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January 28, 2010

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we strongly urge you to oppose the 'Dirty Air Act' proposals by Rep. Moran (R-KS) and Rep. Pomeroy (D-ND) to overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health and welfare in order to block the agency's implementation of the Clean Air Act to protect our health and welfare from global warming. These two separate proposals both represent a direct attack on the Clean Air Act, putting public health at risk and jeopardizing long-overdue action to hold the biggest polluters accountable, reduce America's oil dependence, and jump-start a vibrant clean energy economy.

The Clean Air Act is a law with a nearly 40-year track record of cutting dangerous pollution to protect human health and the environment and spur innovation. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that global warming pollutants are covered by the Clean Air Act. In his first year in office, President Barack Obama began complying with the Court by implementing the law – with the support of auto companies, auto workers, states, and environmentalists – that will save consumers money at the pump, cut global warming pollution, reduce America's oil dependence, and create new jobs making more efficient and competitive vehicles.

The Clean Air Act will also ensure that the largest power plants and factories use modern technology to reduce their global warming pollution and use cleaner energy. EPA has already proposed to tailor those rules to exempt small carbon emitters and apply them only to very large emitters that have long been subject to similar standards for other pollutants.

Instead of embracing this progress, efforts such as those proposed by Rep. Moran and Rep. Pomeroy would strike at the heart of the Clean Air Act, blocking these actions and letting America's biggest polluters off the hook. They would also undermine our country's credibility just after President Obama helped to secure commitments to reduce emissions from all major economies, including China and India. Here at home, thousands of American businesses are waiting for Congress to set a clear energy and climate policy that will unlock billions of dollars in job-creating clean energy investments, but the current efforts to undermine the Clean Air Act would derail this long-overdue progress.

Any attack on the Clean Air Act is a step backward for public health. It puts our communities at risk, undermines a clean energy economy, and inappropriately injects Congress into scientific decisions. Congress must enact the kind of comprehensive energy and climate legislation the country needs to build a clean energy economy, create jobs, and protect the environment. Congress should continue to move forward with EPA to tackle the critical challenge of climate change.

Sincerely,

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