

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We are writing to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to provide a 60-day extension of the comment period for its upcoming regulation of carbon emissions from existing power plants. While we appreciate EPA's initial provision of a 120-day written comment period as well as its decision to hold public hearings in four different states, we do not feel that stakeholders have been afforded adequate time to fully evaluate and comment on this complex and far-reaching proposed rule, in addition to the more than 600 supporting documents released by EPA, given the significant effect it will inevitably have for state regulatory agencies, electricity providers, electricity consumers, and the thousands of jobs that hang in the balance in communities that have existing coal-based power plants.

The EPA's proposed regulation for existing power plants will have a real and adverse effect on the local and state economies that rely heavily on our nation's electricity providers, such as rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities, for employment and for serving as the main economic driver in many small communities throughout our nation. While many industry leaders have had the opportunity to comment, this proposed rule will have a direct effect on Alabama jobs and will have a major impact on the ability for states and utilities to fully determine how to meet these new targets while maintaining affordability and reliability in the power grid. This proposed rule marks the first ever regulation of greenhouse gases from existing power plants and will present compliance challenges throughout the entire industry.

Extending the comment period by at least 60 days should allow for those affected by the proposed regulations the time needed to draft and submit their comments. While we all share in the concern for clean air and a healthy environment, we also share in the hope that the EPA will be careful to ensure that all affected parties play a role in this dialogue. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



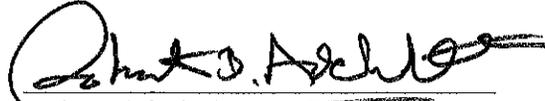
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Martha Roby
Member of Congress



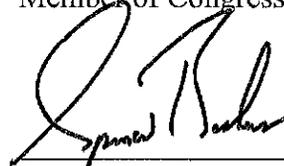
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress