

United Mine Workers of America

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August 9, 2021

Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Opposition to Smith Clean Electricity Standard

Dear Senator Manchin:

I am writing on behalf of the active and retired members of the UMWA to express our strong opposition to the Clean Electricity Standard (CES) being proposed by Senator Smith and others for inclusion in the budget reconciliation bill.

While legislative language has not yet been released, the basic components of this proposal are public knowledge. Our opposition to the Smith CES proposal is grounded in three factors.

First, the proposal seeks to achieve an unrealistic 80% reduction of utility carbon emissions by 2030. West Virginia depends on coal for 95% of its electric power. These carbon reductions would eliminate virtually all of West Virginia's coal generation fleet of eight baseload power plants well before the end of this decade. All related coal mining and utility jobs would be lost, with severe adverse impacts on families, communities, and the local and state tax revenues associated with mining, electric generation, and electric power exports. West Virginia would cease to be a major electricity exporter, and would need to import power from neighboring states.

Second, unlike any other climate change bill, the Smith proposal seeks to use American taxpayer dollars - as much as \$150 billion - to subsidize utility costs for the accelerated retirement of coal generation plants in favor of renewable energy sources. Renewable energy already receives significant Federal financial support, and stands to benefit from any climate

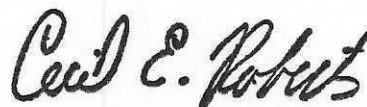
change legislation. We understand that this new Federal subsidy was added specifically to circumvent the Byrd Rule.

Third, the proposal gives lip service to technology by providing for CCUS-equipped coal or natural gas plants to meet emission reduction targets, but does not allow adequate time for CCUS development or commercial deployment. An eight-year compliance timetable - coupled with annual percent reduction targets - is simply inadequate for the planning, engineering, financing, permitting and construction of CCUS and other advanced coal technologies.

We strongly support your leadership in the bipartisan infrastructure bill to advance significant resources for CCUS and other advanced technologies that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while preserving existing and creating new well-paid jobs. We share your view that the technology path is the preferred means to achieve climate protection both here and abroad. The United States should be a leader in the commercial deployment of carbon abatement technologies. The Smith CES proposal is the wrong recipe for moving us in this direction.

We will appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecil E. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Cecil E. Roberts

cc: Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
AFL-CIO Energy Committee
Brian Sanson, International Secretary-Treasurer
Phil Smith, Director of Government Affairs