

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2016

Administrator Gina McCarthy  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of the Administrator  
Mail Code 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Petition of the State of Connecticut Pursuant to Section 126 of the Clean Air Act

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

On behalf of our constituents, we write to you in support of the State of Connecticut's petition, pursuant to Section 126 of the Clean Air Act, to reduce dangerous pollution from the Pennsylvania's Brunner Island coal plant that degrades air quality in our state. We urge you and your capable team to take decisive action to respond to the petition within the statutory deadline and mitigate the damage being done to the health of our constituents and throughout the region by this large and uncontrolled facility.

As outlined in the request from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Klee, the Brunner Island coal plant is the largest facility in the Northeast that lacks effective pollution controls for nitrogen oxides and greatly contributes to smog pollution in the region. This pollution triggers asthma, heart attacks, and even premature death from heart and lung disease. Certain populations are particularly vulnerable to these effects, including children, seniors, and those with existing respiratory diseases.

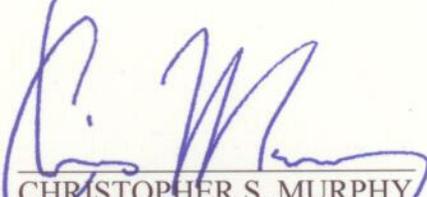
Brunner Island is a significant contributor to the inability of parts of Connecticut to achieve and maintain safe air quality that protects public health. Despite expending significant resources to reduce pollution and improve air quality, our state has been unable to meet those health-based standards, primarily due to pollution coming from beyond our borders. The Brunner Island coal plant is a textbook case for the foresight our Congressional predecessors had when crafting Section 126 of the Clean Air Act.

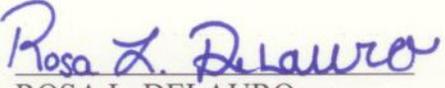
Also pending before the Agency is Pennsylvania's statewide nitrogen oxide pollution proposal; however, this proposal effectively exempts Brunner Island from any meaningful pollution reductions. This threatens the health of my constituents, and for the same reasons that EPA should grant the Connecticut petition, EPA should reject the "Brunner Island loophole" in the Pennsylvania nitrogen oxide plan.

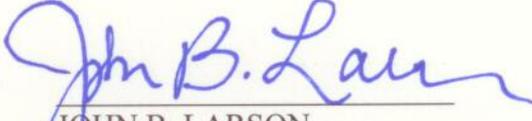
We fully support prompt action from the Environmental Protection Agency to respond to the State of Connecticut's petition and to effectuate appropriate pollution reductions from the Brunner Island coal plant to ensure that our state and the entire region can breathe more easily.

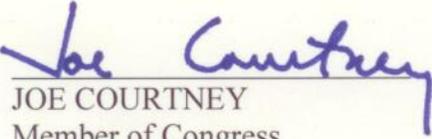
Sincerely,

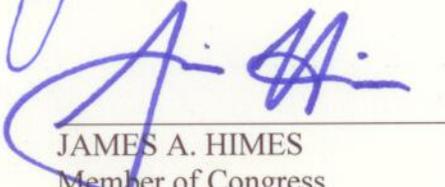
  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senate

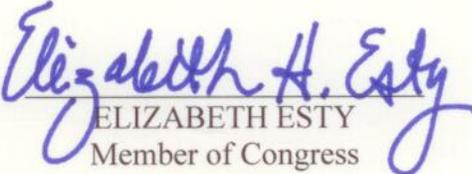
  
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
United States Senate

  
ROSA L. DELAURO  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

  
JAMES A. HIMES  
Member of Congress

  
ELIZABETH ESTY  
Member of Congress

Cc: Janet McCabe, Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation  
Shawn Garvin, Administrator, Region 3