Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2016

Administrator Gina McCarthy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Office of the Administrator, 1101 A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

In 1992, national governments around the world, including the United States, agreed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the framework for addressing variations in the global climate. Although there have been subsequent global climate treaties since the UNFCCC entered into force, the U.S. Senate has never ratified any treaty that places legally binding greenhouse gas emissions targets on the United States.

The Paris Protocol was negotiated from November 30 – December 11, 2015, at the 21st annual session of the Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the UNFCCC. The results of COP 21 were non-binding emissions reduction and finance commitments from participating governments. The United States cannot be legally bound to any global agreement that sets emissions targets or financial commitments without treaty ratification by the U.S. Senate.

Reports indicate that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to embed U.S. federal employees in UNFCCC participating countries to monitor progress towards the COP 21 commitments. We respectfully request additional information on this plan to deploy U.S. federal employees to UNFCCC participating countries and pose the following three questions:

1. How many U.S. federal employees will be deployed to UNFCCC participating countries?
2. How long will these employees be deployed?
3. What will the cost of the deployment be to U.S. taxpayers?

We look forward to receiving your response by January 29, 2016.

Sincerely,

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

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