



To: Interested Parties
From: Jeff Gohringer, National Press Secretary, League of Conservation Voters
Re: Business as Usual: Desperate Polluters Battle Clean Power Plan
Date: July 24, 2014

Next week the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct four public hearings on its proposed [Clean Power Plan](#), which would put in place the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants, and marks our biggest step yet to tackle the challenge of climate change.

[Polling conducted by the League of Conservation Voters](#) as well as by the national media shows more than two-thirds of the American people favor limiting carbon pollution from power plants. And just as importantly, they overwhelmingly trust the EPA over Congress to tackle the issue.

The public's broad support for this kind of action might explain why so much money is being spent on the same [old tired attacks](#) from the corporate polluters and their allies who are desperate to hold on to outdated, dirty, and dangerous sources of energy.

BUSINESS AS USUAL: THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LAUNCHES FALSE ATTACKS AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS

In late May, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce issued a highly misleading report against the EPA proposal for existing power plants before it was even released.

The U.S. Chamber "study" was based on assumptions about an imagined proposal that was nothing like what [the EPA actually proposed](#). Independent fact checkers were quick to rate it "[false](#)," and awarded "[four Pinocchios](#)" to politicians who cited it.

Of course, that has not stopped [the U.S. Chamber, politicians such as House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell](#), and allied groups — including Karl Rove's [Crossroads GPS](#) and the Koch Brothers' [Americans for Prosperity](#) — from continuing to use the discredited U.S. Chamber study and other [doomsday predictions](#) to attack the EPA's popular plan. These desperate attacks, which we can expect to hear repeated at the EPA field hearings, are the subject of a new TV ad launched by LCV on July 24.

AMERICANS OVERWHELMINGLY BACK EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN

Following the release of last month's EPA proposal to reduce carbon pollution from the nation's single biggest source - power plants, LCV conducted a [national](#) poll, and surveys in the traditionally coal-friendly states of [Pennsylvania](#) and [Virginia](#).

By a margin of 65-28%, LCV's [national poll](#) found strong support for EPA's Clean Power Plan across geographic, socioeconomic, and generational lines.

In fact, support exceeded [60%](#) in every region of the country and by voters in all age and income brackets, with younger voters and those in middle- and lower-income households especially supportive.

The findings closely mirror last month's [Washington Post-ABC News poll, which found 70% approval for](#) limiting the

pollution driving climate change from existing power plants, including 69% approval from those who live in states that get a majority of their electricity from coal. There was also strong bipartisan support on the issue. [Fifty-seven percent of Republicans, 76 percent of independents and 79 percent of Democrats support state-level limits on greenhouse gas emissions](#). Similarly, the most recent [Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll](#) found that two-thirds of respondents supported the EPA's Clean Power Plan, with more than half of respondents saying the U.S. should address climate change even if it means higher electricity bills. Thanks in large part to anticipated investments in energy efficiency measures, the EPA's Clean Power Plan is projected to [reduce electricity bills by 8%](#).

LCV's polling found that nearly three in four ([72%](#)) voters favor the EPA's proposed safeguards, with strong support in the Philadelphia (76%) and Pittsburgh areas (69%). There was also significant approval of the plan across Western Pennsylvania (63% support), where there's traditionally been support for coal. And [by more than four to one](#), Pennsylvanians say they have more trust in the EPA to decide whether there should be regulations on carbon pollution (59%-13%) than the United States Congress.

THE BOTTOM-LINE -- POLLUTERS' FEARMONGERING HAS FAILED BEFORE, AND IT'S FAILING AGAIN

In the more than four decades since the Clean Air Act was passed, corporate polluters and their allies have engaged in baseless fearmongering about the [economic costs](#) of cutting pollution and protecting our health. Industry officials have dramatically overstated the economic costs of environmental and public health safeguards for decades. For example, in 1990, when we took steps to stop acid rain, they claimed the lights would go out and businesses around the country would suffer. They've been [proven wrong](#) time and time again, and this time will be no different.

The bottom line is that the American people clearly recognize that climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our generation. They believe we have a moral obligation to act, and they're fed up with polluters having free rein to dump unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into our air.

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