



COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**  
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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**Statement of Environment Subcommittee Chairman Jim Bridenstine (R-Okla.)**

*State Perspectives: How EPA's Power Plan Will Shut Down Power Plants*

**Subcommittee Chairman Bridenstine:** Today's hearing focuses on the EPA's final Clean Power Plan rule and the tremendous impact that this rule will have on the states upon final implementation. I am very concerned about how this regulation will affect the American economy; more specifically, access to cheap and abundant traditional energy sources as well as affordable and reliable electricity.

Today, I look forward to hearing testimony from state regulators about how this rule will specifically impact the citizens of their states. The negative impacts of EPA's supposed Clean Power Plan are well documented. A few months ago, we heard from industry groups about some of these impacts. The Committee learned that the total compliance costs of the rule could be as high as \$366 billion by 2030. Additionally, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, the regulation is projected to cause double digit electricity price increases in 43 states.

Moreover, the Committee has heard testimony that the EPA is using questionable legal authority to promulgate the Clean Power Plan under section 111 of the Clean Air Act. In fact, Laurence Tribe, the leading environmental and constitutional law professor and mentor to President Obama referred to the method by which this rule was enacted as "burning the Constitution."

This Committee has also heard testimony at previous hearings that the climate benefits from any reductions in carbon emissions realized by the rule will be negligible on a global scale. Unfortunately, we have a rule that will place tremendous costs on the American people for very little benefit.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reaffirmed many of these facts in a report analyzing the impacts of the Clean Power Plan. The Committee heard testimony from Howard Gruenspecht at EIA who reported that EPA's rule will shut down large numbers of coal-fired power plants, increase electricity prices, and decrease the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

Many states, including the ones that we have represented before us today have pushed back on the massive overreach of EPA's carbon emission rule. States are uniquely positioned to protect the environment in their states and support their local economies – a key fact the EPA disregarded in promulgating this rule.

My home state of Oklahoma, which has been leading the charge against EPA's onerous rule, recognizes that this rule will harm reliability and impose massive costs on its citizens. I applaud Oklahoma's efforts to fight against the EPA and its activist, overbearing regulatory agenda.

This Committee has called many hearings conducting oversight of EPA's regulatory agenda and will continue to do so – in order for the American people to understand how this will impact their lives. I thank all of our witnesses for testifying today and I look forward to hearing about how EPA's final Clean Power Plan will impact your states.

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