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June 6, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

The Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC) is an industry organization of coal and natural gas power generators, coal producers, equipment manufacturers, technology developers, academic organizations, and state interests. CURC recognizes that coal will continue to be relied upon for many decades both in the U.S. and globally. Members of CURC also believe that the responsible use of coal can be accomplished with technology that reduces the environmental impact from the use of our abundant coal resources, while supporting our nation's – and the global – need for reliable, secure and affordable energy.

Achieving these objectives can be done today with technologies developed by U.S. manufacturers. The newest coal plants can deliver up to 47.5% efficiency which is significantly higher than the global average of 34%. Additionally, digital solutions enhance the flexibility of new and existing coal plants, enabling baseload coal generation to more nimbly support the deployment of intermittent resources. If hardware and software solutions were fully applied, global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the world's existing fleet of coal plants could be reduced by 11%, and help us to achieve global emissions reductions goals without sacrificing our economy, or that of developing nations.

The lack of competitive financing is a key challenge. President Obama's Clean Power Plan called for an end to public financing of coal plants overseas, except in cases where the facility includes carbon capture and sequestration technology or there is no other feasible alternative for electricity generation. Several banks, including the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the U.S. Export-Import Bank, adopted policies in support of then-President Obama's proposal, even to the detriment of the global CO₂ emissions reduction goals that their policies are intended to achieve.

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Access to affordable and reliable energy in developing countries is necessary to support an emerging economy, create jobs, and support the health and wellbeing of people in the developing world. Implementing a policy to end U.S. and other development bank financing of coal-fueled electricity generation does not change those needs, nor has the policy prevented coal plants from being built in those countries. As the International Energy Agency (IEA) already warned in its 2014 World Energy Investment Outlook, “if development banks withhold financing for coal-fired power plants, countries that build new capacity will be less inclined to select the most efficient designs because they are more expensive, consequently raising CO₂ emissions.” The policy has only prevented U.S. companies from selling highly efficient U.S. coal generating equipment and services in those countries, and ceded ground to other countries such as China to finance the construction of less efficient, and higher CO₂ emitting coal generation facilities. Not only do these policies have the opposite impact from its intent to reduce global CO₂ emissions, it negatively impacts U.S. jobs and our economy.

The U.S. should lead a global effort to encourage the continued deployment of the cleanest coal technologies available, and ensure adequate private and multilateral bank financing. U.S. coal equipment suppliers and technology developers have decades of investment in the development of advanced coal generation technologies. Given the global growth of coal use, U.S. companies must rely on selling their technologies in overseas markets, where the need for coal and the technology is currently the greatest and the opportunity for U.S. exports of coal and technology is the greatest. Preventing U.S. companies from participating in these markets will negatively impact private sector investment in coal equipment and technology development, and limit the availability of U.S. energy generating options.

We hope your Administration will act to reverse these financing policies. Doing so will level the global playing field for U.S. coal equipment suppliers, encourage technological innovation in advancements for coal in U.S. and international markets, support U.S. jobs and the economy, and reduce global emissions of CO₂ even as the world continues to utilize coal.

Sincerely,



Shannon Angielski
Executive Director
Carbon Utilization Research Council

Cc: The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy