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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We are troubled by the EPA's announcement on September 30, 2013 entitled "EPA to Hold Public Listening Sessions on Reducing Carbon Pollution from Existing Power Plants." While hosting eleven public listening sessions held across the country in order to solicit feedback from the public is important, your plan leaves out those most impacted by the regulation by seeking input only in major urban areas.

While the proposed regulations on new and existing power plants may not be burdensome to cities such as Boston, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., or New York City, it will have significant impacts on businesses and families in rural areas. Already, one-fifth of our nation's coal plants, 204 facilities across 25 states, closed between 2009 and 2012. These closed and existing plants are not located in areas you are holding these listening sessions. In all fairness, residents and businesses in rural areas deserve to be heard just as much.

The EPA must hear from Americans on Main Street in rural America not downtown San Francisco or Washington, D.C. If the EPA really wants to learn the impact this regulation will have on mayors, store clerks, senior citizens, blue-collar Americans and others, you must hold these sessions in locations that produce coal and coal-fired electricity. We highly recommend that you and your colleagues take a step out of the Beltway and visit the places that make America great; the places your regulations continue to devastate by shuttering plants and killing jobs. These people need your help and want their views to be heard. Please add rural American communities in which coal and gas are a part of their economies to your locations for listening sessions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your thoughts.

Sincerely,


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

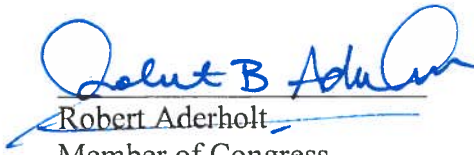
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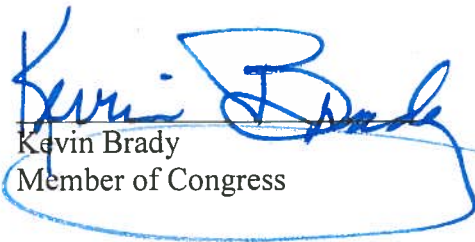
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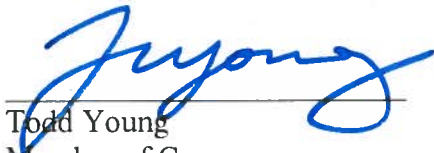
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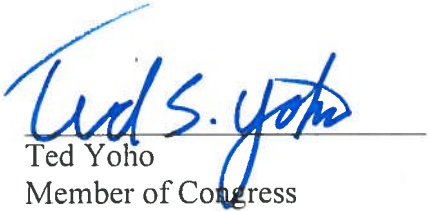
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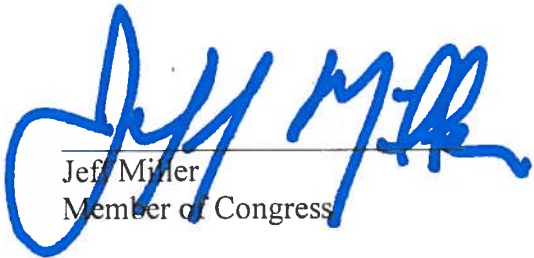
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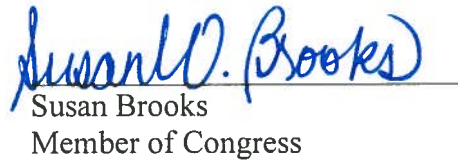
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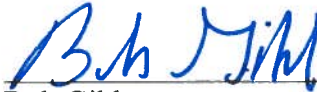
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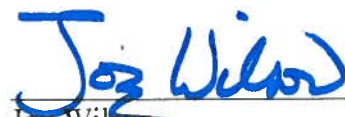
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