



February 17, 2011

Dear Lawmaker:

Over the last 40 years, the Environmental Protection Agency has proven itself as much a protector of our economy as of the public's health. The new EPA standards under the Clean Air Act are a key component to progressing toward a clean energy economy and to creating jobs, as cited in a report we released in Oct. 2010. That's why it's imperative you ensure that the Clean Air Act remains intact and oppose any attempt to roll back its authority, including measures aimed at preventing the EPA from doing its job.

We know that small business owners support key strategies needed to reduce pollution and transition to a clean energy economy. A national poll of small business owners we conducted found that 61% of respondents agree that moving the country to clean energy is a way to restart the economy and make their businesses more competitive in the global economy. Numerous small businesses are already taking steps to conserve energy and many are interested in doing even more.

Despite its success, some in Congress are seeking to undermine EPA's authority to enforce the Clean Air Act, when they should instead focus on passing legislation that will create jobs and boost business opportunities for employers across the nation. Contrary to misleading claims from opponents of clean energy and environmental safeguards, reducing pollution is good for business, and the Clean Air Act has proven to be a wise investment for long-term economic growth.

Studies show that the economic benefits of the Act have far exceeded the costs imposed on businesses. According to the Office of Management and Budget, the total economic benefits of the Clean Air Act are estimated at more than four to eight times the costs of compliance. Additionally, between 2010 and 2015, these capital investments in pollution controls and new generation will create an estimated 1.46 million jobs, or about 291,577 year-round jobs on average for each of those five years.

We urge you to support EPA's mission and to reject efforts to block, delay or weaken new standards under the Clean Air Act. Small business owners want real clean energy solutions that will create long-term economic growth and ignite a new era of American innovation.

Sincerely,

John Arensmeyer
Founder & CEO
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