



July 12, 2011

Dear Representative:

The Clean Air Act has a successful 40-year record of safeguarding not only the public health, but also our economic interests. It has created an atmosphere conducive to entrepreneurship, spurred the innovation of new American technologies and supported a massive increase in our nation's gross domestic product (GDP). So for America's biggest job creators, news that some in Congress are considering riders that could limit the Environmental Protection Agency's power to adequately enforce the Clean Air Act is alarming. Despite individual members' personal views on the issue of environmental protection, this issue should be left separate from any current or future discussions over appropriations legislation, including the debate over our nation's debt limit. We urge you to reject any attempts to attach measures to any legislation that would deny EPA's authority on the Clean Air Act so the agency can fulfill its responsibilities.

Despite the rhetoric espoused by opponents of the Clean Air Act and other commonsense laws, in this tough economy, small business owners actually 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% agree that moving the country to clean energy is a way to restart the economy and make their businesses more competitive in the global marketplace. Many small businesses representing a variety of economic sectors and regions of the country are already taking steps to conserve energy so they can save on their utility bills. What's promising is that many others are interested in doing even more.

Attempts in Congress to undermine EPA's authority to enforce the Clean Air Act are a distraction from other issues facing small businesses. Lawmakers should concentrate on enacting policies that will create jobs and boost opportunities for small businesses and the millions they employ. A report we released in October 2010 on the Clean Air Act found that the economic benefits of the Act have far exceeded the costs of implementation. This is backed up by the Office of Management and Budget that estimated the total economic benefits of the Clean Air Act to be more than four to eight times the costs of compliance. The innovation that can be attributed to the Clean Air Act has also boosted economic performance, and it's predicted that capital investments in pollution controls and new generation will create an estimated 1.46 million jobs through 2015.

We oppose any effort to use the legislative process to block, delay or weaken standards under the Clean Air Act. Entrepreneurs want real clean energy solutions that will save them cash and create new opportunities for them and those they employ. It's time for more economic growth and innovation, and less political gimmicks from Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Arensmeyer
Founder & CEO