



November 12, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
S- 230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Manchin, Capito and Heitkamp:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I am writing in support of S. J. Res. 23 and S. J. Res. 24, the Congressional Review Act resolutions of disapproval in response to the Obama Administration's problematic power plant regulations. These resolutions would overturn the regulations recently finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for both new and existing coal fired power plants.

These power plant regulations, which comprise the administration's so-called Clean Power Plan, force states to reduce coal-power electricity generation, which supplies most of America's electricity, and submit plans for more alternative energy sources. Even the administration expects the regulation to increase the cost of electricity, the impact of which will fall directly on small businesses that depend heavily on affordable energy.

NFIB research shows that the cost of electricity is already a top concern among small business owners across the country. According to the NFIB Research Foundation's 2012 *Small Business Problems and Priorities* survey, the cost of electricity was ranked number 12 out of 75 issues, ahead of other major problems like cash flow and poor earnings. Small businesses will be squeezed between higher direct expenses and lower consumer demand due to increased home electricity bills.

Moreover, these regulations likely go well beyond the EPA's legal authority. This is why on October 23, 2015 the NFIB Small Business Legal Center announced that it would lead a coalition of business groups in a lawsuit to invalidate the EPA's regulation targeting existing power plants. Nearly 20 different associations have joined NFIB in the lawsuit.

S. J. Res 23 and S. J Res. 24 would collectively ensure that small businesses are not negatively impacted by the EPA's rules. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you on this and other issues important to small business in the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Austin".

Amanda Austin
Vice President, Public Policy