



ROGER ROTH
STATE SENATOR • 19TH SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2015

For further information contact:
Sen. Roger Roth 608-266-0718

EPA's Coal Rule Will Hurt Wisconsin Ratepayers

Madison – State Senator Roger Roth (R—Appleton) released the following statement today in reaction to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final "Clean Power Plan" rule.

"Wisconsin ratepayers should be very concerned about the EPA's final rule on coal-fired power plant emissions, which will have a serious impact on the energy rates of families, businesses, and our state's overall economy. I am particularly concerned for Wisconsin's manufacturing sector, which may experience even sharper cost increases and jobs losses as a result of this federal rule.

As chairman of the Senate committee that deals with utilities issues, earlier this year I held an informational hearing on the EPA's proposed rule. Testimony from state agencies, utilities, and business groups indicated that the rule would have negative impacts on our state's electrical reliability and the disadvantage it puts Wisconsin compared to other states.

The EPA does not appear to have considered Wisconsin's reasonable comments in its final rule. In fact, the rule released today may be even more detrimental than the original proposal.

Wisconsin utilities and their ratepayers have already invested a total of \$10 billion since 2000 in new coal and gas generation, air pollution controls, efficiency upgrades, renewable energy, and the Focus on Energy program. The EPA proposal does not recognize those proactive energy improvements, and instead could cost ratepayers in our state up to an additional \$13 billion.

The Obama administration has overreached its authority once again in an attempt to secure a presidential legacy at the expense of Wisconsin families and their jobs and businesses.

I am encouraged by Governor Walker's call to take immediate action to protect our state from the harmful impacts of the EPA rule. I look forward to working with the DNR and PSC as they evaluate the true impacts of the final federal rule."

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