Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
EPA Administrator
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

We are writing to express our support for the Environmental Protection Agency's final Cross-State Air Pollution Control Rule. This important public health standard will prevent approximately 34,000 premature deaths, more than 15,000 heart attacks, 19,000 cases of acute bronchitis, 400,000 cases of aggravated asthma, and 1.8 million lost workdays annually. The aggregate health benefits will save up to $280 billion annually in avoided costs, at a cost of only $800 million. This 350-1 benefit to cost ratio represents a great deal for the public and an opportunity to improve the quality of life and competitiveness of American metropolitan areas. In concert with other improvements to state and federal regulations, it will reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide by 73% and 54%, respectively, by 2014.

The Cross-State Air Pollution Control Rule finally ends decades of failure to control air pollution at its source. For too long, highly polluting facilities located upwind have been allowed to pollute major metropolitan areas with impunity. In fact, those sources of pollution have made it impossible for most major metropolitan areas to come into compliance with federal standards for smog pollution. As a result, local and state governments have had to spend more money on local pollution mitigation even when most pollution is generated by large upwind sources. We applaud your efforts to make polluters control pollution at the source rather than continuing to shift the cost burden onto local governments and local taxpayers.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to dramatic improvements in air quality as a result of this important public health standard.

Sincerely,

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11th District, Virginia

Carolyn Maloney
14th District, New York

John Carney
At Large, Delaware

Mike Quigley
5th District, Illinois

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