



Promoting Individual Liberty and Limited Government

January 13, 2012

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

We are writing to express our significant concern over the EPA's intent to impose new regulations on greenhouse gas emissions from electric utilities. In our opinion, this regulation exceeds the authority of the EPA and is a misapplication of the Clean Air Act.

The Clean Air Act was intended to protect the public from harmful pollutants that pose an immediate threat to public health. Using the legislation to regulate carbon dioxide, a naturally-occurring compound in our atmosphere that is essential to plant life, and therefore human life, is simply unreasonable. The authors of the Clean Air Act never intended their legislation as a tool to remedy matters of climate change. In fact, there is significant evidence that regulating carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. utilities will have no statistical impact whatsoever on climate change.

In combination with other EPA proposals such as Utility MACT, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, and coal ash regulation, the proposal to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from utilities provides yet another piece of evidence that your agency has lost sight of environmental protection and is focused instead on eliminating coal from America's energy mix. Your own recent comments in the Wall Street Journal that EPA's role is "to level the playing field" in favor of alternative energy sources clearly illustrate this point. Our members are particularly dismayed that EPA has taken on this mission, circumventing Congress and subverting the democratic process.

In short, Administrator Jackson, we are deeply troubled by the EPA's persistence in trying to shape America's energy policies by making energy resources such as coal unviable. It is indisputable that access to reliable and affordable energy is essential to the health and safety of American citizens, and to our nation's economic health. The free market should be allowed to pursue all domestic energy resources that are economically viable without subsidies or politically/ideologically motivated regulation – whether it is coal, natural gas, solar, wind, or oil – within the confines of existing environmental regulation. The pursuit of carbon dioxide regulation is a poor use of taxpayer dollars. We ask that you apply the Clean Air Act properly and leave the regulation of carbon dioxide to those policy makers elected by and for the American people.

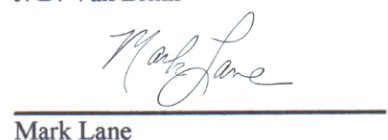
Respectfully,

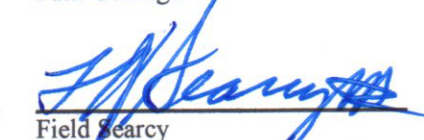
The Board of Directors of the Georgia Tea Party, Inc.

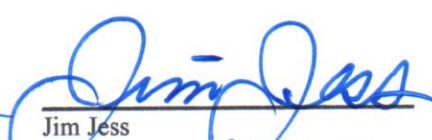

J. D. Van Brink

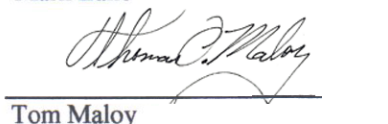

Patti Gettinger

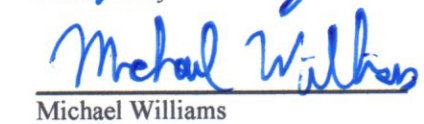

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