



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

DEMOCRATS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Markup of “H.J. Res. 71, H.J. Res. 72”**

Mr. Chairman, it's very disappointing that we are here once again to markup legislation to gut EPA's ability to regulate carbon emissions from new and existing power plants. We have already wasted enough of the Committee's time attacking every step taken by this administration to address our dangerously changing climate.

As we sit here today, climate change continues to reshape our world. According to NOAA, 2014 was the warmest year ever recorded, and that trend shows no sign of slowing down.

That is why EPA has taken action by finalizing a workable plan to reduce emissions of carbon pollution from power plants, which are the largest uncontrolled source of man-made greenhouse gases in the U.S. The Clean Power Plan outlines a path to cleaner air, better health, a safer climate and a stronger economy. The rule also gives states flexibility to choose how to achieve their emission reduction goals, which are state-specific and cost-effective. This is a moderate and reasonable approach, and falls well within the legal authority – and responsibility – of the EPA to address carbon pollution from power plants.

Mr. Chairman, we have spent enough time listening to the countless absurd arguments made on behalf of companies that profit from the status quo. And we have spent enough time watching multiple federal courts reject the premature attacks on the Clean Power Plan and EPA's carbon standards for new power plants. Enough is enough. It's time for Congress and this Committee to move on.

But instead of moving on, we are considering bills today that would cripple the efforts of the EPA to move forward in this fight against climate change and what's worse they bar the EPA from reissuing this rule or issuing any other future rules to address carbon pollution from power plants. So, it's not enough to dismantle the current plan to address carbon emissions – Republicans are doing their best to make sure future generations are hamstrung by the same head-in-the-sand logic on display today.

Congress overwhelmingly passed the Clean Air Act, a Republican President signed it into law, and now EPA is fulfilling the executive's duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." EPA is doing the job we asked them to do, and it's unfortunate that Republicans are using every trick in the book to prevent the Agency from carrying out its mission.

EPA's power plant rules are modest and flexible, and will help us tackle the urgent need to reduce our carbon emissions. But, Republican colleagues will continue to ignore the facts. And Republicans will continue their zealous campaign to discredit and reject any reasonable plan to address climate change.

Just saying no to climate action – as these bills would have us do—and condemning future generations is simply not an option. I urge members to vote no. I yield back my time.

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