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COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

APPROPRIATIONS

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

June 10, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

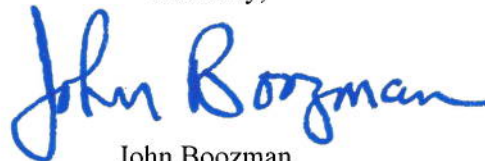
As you know, many Arkansans are concerned that the EPA's proposed crack down on existing power plants will cause energy prices to skyrocket – hurting our families, farmers, and businesses – without providing enough benefits to justify the high costs. Arkansas will be among the states hit hardest by your proposal, and the pain will be felt mostly by low-income and middle-income families. Only a few public hearings on this proposal have been planned, and none are scheduled in Arkansas. Regardless of whether our citizens support or oppose your efforts, their voices should be heard. Therefore, I urge you to expand the schedule to include public hearings on this rule in Arkansas and other hard-hit states.

The EPA's policy will shut down American industries, drive jobs overseas, and create foreign factories that will emit far more carbon dioxide and pollution into the global atmosphere than we would. The policy will shrink our economy by billions of dollars from the projected baseline and destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs. Worse still, the EPA has acknowledged that its actions will do little if anything, on their own, to affect global climate. Even so, the EPA seeks to impose its plan, just to set an example. Developing nations like China can easily ignore these efforts. In fact, the EPA is handing our foreign competitors a significant advantage over American workers.

Congress rejected President Obama's cap-and-trade policy, but now the EPA is pursuing a similar policy through step-by-step regulations. Last month, the President's Secretary of Energy said that in addition to the coal crack-down, natural gas would need to be either phased out or heavily regulated. Many Arkansans are worried that this process of ratcheting up the burden, will make matters worse for our state each step of the way. Hundreds of millions of dollars have already been invested to reduce emissions from coal plants in our state. However, the EPA is targeting Arkansas for some of the most severe cuts in the country. We want an all-of-the-above energy mix, with renewables and reliable sources like coal, nuclear, and natural gas. Our citizens are also concerned that EPA is using misleading information to exaggerate the benefits and minimize the costs. For these reasons, the citizens who will be most impacted by skyrocketing energy prices deserve to be heard in a transparent and accessible public meeting.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



John Boozman,
U.S. Senate

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