

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



For Immediate Release
July 9, 2015

Media Contact: Zachary Kurz
(202) 225-6371

Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Examining EPA's Regulatory Overreach

Chairman Smith: Over the last year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released some of the most expensive and expansive regulations in its history. These rules will cost billions of dollars, burden American families and diminish the competitiveness of American industry around the world.

Today's hearing will examine this unprecedented regulatory agenda and the manner in which EPA has used secret science, questionable legal interpretations, and flawed analysis to promote these rules.

A glaring example is the president's Power Plan. This plan is nothing more than a "Power Grab" to give the government more control over Americans' daily lives.

These regulations stifle economic growth, destroy American jobs, and increase energy prices. That means everything will cost more – from electricity to gasoline to food, which disproportionately hurts low income Americans.

Even EPA data shows that this regulation would reduce sea level rise by only 1/100th of an inch, the thickness of three sheets of paper. This rule represents massive costs without significant benefits. In other words, it's all pain and no gain.

EPA also seeks to impose stricter ozone standards. Once again, this comes with few benefits. In fact, EPA's own figures show that since 1980, ozone levels have decreased by 33 percent. And today's air quality will continue to improve with the expected development of practical new technologies.

Last week, the Supreme Court issued a ruling that is an important step towards reining in the extreme actions of the EPA. It ruled that the EPA must consider the costs of its decisions and weigh those costs against any potential benefits.

For two years, the Committee requested the voluntary production of the data EPA uses to justify Clean Air Act regulations. The EPA's refusal to provide the data led the Science Committee to issue its first subpoena in 21 years to retrieve that information.

Earlier this year, the Committee was forced to issue a second subpoena to obtain information related to Administrator McCarthy's deletion of almost 6,000 text messages sent and received on her official agency mobile device. The Administration claimed that all but one was personal.

Most recently, the Committee requested information and documents related to the EPA's development of the Waters of the U.S. rule and the agency's inappropriate lobbying of outside organizations to generate grassroots support.

The Committee was again forced to notice its intention to issue a subpoena for the information. Following this latest notice, EPA has begun to produce a limited number of documents to the Committee.

However, producing documents in bits and pieces after months or years of delay are not the actions of an open and transparent Administration. They are the actions of an agency and administration that has something to hide.

Earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 1030, "The Secret Science Reform Act." This legislation requires the EPA to base its regulations on publically-available data. Why would the EPA want to hide this information from the American people?

The EPA has a responsibility to be open and transparent with the people it serves and whose money it spends.

I hope the Administrator will tell us today she will produce the data and other information the Committee has requested. Then she will help the president keep his pledge to maintain an open and transparent administration.

###