

February 24, 2010

Honorable Rahm Emanuel
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Emanuel:

This letter is written on behalf of the affiliated Railroad Unions of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win that are signatory to this letter. We share a deep concern that Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act will have a very negative effect on jobs and our economy. Hundreds of thousands of jobs are potentially at stake. The implementation of an aggressive policy coupled with technological constraints could have severe negative consequences for the rail industry and for our members. One in five railroad jobs rely on the transportation of coal.

For our economy to restore the millions of lost jobs both environmental protection and economic growth must be considered. This is more properly addressed by Congress than at the EPA. With the Administration and Congress focusing on job creation and a national climate and energy policy, premature EPA regulation could throw both of these efforts off course. Congress not the EPA is the rightful decision-maker on questions of this scope and consequence. Legislation is the best way to encourage a greater use of fuel-efficient, environmentally friendly rail transportation system. Action that will reduce greenhouse gas emission, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create jobs.

Our Unions strongly believe any sound energy and environmental policies should include finding technologies that enable the use of all available sources of energy in safe, environmentally friendly ways. Clean coal technologies like "carbon capture and storage" (CCS) should be at the forefront of those efforts. Studies have shown the ongoing annual employment from operating and maintenance activity at an individual CCS unit, including coal purchases and transportation, is projected at between 250 and 270 direct jobs. If you take into account the multiplier effects, between 1,200 and 1,300 total jobs would be supported throughout the economy. This does not include the thousands of construction jobs needed to build a single CCS plant. However, this can only be accomplished through enactment of national legislation.

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We have serious concerns about any EPA actions that lack the appropriate incentives to encourage emissions reductions that create and preserve our member's jobs.

We respectfully ask that the Administration consider our views and concerns as the EPA and Congress moves forward on these important matters. Our Unions welcome the opportunity to meet with you or the appropriate staff to discuss these critical issues.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

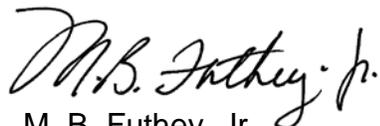
Sincerely,



Robert A. Scardelletti
International President
Transportation Communications Union/IAM



Freddie N. Simpson
President
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Employees



M. B. Futhey, Jr.
International President
United Transportation Union



George J. Francisco
President
National Conference of Firemen & Oilers



Paul T. Sorrow
National President
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen



cc: Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Honorable Lawrence Summers, Director
National Economic Council