



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

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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)

Examining EPA's Regional Haze Program: Regulations Without Visible Benefits

Chairman Smith: Thank you Mr. Chairman, and thanks to our witnesses for being here today.

The Science Committee has held many hearings on the regulatory overreach of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during this administration.

Unfortunately, the EPA is again attempting to unnecessarily and unlawfully regulate the lives of the American people.

Throughout this Congress, the Committee has often revealed how the EPA's regulatory overreach will cost billions of dollars, cause financial hardship for American families, and diminish the competitiveness of American employers, all with no significant benefit to climate change, public health, or the economy.

The EPA has rushed through many costly and burdensome regulations. Examples include the strict new National Ambient Air Quality standards for ozone, Waters of the U.S., and the Clean Power Plan.

Today we will hear how the EPA's interpretation and execution of the regional haze rule unlawfully undercuts the statutory authority of the individual states. Congress clearly intended, through the Clean Air Act, that individual states be responsible and in charge of the program, not the federal government.

Instead, the administration is determined to use this rule to impose more costly regulations on Americans.

In my home state of Texas, the EPA's regional haze imposition would affect 14 power plans and cost more than \$2 billion. This past Friday, the Attorney General of Texas requested a stay of this plan.

EPA's regulatory agenda is bad for the American economy and for the American people. We cannot allow a federal agency to assume power that Congress has not given it.

The Science Committee will continue to rein in the EPA when it oversteps its authority. Contrary to the EPA's agenda, Americans want to be free from overly burdensome regulations, not tied up in more.

We look forward to EPA's presence at a future hearing. EPA will also be expected to answer questions about other regulations that the agency has recently issued or finalized.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman and yield back.

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