

Opening Statement

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House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Subcommittees on Environment and Energy

EPA Power Plant Regulations: Is the Technology Ready?

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I want to thank Chairman Stewart and Chairwoman Lummis for holding this hearing to discuss the EPA's proposal to set national carbon emission limits for new natural gas and coal power plants. I also want to thank the witnesses for being here today to provide their input on this important topic.

The benefits from the Clean Air Act are countless; they come in the form of lives saved, reductions in illnesses, technological advancements in environmental protection, and economic growth. I join my colleagues Ms. Bonamici and Mr. Swalwell in expressing my approval of the Obama Administration's and the EPA's first steps toward protecting future generations from the harmful effects of carbon pollution that threatens our health and is changing our climate system. And, they are making those steps by advancing clean energy technologies. We would all prefer to address these important issues with common sense legislation, but until we can agree on both sides of the aisle that climate change is a real and pressing problem, bi-partisan collaboration on solutions does not appear to be possible.

Throughout history industry has often resisted addressing environmental problems that emerge as a result of a greater scientific understanding of our impact on the environment and our health. And, in many of these cases, they simply will not do so without regulatory intervention and proper government oversight. I challenge industry leaders to be a helpful partner in reducing our carbon emissions going forward. If they will, we can have both a cleaner environment and a strong economy.