

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

July 8, 2013

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

The undersigned organizations, which represent virtually every major sector of the U.S. economy, support H.R. 1582, the “Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2013.” Since 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed and, in many cases finalized, an unprecedented number of major regulations that increase the cost of energy, limit fuel diversity, and place tremendous economic burdens on the American economy.

Several recent economic studies demonstrate the potentially crippling economic impact the EPA’s regulatory agenda threatens to impose on the economy. For example, a study by the National Association of Manufacturers estimated the cost of just six of these regulations at \$100 billion annually, placing more than 2 million jobs at risk; in a worst-case scenario, these regulations could mean the loss of \$630 billion, 4.2 percent of GDP and more than 9 million jobs. In addition, a study by NERA Economic Consulting for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity found that seven EPA regulations would lead to 69,000 megawatts of coal-fired power plant retirements by 2019, a total that represents approximately 20 percent of U.S. coal-fired electric generating capacity. Moreover, the costs to the electricity sector to comply with these rules is projected to be over \$16 billion annually, or a total cost of \$220 billion for just one sector of the U.S. economy. Despite these striking economic impacts, EPA continues to develop major rules without adequately considering energy costs, energy security, job losses, or other significant impacts.

The Energy Consumers Relief Act would add common sense to the rulemaking process by requiring EPA to submit a report to Congress projecting energy cost increases and employment effects for any EPA rule estimated to cost more than \$1 billion. H.R. 1582 would then prohibit EPA from finalizing any of these billion dollar rules if the Department of Energy (DOE), in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Energy Information Administration (EIA), determines they would cause significant adverse economic effects.

Businesses are facing an onslaught of new regulations from EPA ranging from water usage to fuels to greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, it is reasonable for Congress to provide assurances that the economic, energy and employment effects of major new regulations will be given proper consideration, and that adequate checks and

balances are built into the regulatory process to ensure the economy is not being regulated back into recession. The Energy Consumers Relief Act will ensure that EPA rules are implemented only after carefully considering the full spectrum of potential impacts to energy prices and security, employment and the economy.

The undersigned organizations respectfully urge the Committee to approve H.R. 1582 in order to help protect the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

American Forest and Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers
Association of Washington Business
Automotive Recyclers Association
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry
Foundry Association of Michigan
Indiana Cast Metals Association
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Metals Service Center Institute
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society
Ohio Cast Metals Association
Pennsylvania Foundry Association
Portland Cement Association
State Chamber of Oklahoma
Texas Cast Metals Association
Textile Rental Services Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Window and Door Manufacturers Association
Wisconsin Cast Metals Association
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce