October 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

We write today urging you to listen to our constituents, including middle class families, labor unions, rural electric cooperatives, and others by eliminating the Clean Electricity Performance Program (CEPP), or carbon tax, in reconciliation negotiations and from any future consideration.

At a time when Americans are forced to confront crisis after crisis created by the Biden Administration, ham-handed government mandates like the CEPP will only stagnate our economy further by putting Americans out of work, driving up the cost of energy, and endangering the resiliency of our electric grid.

The CEPP is a new twist on old, failed carbon tax policies, amounting to nothing more than another tax on the average American family. It unrealistically demands we alter our energy grid in ten years to satisfy left-wing ideologues and vague, international commitments by picking winners and losers based on portfolio updates in unattainable, year over year timelines.

Pitched as a support program, the CEPP is corporate welfare at its worst. As Senator Manchin said, “Now they’re wanting to pay companies to do what they’re already doing. Makes no sense to me at all for us to take billions of dollars and pay utilities.”

Our energy sector and supply chains are in a time of crisis due solely to President Biden. He singlehandedly banned oil and gas drilling and rescinded the Keystone XL pipeline project, and Americans now face skyrocketing oil and gas prices. Due to failed supply chains and Biden’s OPEC allies neglecting to export more energy, our limited natural gas supplies threaten grid reliability.

For example, on cold and cloudy Minnesota days, when solar panels are unable to produce energy, we rely on natural gas-fired peaking plants. If those natural gas-fired plants lack fuel, Minnesotans will not be able to heat their homes. Smothering our electric grid with blanket mandates will only exacerbate this problem and lead to price increases and grid failures.

If the goal is to truly lower emissions, we must let the private sector innovate and decrease reliance on foreign sources. One such innovation is the use of Carbon Capture and Sequestration technology (CCS).
CCS is an innovative solution allowing existing power stations to continue using reliable, affordable energy, and therefore stay open to continue employing thousands of workers nationwide. Only the most radical members of the activist class oppose deployment of carbon capture and sequestration.

As we seek to combat the Biden Administration's self-inflicted crises, we need to focus on putting Americans back to work, lowering the cost of living, and freeing up supply chains. Therefore, Congress needs to listen to our constituents, middle class families, labor unions, and rural electric cooperatives and stop the CEPP carbon tax.

Sincerely,

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Marianette Miller-Meeks
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress

Jerry Carl
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Matt Rosendale
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