Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During your State of the Union address on January 24, 2012, you called for an "all-of-the-above" strategy that develops every available source of American energy." We couldn't agree with you more and fully support the development of a comprehensive domestic energy policy that will meet our nation's vast energy needs. However, not once in your speech did you mention the role that coal will play in such a strategy, despite the fact that nearly 50 percent of our nation's electricity is generated by coal. We believe your omission was a glaring oversight symptomatic of a decidedly anti-coal regulatory agenda that has escalated under your Administration and which needs to be reversed if we are going to truly pursue an "all-of-the-above" strategy as promised in your speech.

There are four major U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that affect coal-fueled power plants: (1) the final Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and proposed regulations for (2) Utility MACT, (3) cooling water intake structures, and (4) coal combustion residuals. These regulations threaten our nation's ability to produce the affordable and reliable energy we need to run our economy, as well as the tens of thousands of jobs this critical industry supports. According to the National Economic Research Associates (NERA), these four anti-coal regulations are projected to cost $21 billion per year between 2012 and 2020; cause a net loss of jobs averaging 183,000 jobs per year, a total of 1.65 million job-years lost by 2020; increase electricity prices by double digits in many regions of the country, with peak-year increases in some regions as high as 19 percent; and cause a loss of $270 per year in the average family's household income.

It was recently reported that an additional nine coal-fueled power plants, located in Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, announced that they would be shutting down as a result of unrealistic EPA regulations and their corresponding timelines. The immediate effect of these closures will put over 600 hard-working Americans out of a job and jeopardize the supply and cost of electricity for customers throughout the region.

During these challenging economic times, the American people have been clear that their primary goal is to strengthen our economy and get more Americans back to work. In order to achieve this goal, we must focus on providing affordable, secure, and reliable energy that will not only fuel our economy, but will create good, family-sustaining jobs.

We stand with you in your call for an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy, but one that promotes, rather than prohibits, the domestic development of coal, which over the past 40 years has become

both cleaner and more efficient with a nearly 90 percent reduction in major emissions from coal-fueled power plants.

We appreciate your consideration and hope that we can work together to incorporate a robust coal policy into our nation's energy strategy. Efforts to improve our state of the union will undoubtedly rely on it.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Hal Rogers
Member of Congress

Bill Shuster
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

David McKinley
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Andy Harris
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Charlie Dent
Member of Congress