United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA Headquarters – William J. Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

We are writing to request that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide at least a 120 day comment period on the upcoming draft proposal for the regulation of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. The EPA should provide this extended comment period as soon as the proposed rule is noticed in the federal register, given the significant impact this rule could have on our nation's electricity providers and consumers, on jobs in communities that have existing coal-based power plants, and on the economy as a whole.

The upcoming proposal will be far more complex and critical for the industry to deal with than the proposal for new plants, and stakeholders will need time to analyze the rule and determine its impact on individual power plants, reliability and consumer cost, and on the electric system as a whole. This analysis will be no small undertaking, as this will be the first ever regulation of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. EPA recognized that additional time was needed and extended the original 60 day comment period for the Agency's proposal regarding new source performance standards for newly constructed power plants, so it only makes sense to provide at least the same timeline from the outset for the existing plant rule.

Affordable, reliable, and redundant sources of electricity are essential to the economic well-being of our states and the quality of life of our constituents. While we all agree that clean air is vitally important, EPA has an obligation to understand the impacts that regulations have on all segments of society. As one step toward fulfilling this obligation, we urge you to provide for a comment period of at least 120 days on the forthcoming performance standards for existing coal-based power plants.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Deb Fischer
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

John Boozman
United States Senator

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Mark Warner
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Tim Johnson
United States Senator

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

Mike Enzi
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

Charles Grassley
United States Senator

John Thune
United States Senator

Pat Roberts
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Mark Pryor
United States Senator

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

Jim Inhofe
United States Senator

Mark Kirk
United States Senator

Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator

Michael Crapo
United States Senator

Jim Risch
United States Senator

John Barrasso
United States Senator

Tom Coburn
United States Senator

Bob Corker
United States Senator

Jeff Flake
United States Senator

Orrin Hatch
United States Senator

Mike Johanns
United States Senator

Mike Lee
United States Senator

Tim Scott
United States Senator

David Vitter
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Lamar Alexander
United States Senator

Roger Wicker
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Ron Johnson
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Joe Manchin
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Dan Coats
United States Senator

John Walsh
United States Senator

Mary Landrieu
United States Senator

Richard Burr
United States Senator