

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

We are writing to thank you for the generosity of your time on April 25 to discuss several issues that are vitally important to North Dakota's rural electric cooperatives. We very much appreciate your understanding of our industry and the critical role electric cooperatives play in powering our nation's economy.

As we indicated during our visit, your efforts to push forward on reviewing rules and regulations that impact our coal generation fleet are of paramount importance to our memberships. These facilities have been the backbone of our systems for decades and are essential to meeting the 24-7 demand for electricity. We cannot emphasize enough the value of certainty with respect to the continued use of these assets.

Our ability to provide affordable and reliable electricity to cooperatives in the Upper Midwest is highly dependent on sensible, well-constructed regulations. North Dakota utilities have already invested about \$2 billion in state-of-the-art emission control technologies at our coal-based facilities. The return on that investment is that our state has some of the nation's cleanest air. In fact, North Dakota is one of only seven states that meets all of EPA's federal ambient air quality standards.

As you consider new regulations, it is important to remember the significant differences in coal throughout the country. The lignite coal we use in North Dakota has unique characteristics and cannot be regulated in the same fashion as other coal types. A one-size-fits-all approach is simply unworkable.

Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact us if there are any questions or if we can provide additional information. Further pursuant to our dialogue, please find a letter enclosed to President Trump regarding the value of your agency's efforts.

We sincerely hope you will accept our offer to visit North Dakota and see firsthand how our state is not only a leader in energy production, but also in the development of next generation energy technologies. With the advancement of these technologies and a stable regulatory framework, we are well-positioned to continue providing our members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity with even better environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,



Mac McLennan
Minnkota Power Cooperative
President and CEO



Paul Sukut
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
CEO and General Manager

Enclosure: Letter to President Donald Trump.

CC: Senator Heidi Heitkamp, Senator John Hoeven, Representative Kevin Cramer,
Governor Doug Burgum and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.