



**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*