



ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS®

The Independent Business Voice for the Environment

www.e2.org

September 21, 2011

Dear Representative:

As members of Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), we urge you to oppose H.R. 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act, a bill which will block implementation of the upcoming Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants and Cross-State Air Pollution Rule.

Blocking these cost effective environmental protections will prevent the creation of millions of new jobs, impose huge health costs on workers, and burden downwind businesses with substantial additional costs. Increased pollution is not a sustainable path to job creation, innovation, and competitiveness for the United States. Legislation designed to block, weaken, or repeal important pollution standards should be opposed.

E2 represents a non-partisan, national community of business leaders who promote strong environmental policy to grow the economy. We are entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who collectively have been involved in financing, creating or working in the early development of more than 1,100 companies, which have created over 500,000 jobs. Our members manage over \$90 billion in private equity capital that will flow over the next several years into new companies.

Through our experience, we have found that environmental safeguards and the resulting reductions in pollution benefit businesses and create jobs. Investments in environmental protection are spent on the purchase and installation of new equipment which spurs investments in pollution-reducing technologies. In fact, one recent report determined that the pollution reductions targeted by the TRAIN Act will create nearly 1.5 million jobs over 5 years if implemented.¹

Blocking these standards will instead harm U.S. innovation and competitiveness in the growing clean energy and environmental technology sectors. According to the International Trade Administration, by 2008 the U.S. environmental technology sector alone was generating approximately \$300 billion in revenues, and supporting nearly 1.7 million jobs. Exports have grown dramatically from less than \$10 billion in 1990 to about \$43.8 billion in 2008, and the U.S. share of foreign environmental technology markets has increased.² Stopping these standards will only serve to undercut a growing sector of our economy and allow companies in other countries to take over a market where U.S. companies currently lead.

Furthermore, the TRAIN Act will have Congress inappropriately picking winners and losers. In addition to the health costs to everyday Americans, there are also substantial costs to businesses downwind of pollution sources. Not typically evaluated in EPA's traditional cost-benefit analysis, studies have found that blocking these standards will add about \$1.9 billion per year in additional costs to businesses from higher insurance rates, lost work days, employee recruiting, training,

¹ James Heintz, et. al., *New Jobs Cleaner Air - Employment Effects Under Planned Changes to the EPA's Air Pollution Rules*, Boston: Ceres and University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2011.

² International Trade Administration, *Environmental Industries- Industry Facts*, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries, <http://web.ita.doc.gov/ete/eteinfo.nsf/068f3801d047f26e85256883006ffa54/4878b7e2fc08ac6d85256883006c452c?OpenDocument>

integration, and replacement, and restricted outdoor activities totals.^{3,4} While upwind areas may receive an unfair subsidy in the form of lower costs, downwind areas are put at a competitive disadvantage because of increased economic development costs, reduced business profitability, and diminished government revenues.

With a struggling economy, Congress needs to support the kind of common sense protections that yield economic benefits, as well as improve Americans' quality of life. Yet the TRAIN Act will do the opposite - ensuring that we fall further behind countries such as China and Germany. Congress must invest in America's future, not hold us back.

Once again, we urge you to oppose the TRAIN Act and any upcoming legislation designed to block, weaken, or repeal important pollution standards.

Sincerely,

The following 255 E2 members have signed this letter:

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³ Cicchetti, Charles J., *Expensive Neighbors: The Hidden Cost of Harmful Pollution to Downwind Employers and Businesses*, Navigant Consulting, Inc, January 2011.

⁴ Cicchetti, Charles J., *Why EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Rules is Good for the Economy and America's Workforce*, Navigant Consulting, Inc, July 2011.

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