



January 10, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Small Business Majority urges you to act swiftly on the clean energy front in order to provide clear market signals and opportunities that will help guide small businesses into a modern, competitive clean energy economy. We know from opinion polling that the majority of small businesses support government investments in clean energy, and the regulation of carbon emissions through the Clean Air Act, specifically. Given the partisan gridlock in Congress, the Clean Air Act may be the best option for cost-effectively reducing carbon pollution from power plants.

Small business owners support this type of action: 76% of those we polled favor the Environmental Protection Agency limiting carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act. Therefore, we urge your administration to finalize the proposed Carbon Pollution Standard for New Power Plants as soon as possible and, as required by the Clean Air Act, propose and finalize a carbon reduction program for existing power plants. This standard is an important step toward spurring innovation, job creation and investment in low and no-carbon technologies, as well as new energy infrastructure and energy efficiency.

Small business owners understand the nexus between environmental and economic interests, and believe that adhering to sensible clean air standards can spark innovation and drive long-term growth. In the last two decades, emissions of the most common air pollutants have declined by 41%, while Gross Domestic Product has increased by more than 64%, as a result of the Clean Air Act. The benefits yielded consistently outweigh the costs of pollution reductions, also. EPA analysis shows the economic benefit of emissions reductions from 1990-2010 outweighed the costs by four to one.

Small businesses also understand the need to innovate to survive. That's why 87% also agree that improving innovation and energy efficiency are good ways to increase prosperity for small businesses. National standards to reduce carbon pollution from new and existing power plants will clarify risks and opportunities for U.S. businesses, while also leading to technological innovation and investment in the domestic clean energy market.

We urge you to help small businesses succeed by continuing to push a national agenda that creates jobs, and supports the EPA and its responsible enforcement of the Clean Air Act so that small businesses, and the millions of workers they employ, can keep taking advantage of its benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer".

John Arensmeyer  
Founder & CEO