the coal industry will only result in higher utility rates, consequently harming Kentucky's ability to attract business and maintain and create jobs. Kentucky families will then suffer job loss, higher bills, and increased prices at the grocery store.

Kentucky heavily relies on its signature coal industry. In 2012, Kentucky remained the third-highest coal producer in the United States, a ranking our state has consistently held for several years. Coal accounts for over 90 percent of Kentucky's electricity and is responsible for 14,100 direct mining jobs. Our coal resources allow Kentuckians to enjoy some of the lowest average electricity rates in the nation – rates used to attract manufacturing and aluminum industry jobs to our state. Setting aside the EPA's GHG new source performance standards as written, Kentucky's coal industry has more than 230 years of production left at current consumption rates. This equates to 230 more years of certainty for jobs, revenue, and growth in the Commonwealth.

We believe our nation can and should continue to use coal given its abundance and the role it plays in supporting communities and jobs. In addition, advancements in technology are allowing us to modernize the existing coal-fueled fleet, consequently improving efficiency for homes, offices, and factories.

We respectfully request that you direct the EPA to suspend this needless and costly regulatory process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact Tate Bennett in Congressman Andy Barr's office at (202) 225-4706.

Sincerely,



Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senate, Minority Leader



Rand Paul  
U.S. Senate



Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress