



March 15, 2011

Dear Senator:

I am writing on behalf of Ceres to encourage you to oppose Senator McConnell's amendment which adds the language of S.482: Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 to S.493: the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011.

This unnecessary amendment puts America's health and prosperity at risk by gutting the Clean Air Act, overturning a decision of the Supreme Court, and crippling the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to address carbon dioxide and other pollution. For 40 years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has protected our health by cleaning up life-threatening air pollution. The Clean Air Act has been successful in reducing dozens of different air pollutants, protecting the health and environment of millions of Americans and saving countless lives while contributing to America's economic prosperity.

The February 2011 Ceres report *New Jobs - Cleaner Air: Employment Effects Under Planned Changes to the EPA's Air Pollution Rules* -- prepared by Dr. James Heinz of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst -- details the jobs created through investments in pollution controls, new plant construction, and the retirement of older, less efficient coal plants as the country transitions to a cleaner, modernized generation fleet under new EPA clean air standards. Based on recent estimates that the power sector will invest almost \$200 billion total in capital improvements over the next five years, total employment created by these capital investments is estimated at 1.46 million jobs, or about 290,000 jobs on average in each of the next five years. As the nation's economy struggles, the opportunity to improve public health while creating high-paying construction, installation, engineering and manufacturing jobs is too good to pass up.

Once again, I urge you to oppose Senator McConnell's amendment to S.493. Clean air and economic prosperity go hand in hand. The Clean Air Act makes good economic sense in protecting Americans' lives while simultaneously avoiding billions in health care costs for companies and consumers and spurring American competitiveness. This is an indisputable win-win that we cannot ignore. Please do not hesitate to contact me at lubber@ceres.org with any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mindy S. Lubber
President