

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Mitchell McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

As you know, new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the Clean Air Act are scheduled to go into effect on January 2, 2011. The rules impose a significant burden across the U.S. economy, requiring investments by many in stationary sources that will divert capital that might otherwise create jobs and lead us in our economic recovery. There is bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House to delay these rules. Therefore, we are writing to urge you to pursue a moratorium on the stationary source rules as the Senate considers a Continuing Resolution.

According to EPA, as many as six million of America's industrial facilities, power plants, hospitals, agricultural and commercial establishments eventually will be subject to these rules, at a considerable cost and burden on jobs, state resources and the ability to move forward on a national climate policy. State implementing agencies will not have the time to process forthcoming guidance on issuing the required permits, the measures needed to comply are not known, and both state implementing agencies and covered commercial facilities will be left in a bind. There is the very real prospect that investments by businesses across the entire economy – the investments that will drive economic recovery and job creation – will be delayed, curtailed or, even worse, cancelled. We expect the new rules will hamper new construction and modifications to existing plants in the United States.

The regulation of GHG emissions from stationary sources is just one of a wave of pending regulations that EPA is proposing that pose a threat of economy-crushing effects on job creation. Other examples include the Boiler MACT rule and tighter standards on emissions from ozone-forming (smog) gases. Individually and collectively, these new air emissions limits will impose a severe burden on American manufacturers.

The undersigned organizations support a temporary halt in EPA implementation of the GHG rules and urge your strong support as an appropriate provision in the Continuing Resolution is developed and considered. Recent activity around Senator Rockefeller's moratorium proposal and discussions around a funding moratorium in the Interior Appropriations bill demonstrate that there is Senate support for a measure to avoid the negative economic impacts anticipated from the EPA GHG rules. A moratorium on the GHG rules will be a necessary tool to allow Congress to establish the appropriate policy to control greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Iron and Steel Institute
Ball Clay Producers Association
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
International Diatomite Producers Association
Missouri Forest Products Association

National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Industrial Sand Association
National Lime Association
National Mining Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
The Fertilizer Institute
U.S. Chamber of Commerce