Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2002

The President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pursuing regulatory changes to the New Source Review (NSR) program of the Clean Air Act that will result in more emissions from new and existing pollution sources than can occur under today's NSR rules.

We believe that the final and proposed changes to the NSR program announced in June by the EPA will contribute to increased levels of air pollution. For example, we oppose changes the Administration has announced which would permit a facility to choose a baseline of emissions that would allow actual pollution to increase dramatically without triggering NSR requirements to upgrade pollution controls. Additionally, we are concerned that changing the definition of routine maintenance will both substantially increase air pollution from existing sources, as well as jeopardize the important, ongoing NSR enforcement cases.

Any changes to the NSR rules undertaken by EPA should not allow the air to become dirtier for local communities or allow emissions to rise at any industrial facility, including power plants. Nor should it make it more difficult for states to limit air pollution and to meet tough new standards for fine particulate and ozone pollution. We urge you not to adopt the announced changes to the NSR program.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Henry A. Waxman

John W. Olver

Tammy Baldwin

Betty McCollum

Bill Pascrell Jr

Lynn N. Rivers

Tom Allen

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Cc: Mr. Mitchell Daniels, Jr., Director
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