




**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer

June 22, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Energy & Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

On behalf of America's not-for-profit electric cooperatives serving 42 million consumers in 47 states, I am writing in support of H.R. 2273, the "Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act" scheduled for markup tomorrow in the House Energy & Commerce Committee.

This important legislation was carefully crafted to provide certainty to the electric utility industry with respect to the regulatory treatment of coal combustion residuals (CCRs), balanced against the need to preserve and strengthen the existing role of state solid waste management authorities. H.R. 2273 strikes this balance by setting forth a statutory structure for state regulation of CCR disposal under non-hazardous waste rules that ensure safety and the protection of human health and the environment.

NRECA fully supports H.R. 2273 while opposing any amendments that would regulate CCRs as hazardous waste. In addition to undermining beneficial use, regulatory treatment of CCRs as hazardous waste will create significant compliance costs at coal-based generation facilities. In some cases, these costs could be sufficiently high to render some units uneconomic, with plant closures the only viable option. Furthermore, regulation of CCRs as hazardous could present insurmountable hurdles to compliance, making it impossible to operate a coal-based power plant and comply with hazardous waste regulations. Electric cooperatives are driven not by profit but rather by service to membership. Our members' mission is to provide reliable and affordable electricity, and we seek to further policies at the federal level to assist our members with this important mission. H.R. 2273 is essential to these efforts. Thank you for taking our views into consideration and for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Glenn English