



January 14, 2014

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Whitfield and Ranking Member Rush:

The National Mining Association strongly supports H.R. 3826, the “Electricity Security and Affordability Act.” H.R. 3826 would ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adheres to the Clean Air Act’s requirement that standards reflect what is achievable by technology that is adequately demonstrated and commercially available.

The EPA’s proposed New Source Performance Standards for regulating greenhouse gas emissions from new power plants represents a significant step backwards for supplying America with affordable and reliable power from the cleanest coal-based power systems commercially proven and available. The proposed standard would condition the construction of new coal power plants on the use of carbon capture and storage—a technology that has not been adequately demonstrated in a fully integrated commercial scale power plant. In short, the proposal effectively bans coal—our nation’s largest energy source—from America’s power portfolio. As a result, power companies would be unable to replace older, less efficient coal plants with newer, more efficient ones with lower emissions.

The legislation would also ensure that EPA does not compromise the reliability and affordability of our nation’s electricity supply from existing power plants. Earlier regulations issued by EPA have already forced power companies to close or schedule the closure of at least two hundred power plants. Tens of billions of dollars are being invested now in the remaining power plants to meet those new standards. Any future rule on greenhouse gas emissions would strand those investments and further increase electricity and energy prices for American households and businesses. H.R. 3826 would allow Congress to perform its oversight role to assure that our nation’s electricity and energy policy is aligned with the public interest in affordable and reliable electricity to create and sustain jobs and protect households from further erosion of their disposable income.

American households and businesses cannot afford another rush-before-ready approach to regulation. H.R. 3826 would protect them from a less reliable and more expensive electricity supply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hal Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

Hal Quinn