

Statement to EPA regarding controls on power plant emissions  
Sent May 7, 2014 via League of Conservation Voters

I strongly support the EPA's effort to limit industrial carbon pollution from power plants.

Conventional fossil central station power stations are inefficient. All but the hydroelectric and wind and solar electric generating plants, that is 95%, use extremely wasteful and outdated technology to produce power. The Rankine cycle engines that burn fossil fuel to boil water to turn turbines convert only 30% of the fuel value to electricity. Another 6% is lost pushing the electrons through the wire, and then more is lost at the point of end use. We can no longer afford to support the combustion of fossil gas, coal and oil in this wasteful, inefficient manner.

Burning fossil gas, coal and oil contribute the vast majority of carbon dioxide, and fugitive methane, that cause climate change. We are converting in 200 years processes that took one million years or more to produce our oxygen rich atmosphere. The consequences of reversing the biological sequestration of carbon in the fossilized plants we are now burning up cannot be precisely determined. But we know they are devastating to the 10,000 year stability of our Earth's climate and atmosphere. We are re-shaping our life support system with no idea of what will come next. Short term greed cannot replace the long term consequences of these actions.

The EPA is within the law to control these primary sources of carbon dioxide pollution. For the sake of our life on Earth, we must act decisively, and NOW.

The subsidies that go from taxpayers to fossil fuel companies prevent investment in renewable and sustainable systems, not fuel substitution. We have tremendous capacity to use the free solar, wind and geothermal resources to meet most of our energy needs. The Net Zero Mission under Presidential Executive Order for national security for military installations to have 30% of the facilities as net zero energy/net zero water/net zero waste by 2030 has illustrated the cost effectiveness and feasibility of this conversion. If we stop underwriting the giant fossil companies and invest in efficiency improvements instead, we will not need coal plants. For example, if every household replaces only four incandescent light bulbs with LED or compact fluorescent lights, we could close 39 coal plants from the savings. This is a simple example that we do not NEED the coal plants now. Helping residential and commercial establishments to invest in super-efficiency improvements adds jobs to the local economy, and increases cost efficiency of their own operations by reducing waste.

We need to re-structure the utility paradigm to change the incentive and rate structure. Currently, when efficiency or renewable generation occurs on customer premises, the utility sees revenue loss. We need to change this. Utilities should be leading the move to renewable and sustainable integrated webs of power and

managing the distributed generation instead of opposing and stopping it in every way they can.

These new clean air standards will protect public health, fight climate change and create jobs innovating in industries crucial to our competitiveness globally. Don't let polluters and their congressional allies block, weaken, or delay the implementation of this critical climate change action.

It's our obligation to protect our children and future generations from the effects of climate change -- and that means moving forward with these clean air protections now.

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