



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2012

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

On behalf of 3,900 constituents of the Eighth District of Minnesota who are directly employed by the mining industry and the over 40,000 constituents that depend on the mining industry for their livelihood, I am writing to express my concern with the recent proposed rule published in the Federal Register on August 15, 2012 (Docket EPA-R05-OAR-2010-0037: Approving and Promulgation of Minnesota's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan). I request that the EPA reconsider its rejection of the State Implementation Plan for upgrading taconite facilities.

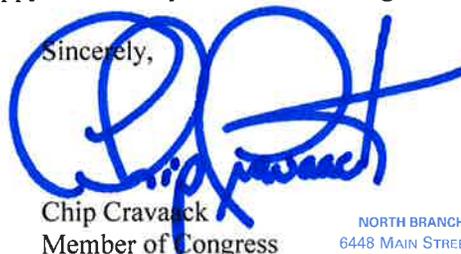
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has carefully examined the feasibility of Best Available Retrofit Technology, the time it would take to implement and the potential operating risks it presents to taconite mines in Northeastern Minnesota. I request that EPA work with the state to continue improving visibility in protected areas, while allowing taconite plants to retain flexibility needed to cost-effectively update their furnaces on a feasible time frame without endangering the stability of these operations.

In the August 21, 2012 opinion *EME Homer City Generation v. EPA*, the DC Circuit for the US Court of Appeals wrote:

"To deal with that complex regulatory challenge, Congress did not authorize EPA to simply adopt limits on emissions as EPA deemed reasonable. Rather, Congress set up a federalism-based system of air pollution control. Under this cooperative federalism approach, both the Federal Government and the States play significant roles. The Federal Government sets air quality standards for pollutants. The States have the primary responsibility for determining how to meet those standards and regulating sources within their borders."

I request that EPA work with the state to effectively address the needs of Minnesotans. EPA's proposed Federal Implementation Plan contains a timeline that is not technically and economically feasible for some plants and could negatively impact thousands of jobs at a time when Minnesota is meeting its Regional Haze Reasonable Progress Goals. Minnesota taconite mining provides tremendous benefits to our entire state with a nearly \$1.8 billion annual benefit to our economy. According to a University of Minnesota Duluth study, 2.5 ancillary jobs are produced for every mining job. In times of such high unemployment, these are good paying jobs we cannot jeopardize. I am happy to be of any assistance moving forward with this effort.

Sincerely,



Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress

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