

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

June 18, 2012

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution disapproving the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants (also known as Utility MACT).

Issued December 16, 2011, the Utility MACT rule requires power plants to significantly reduce mercury and other air emissions by installing expensive pollution-control technology in a short three-year time frame. The Utility MACT regulation is one of the most expensive rules ever written for power plants and, according to one analysis, would cost nearly \$95 billion. These costs will be passed down to residential consumers and U.S. manufacturers, which use one-third of our nation's energy.

Under several rules directly impacting power plants, electricity costs will increase by more than 10 percent in some of the largest manufacturing regions of our nation, resulting in a loss of 1.65 million jobs by 2020, according to National Economic Research Associates. In addition, there will likely be serious grid reliability issues as coal-fired power plants are taken off-line. So far, 169 coal-fired electricity-generating units in 21 states are expected to be taken off-line by 2015 due to Utility MACT and other rules.

Utilities and manufacturers have spent years improving the environment by investing billions of dollars in new pollution-control technologies and building new plants. The NAM supports responsible measures to improve air quality. Disapproving the Utility MACT rule does not prevent the EPA from reducing mercury emissions in a future rulemaking. However, passing S.J. Res. 37 would ensure the agency writes a sensible regulation that curbs mercury emissions without unnecessarily raising energy prices and destroying more jobs.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on S.J. Res. 37 may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote