

October 28, 2010

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Vice Chairman Cochran:

Several weeks ago, the Senate and House approved a Continuing Resolution (CR) allowing the federal government to operate at Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 levels until December 3, 2010. Unfortunately, the CR did not address one of America's top priorities: imposing a moratorium on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations affecting stationary sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the Clean Air Act. We strongly urge you to include the moratorium as the Senate considers an additional CR or an omnibus spending bill when Congress returns in November.

We recognize that the Senate and the House were under a strict timeline to pass a CR before the September 30, 2010 deadline, making it difficult to include amendments and additional provisions. While keeping the government running is critical, lawmakers also need to make sure government funds are used in ways that advance economic recovery and environmental improvement. In that context, there is an urgent need to delay EPA's implementation of the stationary source rules.

As you know, the new stationary source regulations go into effect on January 2, 2011, and will eventually affect as many as six million of America's industrial facilities, power plants, hospitals, agricultural and commercial establishments. The adverse effects of the rules include substantial costs and burdens on U.S. jobs and state resources while intruding on Congress's important leadership role in developing energy policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These new rules will delay, shrink or cancel new construction and modifications of U.S. facilities – investments critical to economic recovery and job creation. Already, the confusion and uncertainty surrounding the new rules is having a chilling effect on U.S. industries' decisions about whether to make new investments in the United States. Congress and the administration should be promoting policies that foster economic growth rather than hurting America's industrial and agricultural sectors vital to reviving and expanding the economy.

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The undersigned organizations support the concept of a funding restriction to halt EPA implementation of the stationary source rules, and we strongly believe Congress must address the issue when it considers an additional CR or omnibus spending bill in November. The bipartisan Senate and House support for an EPA postponement of the stationary source rules signals that this issue should be a priority for inclusion in spending measures this year. We urge you to support the stationary sources moratorium in the next spending bill Congress considers.

Sincerely,

Aluminum Association
American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau
American Forest and Paper Association
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Petroleum 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 Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Lime Association
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processers Association
National Petrochemical and Refiners Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
The Fertilizer Institute
Treated Wood Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce