



June 6, 2012

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As a representative of the more than 28 million small businesses in America, Small Business Majority urges you to oppose the Congressional Review Act Resolution introduced by Senator James Inhofe (S.J. Res. 37) that would void standards reducing mercury and other toxic pollution from power plants, and permanently block the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing such standards in the future.

Small businesses, our nation's chief job creators, account for a significant share of our nation's economy. For every one large business in America, there are more than 1,420 small businesses diligently working to reenergize our country's economy. These entrepreneurs are doing everything they can to hire, grow and move their business forward. As part of these efforts, Small Business Majority's recent scientific opinion polling shows that America's entrepreneurs want pragmatic, innovative policies that help guide them into a competitive, modern clean energy economy. This includes enforcing EPA regulations of mercury and other toxic emissions that get into the air from power plants.

Small Business Majority released opinion polling of small business owners in April that found 82% of poll respondents support EPA rules to reduce emissions of mercury, arsenic, chromium, nickel and acid gases from power plants. Nearly half (48%) strongly support it—five times the amount who strongly oppose it (10%).¹ Additionally, a study by the Economic Policy Institute found the new standards would have a modest positive net impact on overall employment—contrary to opponents' claims that the rule will cause overall job losses.

Opponents of the new standards argue that utility companies do not have enough time to comply with the standards, and the reliability of our electricity supply will be at risk. In fact, EPA has provided an adaptable framework for companies to comply with the standards over the course of five years, and beyond five years as needed.² Numerous studies have shown that industry can comply with the standards without jeopardizing reliability.³ Forward-looking companies have anticipated these rules for years and have already invested in the necessary clean technology.⁴

S.J. Res. 37 would nullify the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, throwing away all the economic benefits of the rule on the basis of unfounded concerns about electricity reliability. Even worse, if successful, S.J. Res. 37 would bar the EPA from issuing any standards in the future that are

¹ Small Business Majority, "POLL: Small Businesses Want Government Investments in Renewable Energy Technologies and Support EPA Clean Air Standards," press release, April 24, 2012, <http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=176>.

² EPA website, <http://www.epa.gov/mats/powerplants.html#time>; also, Environmental Defense Fund fact sheet, "New Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Will Save Lives: Rule Provides an Adaptable Compliance Framework to Address any Localized Reliability Management Challenges," <http://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/EDF-MATS-Adaptable-Compliance-Framework.pdf>.

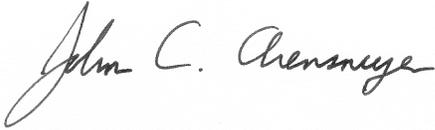
³ World Resources Institute, "WRI Fact Sheet: EPA Mercury Rules and Power Reliability," December 2011, <http://www.wri.org/publications/factsheet-epa-mercury-rules-power-reliability>.

⁴ See quotes from PSEG and Constellation in this blog: <http://blog.ucsusa.org/a-long-awaited-rule-to-limit-mercury-and-other-toxic-pollutants-from-power-plants>.

substantially similar, with the likely result that uncontrolled mercury and air toxic emissions from power plants would continue unabated.

The American people, our small business owners included, deserve financial prosperity and a livable environment, and cleaner air delivers both. Please vote no on S.J. Res. 37, the Congressional Review Act Resolution that would throw out the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. Thank you for your service and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Arensmeyer
Founder & CEO