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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Whitfield,

AFPM, the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, fully supports H.R. 1582, the Energy Consumers Relief Act, and commends the Energy and Commerce Committee for its leadership in bringing common sense back to regulatory actions.

This legislation comes at a critical time for energy producers and the consumers they serve. There are many reasons to be optimistic about the future of U.S. energy production. For the first time in modern memory, the national conversation about our energy potential has shifted from one of scarcity to one of abundance. As a result, U.S. workers now face the prospect of manufacturing jobs returning to the U.S. as abundant and affordable energy attract billions of dollars in planned new investment.

Such developments are happening against a backdrop of tremendous investment and advances in environmental performance within the refining industry. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently reported that energy-related emissions are at their lowest since 1994 and that refineries reduced emissions by 13.5 percent since 2006. A peer-reviewed report from Sage Environmental Consulting likewise found that refinery emissions of criteria air pollutants decreased as much as 80 percent between 1990-2010.

Despite such progress, the EPA is advancing an onslaught of costly regulations that provide minimal, if any, benefit. EPA pushes such an agenda forward with limited transparency, questionable economic analysis, and without consideration for inherent conflicts among major energy rules. These regulations, some of which are completely discretionary, threaten to chill investment and require companies to divert capital from job-creating projects to comply with unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

The Energy Consumer Relief Act is a common sense measure that would ensure energy costs and regulatory conflicts are given appropriate consideration in relation to future EPA regulations. Independent and thorough review by federal departments with expertise in energy and economic ramifications of regulations will serve as a check against EPA overstating or double counting benefits, while minimizing costs. Most important, by requiring a report to Congress, it will increase transparency and give policymakers and consumers alike the opportunity to better understand the tradeoffs between increased regulation and economic activity.

AFPM supports H.R. 1582 and urges support for this important and commonsense legislation.

Sincerely,

Charlie Drevna