

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**Hearing on “EPA’s Proposed GHG Standards for New Power Plants and H.R. \_\_\_,**  
**Whitfield-Manchin Legislation”**  
**November 14, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Nearly everyone claims to support an all-of-the-above energy strategy. In my view, all-of-the-above allows every viable energy resource to compete. It does not take certain options off the table by setting unachievable federal regulations. Unfortunately, it is the latter that has been on display by the Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA’s proposed greenhouse gas rule for new power plants is the latest effort by the Obama administration to eliminate the use of coal. The president’s energy strategy is the exact opposite of an all-of-the-above approach and would limit our energy choices, jeopardize jobs, raise energy costs, and threaten America’s global competitiveness.

An open, all-of-the-above energy strategy is important because diversity of energy is critical to providing affordable and reliable electricity to U.S. homes and businesses. The nation has for decades benefitted from a variety of sources of electricity.

The idea that electricity from coal is no longer needed because we have more natural gas is misguided. While our nation has become the envy of the world because of recent breakthroughs unlocking vast amounts of oil and natural gas, it never makes sense to regulate an entire fuel category out of the mix. It makes even less sense when that resource makes up 40 percent of the fuel used for electricity domestically while at the same time other nations, from Germany to China, are continuing to build new state-of-the-art coal facilities.

Given that the United States has the world’s largest coal reserves and is the largest producer of coal, it should remain a critical contributor to a diverse electricity portfolio for decades to come.

Fuel diversity not only gives us the flexibility to keep electricity costs low, but it also helps ensure reliability. As we have heard from many witnesses in previous hearings, the coal-fired power plant shutdowns already underway pose a serious threat to reliability in many regions, particularly the Midwest. That threat will continue to get worse if these shutdowns increase in the years ahead while we limit our options for new base load power.

In sum, fuel diversity gives us a more stable, reliable, and affordable electricity supply. And any threat to coal, including EPA’s proposed rule, is a threat to that diversity.

I would like to applaud both Chairman Whitfield and Senator Manchin for their efforts in authoring a workable bipartisan and bicameral alternative to EPA’s proposed rule. Their proposal is a good faith effort that requires a critical check on EPA’s misuse of the Clean Air Act to try to accomplish through regulation what was rejected in Congress through legislation. Their approach does not prohibit the EPA from setting a standard for new sources, but focuses on setting standards that have been adequately demonstrated at geographically diverse locations around the country, a key ingredient missing from EPA’s regulatory proposal. It deserves serious consideration by this committee and Congress as a whole.

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