Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients Acting Director Office of Management and Budget 725 17th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Zients:

We are writing to express concern about reports that the Environmental Protection Agency plans new regulations for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at new and modified power plants through the New Source Performance Standards program. We are concerned about the regulation's impact on jobs and the economy and that it will not comply with the President's Executive Order 13563 and its predecessor Executive Order 12866.

It is our understanding that EPA may intend to propose GHG standards for new and modified coal-fired power plants that could only be achieved through the use of costly technologies such as Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS). Affordable, reliable electricity is critical to keeping and growing jobs in the United States and such a standard will likely drive up energy prices and threaten domestic jobs. A recent *USA Today* article stated that electricity rates have already skyrocketed in the past five years, which has added about \$300 a year to what households pay for electricity. A GHG standard will make that trend worse.

Forcing a transition to commercially unproven technologies could send thousands of U.S. jobs overseas and raise electricity rates on families and seniors at a time when the nation can least afford it. We respectfully ask that you stop EPA's GHG rulemaking because of the devastating impact it will have on jobs and the economy.

Sincerely,

Ed Whitfield

Chairman of the Energy and Power Subcommittee

John Barrow

Member of Congress

CC: Mr. Jacob Lew, Chief of Staff to the President

Mr. Cass R. Sunstein, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

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