



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

11 March 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform, and millions of taxpayers nationwide, **I am writing to express strong opposition to the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) plans to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.**

EPA Director Lisa Jackson explicitly expressed her intention to regulate greenhouse gas emissions in a February 22, 2010 letter sent to Senator Rockefeller. In this letter she wrote:

“I expect that EPA will phase-in permit requirements and regulation of greenhouse gases for large stationary sources beginning in calendar year 2011... In any event, EPA does not intend to subject the smallest sources to Clean Air Act permitting for greenhouse-gas emissions any sooner than 2016.”

No doubt the EPA’s prospective greenhouse gas regulations are a response to the Senate’s inaction on House-passed H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, more commonly referred to as Cap-and-Trade. The EPA looks to implement what Congress has thus far failed to, an energy tax.

As such, the EPA is utilized to subvert the Congress and the will of the American people by enacting back-door carbon regulations, an unprecedented move that is extremely disconcerting. The EPA should not act as chief regulator of America’s economy, it was never intended to.

Given the current poor state of the American economy, the EPA’s decision to regulate greenhouse gasses could prove disastrous. Facing carbon regulations, energy producers would have no choice but to raise energy prices, passing the cost of EPA’s regulations to consumers. Undoubtedly, higher energy prices would result in lost productivity and jobs while reducing America’s global competitiveness. Energy taxes divert money from the most productive sectors of the American economy to less efficient energy sources. Companies considering investing in the U.S. already must weigh America’s inexplicably high corporate tax rate. Compounding an energy tax to an already high business taxes would certainly deter foreign investment – further prolonging the current downturn.

Allowing the EPA to decide carbon regulations sets a dangerous precedent. I urge you to allow Congress debate the merits of greenhouse gas regulation at which point they will legislate accordingly.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist

cc: Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator

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