



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concludes its week of national public hearings on its proposed “Clean Power Plan,” I wish to express my strong opposition to the plan on behalf of the constituents I represent from the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

While the stated intent of the proposed rule is to cut carbon emissions from our nation’s power plants, I believe its overall purpose is to cut coal out of America’s energy inventory.

The consequences of such action would negatively affect millions of American citizens.

Both directly and indirectly, coal provides hundreds of thousands of jobs to hardworking men and women throughout our country. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 40,000 jobs are tied to coal production, including thousands of manufacturing jobs in factories powered by coal. Federal regulations have already forced two plants in my district to close over the last two years. The National Mining Association (NMA) projects more than 300 plants to retire nation-wide due to EPA rules over the next six years.

When federal regulations force mines and power plants to shut down, as is already happening at a historic rate, manufacturing costs rise and employment plummets.

According to the Heritage Foundation, the result of the EPA’s proposed rule “will be fewer jobs and less income for American families.” A June 3 study predicts that the EPA’s anti-coal policies could terminate 600,000 American jobs by 2023 while causing economic growth to drop by more than \$2 trillion. Needless to say, this impact would be devastating.

In addition to supporting jobs, coal also provides 40 percent of America’s electricity — more than any other fuel. The same goes for Pennsylvania’s power, and in many states it’s much higher. The Associated Press has rightly called coal “the workhorse of the U.S. power system” since “it helps keep prices stable and power flowing even when demand spikes.” By imposing dramatic emissions standards on all existing power plants under the threat of crippling fines, as the EPA plan intends to do, more plant closures and an overreliance on natural gas to provide electricity are certain to follow.

Affordable energy is now at great risk. If the new EPA regulations go into effect, Americans could see their electric bills increase annually by more than 10 percent – \$150 for the average consumer – by the end of the decade, according to the American Action Forum. Most citizens,

especially low-income households and seniors living on fixed incomes, simply cannot afford such a hike.

By keeping energy rates reliably low, coal helps give American manufacturing its global edge against foreign competitors. On June 2, the National Association of Manufacturers warned that the EPA rule “could single-handedly eliminate this competitive advantage by removing reliable and abundant sources of energy from our nation’s energy mix.”

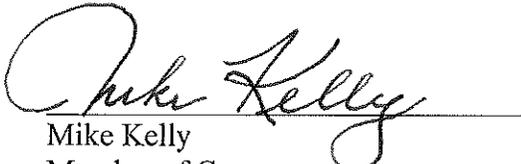
For all of the above reasons, shortly after President Obama’s June 2 announcement of the rule, I introduced the Coal Country Protection Act (H.R. 4808) in the House of Representatives. It is a companion to legislation introduced by Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) in the U.S. Senate.

This bipartisan bill would halt any new EPA regulation on America’s power plants until there is a guarantee that there will be no loss of American jobs, no drop in gross domestic product, no higher electricity rates, and no interruption in energy delivery.

While I wholeheartedly believe in the importance of maintaining a clean environment, I nevertheless view the Clean Power Plan as the latest assault by the Obama administration in its dangerously misguided war on coal. It must be stopped, not just for coal country, but for our whole country.

I thank you for considering my input on this very serious matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress