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November 17, 2015

RE: Consumer Groups Oppose S. J. RES. 23 and S. J. Res. 24

Dear Senator,

We urge you to oppose S. J. RES. 23 and S. J. Res. 24. These resolutions would effectively repeal the EPA Clean Power Plan, which curbs carbon pollution from power plants. Opponents of the Clean Power Plan often argue that they are protecting consumers, but they are mistaken. The Clean Power Plan is good for consumers because it will mitigate climate change and can lower household electricity costs.

The Clean Power Plan will benefit consumers. Climate change poses a severe threat to American consumers and in particular to vulnerable populations. A few of the most salient risks include:

- higher taxes and market prices to cover the costs of widespread damage to property and infrastructure from extreme weather;
- diminished quality and higher prices for food and water, heightening food insecurity for America's most vulnerable populations; and
- increased illness and disease from extreme heat events, reduced air quality, increased food-borne, water-borne, and insect-borne pathogens.¹

By curbing carbon pollution, the Clean Power Plan will benefit consumers by mitigating these harms.

The Clean Power Plan should lower consumer electricity bills. The Clean Power Plan is likely to lower consumer costs, not raise them, because it will spur improvements in energy efficiency. Although electricity prices may rise modestly under the Plan, consumers will use less electricity. This should result in lower bills overall. The EPA projects that the rule will lower consumer bills by 7.0 to 7.7 percent by 2030.² A Public Citizen analysis of the proposed rule found that the EPA's projection of bill reductions was conservative because it overestimated the cost of efficiency

¹ See U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM, HIGHLIGHTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE UNITED STATES: THE THIRD NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT 8–9, 12–13, 33–47 (2014).

² EPA, REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR THE CLEAN POWER PLAN FINAL RULE 3-40 (2015).

programs and underestimated how much progress the states can make on efficiency. These points remain valid with respect to the final rule, for which the EPA's analysis is similar.³ Consumer costs are likely to decline by more than the agency projects.

We strongly encourage members to support the Clean Power Plan and to oppose the resolutions disapproving it. Thank you for considering our views, and please feel free to contact David Arkush for further information at darkush@citizen.org or (202) 454-5132.

Sincerely,

David Arkush, Managing Director
Public Citizen's Climate Program

Dmitri Belser, Executive Director
Center for Accessible Technology

Kerwin Olson, Executive Director
Citizens Action Coalition

Joseph Patrick Meissner, Legal Counsel
Citizens Coalition
Friendship Foundation

Shannon Baker-Branstetter, Policy Counsel, Energy and Environment
Consumers Union

Liz Robinson, Executive Director
Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia

Stephanie Chen, Energy and Telecommunications Policy Director
The Greenlining Institute

Elliott Jacobson, Chair
Low-Income Energy Affordability Network

Charlie Harak, Attorney
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients

Michael Mariotte, President
Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Wendy Gerlitz, Policy Director

³ See PUBLIC CITIZEN ET AL. COMMENTS ON CLEAN POWER PLAN, 7-10 (2014), <http://pubc.it/1tT1Az2>.

NW Energy Coalition

David C. Rinebolt, Executive Director and Counsel
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy

Richard A. Berkley, Esq., Executive Director
Public Utility Law Project of New York

Mark W. Toney, Ph.D., Executive Director
TURN—The Utility Reform Network

Beth Sachs, Founder
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

Irene E. Leech, President
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

Merritt Mount, Executive Director
WA State Community Action Partnership

Michael Karp, President & CEO
A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity (A W.I.S.H)