



State of West Virginia
Office of the Attorney General

Patrick Morrissey
Attorney General

November 5, 2013

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The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the EPA's announcement last month about its eleven city "Listening Tour" to solicit ideas on how to best regulate and reduce carbon emissions from power plants. While I applaud the decision to seek input from citizens across the country, your tour excludes West Virginia and parts of Main Street America that are expected to be hardest hit by burdensome regulations.

As the Attorney General of a state that produces a majority of its electricity from coal, I am concerned that the EPA is not visiting West Virginia, one of the largest producers of energy in the United States. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal produced approximately 37% of all electricity in the United States in 2012. If you seek to learn more about our nation's energy footprint and the practical impact of EPA regulations on American workers, a trip to West Virginia would prove informative.

New EPA regulations greatly affect our communities. If a coal mine is shuttered, in part, due to onerous and impractical regulations, it can destroy the fabric of several towns or an entire county. The job loss not only impacts power plants and coal mines, but all of the related retail stores that service coal miners and their families. The consequences of overregulation can be devastating and irreversible.

I strongly urge you to take these issues under consideration and schedule a stop in West Virginia. While the citizens in the metropolitan areas of Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and New York City deserve input into EPA policies, the regulations in question also affect towns like Logan, Fairmont, and Moundsville. The voices of citizens in these towns also need to be heard.

If there is anything my Office can do to help schedule this event, please feel free to let me know. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Morrissey".

Patrick Morrissey
Attorney General