



August 1, 2023

Dear CEO of EEI Member Utility,

Your company has barely a week to decide whether to stand on the right side of history by committing to publicly support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) common-sense standards controlling greenhouse gas pollution from coal and gas power plants. As you know, the EPA's comment period on standards under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act closes on August 8. Unfortunately, our understanding is that the utility trade association, the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), is preparing to send EPA formal comments flatly attacking those standards, especially as they relate to gas power plants. EEI's reported comments would call for scrapping or withdrawing of common-sense emissions rules in the middle of an unprecedented climate-caused heat wave that has impacted Americans and harmed local economies. This stance by EEI would falsely malign the legal and factual basis for the rule, only after industry took millions of dollars in public money to develop the very technologies that form the basis of the proposal.

On behalf of the environmental organizations signed below, and the larger public, we are writing to ask you to commit to a better future. During this hottest summer in over 100,000 years, and given the flexibilities in the rule and your company's clean energy commitments, **we are asking you to communicate to EEI leadership that your company will not sign or endorse EEI's comments unless they commit to collaboration; and to publicly confirm that your company will engage constructively with EPA to support carbon standards for not only existing coal but also for new and existing gas plants in their final form.**

This decision will have large consequences. On the one hand, you can choose to support sensible emissions controls while continuing to leverage the hundreds of billions of dollars available under the Inflation Reduction Act and Clean Air Act to control pollution and build a clean energy grid. As multiple sectors, from transport to buildings to industry, electrify, utilities can sell electricity to a growing customer base and support our national response to the existential risks of the climate crisis. Building a clean, electrified economy is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the electric industry. Shareholders, ratepayers, and the public want to see a less-polluting electricity system, and many utilities have set laudable climate and clean energy goals accordingly. With unprecedented incentives for clean energy and increasing regulatory requirements for decarbonization at the state and federal levels, there has never been a better time to choose to lead the way to a more reliable and cleaner



grid. Clean energy is not only more reliable, but also more affordable for consumers and less vulnerable to volatility like we recently observed during the beginning of the war in Ukraine. Utilities making this choice serve the public, and will be applauded.

On the other hand, if you align with the fossil fuel industry, rather than with clean electricity – and hide behind EEI’s deeply-misguided comments – the public will know where your company stands. You can expect ratepayers, regulators, climate advocates and government funders to question whether your decarbonization commitments are serious, whether you are properly mitigating ratepayer and investor risk in light of the growing crisis, and whether federal and state funds should flow towards companies doubling down on yesterday’s unstable power system. In this moment of simultaneous crisis and opportunity, this is a chance to lead, not to abandon your most fundamental responsibility to serve the public.

We understand that a trade organization’s comments may not reflect the individual stances of every company involved, so we wanted to give you the opportunity to clarify your stance and public commitment to decarbonization. We will be sure to highlight your choice going forward. We look forward to your answer and would be delighted to meet with you and to collaborate on joint efforts to reduce pollution and build the safe climate future we so urgently need.

Sincerely,

Evergreen Action

League of Conservation Voters

Sunrise Movement

Sierra Club

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

GreenLatinos

Southern Environmental Law Center

Common Defense

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Healthcare Without Harm

George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication

Battle Born Progress

U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development

Change the Chamber - Lobby for Climate

Faith in Place

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action

Moms Clean Air Force - Arizona



Arizona Climate Action Coalition
Elders Climate Action - Arizona
Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network
Climate Cabinet Action
Michigan United
New York Communities for Change
Michigan Environmental Council
Vermont Climate and Health Alliance
Elders Climate Action
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health