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December 9, 2015

NDDoH  
Division of Air Quality  
918 E. Divide Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947



Dear Director Terry O'Clair,

Thank you for soliciting the views and comments of the North Dakota (ND) people concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan. As you know the EPA proposed ND reduce its carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from power plants by 11 percent, but has subsequently mandated ND reduce these emissions by 45 percent by 2030 in its final rule.

Since my time as a ND Public Service Commissioner I've seen this effort brewing and am closely aware of its impacts to the electric grid, the economy, and our environment. There is no doubt this rule will force electric infrastructure to the angst of landowners and the public lest power outages proliferate, send electricity rates to rise significantly year-after-year for decades, and provide minute changes to global temperatures the EPA seeks to reduce.

Additionally, this rule stands on faulty legal ground. To address many of your questions directly a ND plan should be written as ND reads the Clean Air Act and fully consider all costs and reliability impacts.

I have worked successfully with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to include language in the House Interior and Environment Appropriations bill to prevent this rule during the fiscal year and have advocated for its inclusion in the upcoming omnibus appropriations bill. I also helped usher the Ratepayer Protection Act through the House on a bipartisan vote in June 2015. This bill extends the compliance deadline until all litigation against it is finalized with the added protection to states where the governor indicates there will be significant adverse effects to ratepayers or reliability. Unfortunately, this bill has remained in the U.S. Senate since then with no action taken.

Lastly, just last week the House passed resolutions of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to prevent the CO<sub>2</sub> rules for new power plants and existing

power plants. While these resolutions will likely face President Obama's veto pen soon they show the world and presidential candidates the majority of America's representatives oppose these rules.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Cramer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin Cramer  
U.S. Congressman