

December 1, 2014

Administrator Gina McCarthy
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We the undersigned state legislators would like to applaud the Environmental Protection Agency for taking action to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change from existing power plants by at least 30 percent nationally from 2005 levels by 2030.

Clean energy is an American success story. Industry data shows it is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the United States and already employs far more people than the coal industry. In this context, it would be very helpful for EPA to develop and distribute comparative data on the job impact of new technology development and installation versus the potential job impact of reduced use of coal.

We believe the Clean Power Plan could achieve even more pollution reductions with higher renewable energy and energy efficiency goals for states, and we support EPA moving in that direction.

The four pillar strategy of 1) increasing generation efficiency at existing power plants by 6 percent, 2) dispatching natural gas combined cycle power plants in place of coal, 3) increasing zero-emissions power sources, and 4) relying on end-use, demand response energy efficiency programs, is a solid start to moving our nation away from being dependent on dirty energy sources.

We appreciate the flexibility the EPA has given the states to adopt emission reduction measures other than those used to set the state targets. In addition, our ability to collaborate and develop plans on a multi-state basis, ability to choose how to meet the goal through whatever collection of measures that reflects our particular circumstances and policy objectives, and support for building on existing reduction programs, provides states the flexibility to effectively meet and hopefully exceed our carbon reduction goals.

Democrats and Republicans are in rare agreement on the issue. A June 2014 Washington Post-ABC News Poll found 57 percent of Republicans, 76 percent of independents and 79 percent of Democrats support state-level limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

We stand ready to assist your efforts to reduce carbon dioxide pollution to protect our families, communities and nation.

Sincerely,

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House Minority Leader

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Representative Scott Kawasaki, Alaska

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Senator Steve Gallardo, Arizona

Senator Katie Hobbs, Arizona

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