

March 10, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Mr. Boehner, Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has initiated efforts to impose greenhouse gas regulations that could be harmful to our economies at an especially critical time. As Governors and Chief Economic Developers of our States, we are gravely concerned about such regulation.

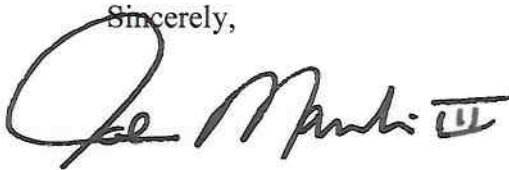
EPA is not equipped to consider the very real potential for economic harm when regulating emissions. Without that consideration, regulation will place heavy administrative burdens on state environmental quality agencies, will be costly to consumers and could be devastating to the economy and jobs.

Economists estimate that states will face their worst fiscal situations within the next two years. As governors, we have the responsibility to protect jobs, promote economic growth, and mitigate any threats to financial stability in our states. We oppose EPA regulation of greenhouse gases that fails to account for these responsibilities. A simple delay of EPA action will do nothing to provide relief to Americans looking for jobs or businesses looking to make new investments in our states. Furthermore, such delay of EPA action only creates more uncertainty in a difficult fiscal environment.


We believe that EPA should offer input regarding complex energy and environmental policy initiatives, like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but feel that these policies are best developed by elected representatives at the state and national level, not by single federal agency. There is no question that broad bipartisan support exists to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while taking into consideration the difficult fiscal situation that our states and the nation face.

We feel compelled to guard against a regulatory approach that would increase the cost of electricity and gasoline prices, manufactured products, and ultimately harm the competitiveness of the U.S. economy. As governors, we strongly urge Congress to stop harmful EPA regulation of greenhouse gas emissions that could damage those vital interests. We ask that Congress continue its work to pass comprehensive legislation that balances the role of conservation and climate security with the production of abundant and affordable American energy.

  
Governor Haley Barbour  
Mississippi


Sincerely,  
  
Governor Joe Manchin III  
West Virginia


  
Governor Sean Parnell  
Alaska

  
Governor Dave Heineman  
Nebraska


  
Governor Sony Perdue  
Georgia

  
Governor Steven L. Beshear  
Kentucky


  
Governor Donald L. Carcieri  
Rhode Island


  
Governor Jim Gibbons  
Nevada

  
Governor John Hoeven  
North Dakota

  
Governor M. Michael Rounds  
South Dakota

  
Governor Mark Sanford  
South Carolina


  
Governor Tim Pawlenty  
Minnesota

  
Governor Gary R. Herbert  
Utah


  
Governor Linda Lingle  
Hawaii



Governor Bobby Jindal  
Louisiana




Governor Bob Riley  
Alabama



Governor Felix P. Camacho  
Guam



Governor Luis G. Fortuño  
Puerto Rico



Governor Robert F. McDonnell  
Virginia



Governor Jan Brewer  
Arizona