



**EL PUENTE**  
LEADERS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE



**NY Communities**  
for Change



April 10, 2015

Members of the New York Congressional Delegation:

As organizations that represent thousands of New Yorkers, we are deeply concerned about the lack of Congressional action to address climate change. New York's working families and low-income communities of color are experiencing the severe consequences of unmitigated climate pollution. On a daily basis we are on the front lines, experiencing the impacts of climate change, and are demanding real action from our public officials.

You have been presented with a unique opportunity to take sides and help elevate climate action to the top of the national agenda.

Recently, Representative Whitfield (R-Kentucky), Chair of the Energy and Power Subcommittee, put forth draft legislation that would impede the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Clean Power Plan to lower power plant carbon pollution. We strongly oppose the draft legislation put forward by Rep. Whitfield. The proposal undermines efforts to address climate pollution from power plants by establishing barriers to EPA enforcement of the final Clean Power Plan rule for an indefinite period of time. The bill would also afford states the option to refuse to comply with federal policy and restrict the ability of the EPA to develop federal implementation plans for states that fail to act on carbon standards.

Your voice matters. New York State is a national leader on the curtailment of climate pollution from the power sector through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and stringent carbon regulations limiting climate pollution from newly constructed power plants – standards even stronger than those proposed by the EPA. The time has come for the rest of the nation to put standards in place like what we have for New York's energy sector. We respectfully request that you join us in opposing Rep. Whitfield's legislation by taking a moral stand for clear air and appealing to the House leadership to oppose this damaging proposal to the EPA and casting your votes against the bill throughout the committee process and on the floor. Any other position puts the health of our communities at-risk, runs counter to the State's economic interests and is an affront to the power of the EPA

Delays on climate action means more people will continue to be exposed to life-threatening pollution and more communities will experience the devastating impacts of extreme weather events. Rather than creating barriers designed to block long overdue action on climate change, we implore you to work with your House colleagues and the EPA to use New York as the benchmark to bring the rest of the nation in line with the effective actions already in place here. Your opposition to the proposed legislation is an essential step to ensuring New York State's leadership in fighting climate change nationally.

Sincerely,

The Center for Popular Democracy  
El Puente  
Environmental Advocates of New York  
Make the Road New York  
New York Communities for Change  
Working Families Organization