United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to express our continued concern about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plans to issue greenhouse gas (GHG) new source performance standard (NSPS) regulations for new fossil fuel-based electric generating sources. EPA's proposed performance standards for new units will require new coal-fueled power plants to meet the same standards as new gas-fired plants. Such a requirement is unprecedented under the Clean Air Act and will have the unfortunate effect of preventing the construction of new coal plants or the upgrading of existing sources. Such a consequence could actually block potential GHG emissions reductions, endanger our electricity supply, and harm our economy. We urge you to consider an alternative approach.

Our nation can continue to use coal and continue to lower emissions at the same time. Coal-based power generation projects are being developed across the country, using state-of-the-art technologies that are laying the foundation for revolutionary advancements in power plant efficiency and reduced CO2 levels. These advancements in technology are allowing us to modernize the existing coal-fueled fleet improving efficiency and reducing emissions, while continuing to produce low-cost electricity for homes, offices and factories.

If the proposed NSPS are adopted, they will have the effect of preventing existing sources from making upgrades that will improve efficiency, allowing for more electricity generation with less fuel and fewer emissions. Further, the proposed EPA rule will effectively ban new state-of-the-art plants from being built. Opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and provide economic stimulus to America's manufacturing and construction sectors will be lost.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you urge EPA to amend the proposed rule to exercise the option available to the agency for differentiating standards based on fuel type and to establish supercritical coal generation technology as the performance standard for new coal-based electricity. Such an amendment will reduce GHG emissions, while also creating new jobs, and strengthening the economy.

Thank you for your leadership.

Best regards,

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Senator Mary Landrieu
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator