



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

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Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
Impact of EPA's Clean Power Plan on States

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

President Obama submitted costly new power plant regulations as the cornerstone of the recently signed Paris Climate agreement last month at the United Nations. These measures will adversely affect our economy and have no significant impact on global temperatures by the EPA's own admission.

In Paris, the president pledged that the United States will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent over the next decade and by 80 percent or more by 2050. Again, even if fully implemented, it will have no significant impact on global warming.

The U.S. pledge to the U.N. is estimated to prevent only one-fiftieth of a degree Celsius temperature rise over the next 85 years. EPA's own data shows that this regulation would reduce sea level rise by only 1/100th of an inch, the thickness of three sheets of paper.

The president's pledge attempts to create an international agreement that binds the United States for decades to come, but lacks constitutional legitimacy since it has not been ratified by the Senate.

The agreement not only requires the U.S. to reduce carbon emissions but also compels our country to pay billions of dollars to developing nations to reduce their carbon emissions.

Even if all 196 countries fulfill their promised reductions for each year after 2031, it will only reduce temperatures by one-sixth of a degree Celsius.

The so-called Clean Power Plan will cost billions of dollars, cause financial hardship for American families, and diminish the competitiveness of American employers, all with no significant benefit.

This past month, the Energy Information Agency (EIA) calculated that the Clean Power Plan will hit consumers with higher electricity rates. The rate increases being forecast

by EIA will have real economic consequences and place a needless burden on low-income families.

The president's "Power Plan" is nothing more than a power grab. A majority of Congress disapproved of the Clean Power Plan through the Congressional Review Act. And the governors of most states are challenging the rule in court.

Meanwhile, the president attempts to justify his actions with scare tactics, worst-case scenarios and biased data.

Statements by President Obama and others that attempt to link extreme weather events to climate change are unfounded. The lack of evidence is clear: no increased tornadoes, no increased hurricanes, no increased droughts or floods.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that there is "low confidence" that drought has increased in intensity or duration. The same lack of evidence can be found in the IPCC reports for almost every type of extreme weather.

The administration's alarmism is not good science and intentionally misleads the American people.

The president's signed Paris pledge will increase electricity costs, ration energy and slow economic growth. It ignores good science and only seeks to advance a partisan political agenda.

As we will hear today, the president's so-called Clean Power Plan is a bad deal for the American economy, and would produce no substantive environmental benefits.

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