Electric cooperatives oppose President Obama’s proposal to use the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. America’s rural communities depend on coal-fired generation for affordable electric power and would be disproportionately penalized by this scheme. Folks in rural communities and those with low or fixed incomes already spend more of their household budget on energy; this proposal would increase their burden. The President's proposal would be, in effect, a regressive new climate tax on America’s most economically vulnerable citizens.

Make no mistake - this new federal mandate will raise monthly electric bills across the country; forcing impossible choices upon those who continue to bear the brunt of the ongoing economic crisis. Affordable electric power is vital to rural economies.

NRECA and America’s electric cooperatives will fight this proposal at the agency level and in the courts if necessary. If the President doesn’t recognize the need to keep electric bills affordable, we promise to bring it to his attention.