



December 3, 2015

Dear Representatives Costello, Curbelo, Fitzpatrick, Gibson, LoBiondo, Meehan, Reed, Reichert, Ros-Lehtinen, and Stefanik:

We are writing to express our deep disappointment that you voted to block the single biggest step the United States has ever taken to address climate change (S.J. Res. 24). While we appreciate your sponsorship of a resolution recognizing that climate change is real and requires an effective response, such resolutions do not address climate change unless they are a prelude to meaningful action. That is why we are asking you to revisit your views on the Clean Power Plan and to share your plans to effectively address climate change.

The resolution you support recognizes that climate change is real, acknowledges that humans contribute to it, and commits you to supporting public policies that will address this threat. We were encouraged by this step to raise your hands and say you want to be part of the solution to climate change. By sponsoring this resolution, you more closely aligned yourselves with the majority of Americans, including Republicans, who strongly support action to reduce carbon pollution and promote clean energy.

Given your position supporting action to address climate change, we cannot understand why you would then vote to block these standards limiting dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants, our country's single largest source of pollution fueling climate change. As you know, a successful Congressional Review Act resolution would also prevent a future administration from issuing substantially similar standards. While we appreciate that many of you voted against S.J. Res. 23, the science is clear that it will not suffice to simply limit emissions from power plants that have yet to be built. We must cut carbon pollution from the existing fleet of power plants. Indeed, the Clean Power Plan will do so in a way that gives states flexibility on how to cut pollution, and it will boost renewable energy, lower electric bills for consumers, and improve our health. That is why we support the Clean Power Plan, will do everything we can to defend it, and encourage you to revisit your views on it.

It is especially troubling that you voted to repeal America's main action to address climate change as world leaders gather in Paris to craft a historic climate agreement that for the first time will have all nations doing their fair share to tackle this global challenge. Thanks in large part to U.S. leadership and the pollution reductions delivered by the Clean Power Plan, more than 180 countries – including China, India and all other major emitters – have put forth concrete climate action plans ahead of this critical summit. Members of Congress who support climate action should not be trying to pull the rug out from under the main U.S. policy that is bringing others to the table.

We strongly encourage you to support commonsense carbon pollution limits on power plants and ask that you make public what policies you do support that will effectively address the threat of climate change. We stand ready to work with you to address this urgent threat to the one planet we call home.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President
League of Conservation Voters

Margie Alt
Executive Director
Environment America

Michael Brune
Executive Director
Sierra Club

Elizabeth Thompson
President
EDF Action

Rhea Suh
President
Natural Resources Defense Council