



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Voices Opposition to Obama's Clean Power Plan

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****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Good evening. Thank you to Chair Garofalo, Representative Neuberger, and all of you for recognizing the importance of SHERCO to our economy and especially to the Becker area. Unfortunately, I'm unable to be with you this evening, but I wanted to send this message to echo the concerns of our state legislators here tonight in their opposition to the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan and the impact this new executive action will have on SHERCO, where you are all sitting right now in the surrounding communities that I represent. All of you here tonight are rightly concerned about our runaway federal government. We're stuck in a cycle where all too often confusing rules are crafted by unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats. A perfect example of this is the exact reason this hearing is being held, the Clean Power Plan. Last month, President Obama announced the final Clean Power Plan, which will structurally remake our nation's energy infrastructure without a single committee hearing or vote in Congress. The President seems intent upon making his infamous words, energy prices will necessarily skyrocket a reality. Despite the President's actions over the past seven years, the U.S. has become a global energy leader, allowing Americans to benefit every day at the pump and through their energy bills. But this could all change at the expense of families here in Minnesota and across the United States. Just as we are on the cusp of being an energy powerhouse with an all-of-the-above energy approach, the President appears to want to slow it down. The Clean Power Plan will benefit few, if any, while leaving the potential to crush entire economies and industries, forcing consumers, municipalities, and existing power plants like Sherco, which powers homes, schools, and businesses, to completely transform in less than 15 years. In the 6th Congressional District, where you are sitting today, manufacturing is one of the largest drivers of our economy. Analysis conducted by the Heritage Foundation earlier this year showed that Minnesota could lose more than 10,000 manufacturing jobs as a result of the President's Clean Power Plan. While jobs will be lost, and Minnesota families will be forced to face increasing energy costs, facts in the EPA itself indicate that the Clean Power Plan's overall impact on climate will be minimal at best. According to the Cato Institute, the change will be less than two hundredths of a degree Celsius in the next 85 years. Like all Minnesotans, I agree that we must have responsible and environmentally friendly policies to maintain our beautiful land and streams for future generations, while still allowing for maximum economic benefit. One of the major problems with the President's Clean Power Plan is that there are huge economic costs without defined environmental benefits. I applaud Chairman Garofalo and again Representative Neuberger and all other members of the Minnesota Legislature in this effort to work with Governor Dayton to oppose the President's Clean Power Plan and to work towards solutions that will maintain our environment while preserving good jobs and keeping energy costs low for Minnesota families and businesses. Again, thank you for holding this hearing and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns or if there's anything I can do to assist in your efforts. Thanks.



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