Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2023

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

As Members of Congress who are aligned with the Administration's goal of reducing carbon emissions, we write to express our concerns with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed rule on power plant emissions ("New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units"). We believe there is a better approach to achieving a clean energy future while preserving the electric grid's reliability. This perspective is echoed by a coalition of labor unions who indicated in their public comments to EPA that reasonable changes are needed to help ensure these regulations do not also cause the loss of critically needed jobs in the energy sector.[1] With this in mind, we look forward to working with you to put forward a final rule that accomplishes our shared goals of lowering emissions, maintaining affordable, reliable power, and protecting American energy independence.

Congress has enacted significant legislation to foster the development of innovative technologies such as hydrogen, carbon capture, and advanced nuclear power reactors to create additional pathways to achieve a clean energy future. Unfortunately, the EPA's power plant rule overestimates the current and anticipated maturity of these promising technologies. While we hope these technologies will become more widely available and accessible in the future, it is unreasonable to expect our constituents to shoulder the financial burden and risk associated with these advancements, particularly in the form of significantly higher utility bills and unreliable electricity. Therefore, we believe that a final EPA power plant rule must reflect these realities and rely on today's proven technology as we continue to pursue technological breakthroughs.

As renewable energy sources increasingly become a part of the U.S. energy landscape, it is crucial to maintain the baseline generation capacity of natural gas until other affordable and reliable sources of next-generation energy technologies are ready to replace it. Providing a realistic transition path to advanced technologies when they become available is the best way to ensure the affordability of electricity and the reliability of the grid.

We look forward to working with you and the EPA team to ensure that a final power plant rule supports a seamless transition to clean energy across the nation. This approach not

[1] Comments submitted jointly by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers, the Transportation Communications Union, IAM, and the United Mine Workers of America on EPA's "New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units."

only safeguards the employment of millions of Americans but also positions the United States as a frontrunner in the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress

Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress