

Message

From: Bob [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: 24/02/2017 00:21:05
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Subject: BRT Letter

Redacted - First Amendment

REGULATIONS

CEOs want to slash Clean Power Plan, WOTUS, ozone curbs

Arianna Skibell, E&E News reporter

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An association of top U.S. executives is calling on President Trump to slash or tweak three key Obama environmental regulations.

The Business Roundtable yesterday sent a [letter](#) to National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn listing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Clean Power Plan and Waters of the U.S. rules as their top priorities for review.

The Business Roundtable conducted a survey of its members and identified "top regulations of concern" along with recommendations to mitigate the rules' impacts.

"The majority of these regulations directly and negatively impact economic growth," wrote Chairman and CEO Mark Costa.

"While some of the listed regulations in isolation may not appear significant to growth," Costa said, "their cumulative effect has drained resources from innovation and job creation and directed them to non-value adding administrative and bureaucratic activities."

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Business Roundtable CEO members have significant involvement in the economy. Members head companies with a collective \$6 trillion in annual revenues and with close to 15 million employees. The combined market capitalization of Business Roundtable companies is equal to nearly one-quarter of total U.S. stock market capitalization, according to the organization's website.

Roundtable members concluded that when U.S. EPA lowered the NAAQS for ground-level ozone in 2015, the agency stalled economic growth without adding health benefits.

EPA is required under the Clean Air Act to set NAAQS for pollutants considered hazardous to health and the environment.

The business group is calling on the administration to delay the final implementation of the rule to allow for further study.

"It should also consider how such a standard would affect the ability of industry to expand production in the United States," leaders wrote.

The Clean Power Plan, the roundtable said, should be recrafted to address concerns about EPA overreach and infringement on states' authority. It should provide maximum flexibility for compliance, they said.

The CPP, Obama's legacy climate regulation, sets performance standards for utilities to prevent new coal-fired units from being built without carbon capture technology, among other requirements.

The group also said the WOTUS rule vastly expanded federal jurisdiction over state waters, negatively affecting local economic development.

"Currently under review by the federal judiciary, this rule should be pulled back by the EPA," the roundtable wrote.

EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers wrote the rule in an effort to clarify the reach of the Clean Water Act, which regulates "the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States."

The group is also advocating for process changes including mandatory cost-benefit analysis for independent agencies, encouraging greater use of advance notice, downscaling the courts' deference to agencies' interpretation of the law, improved retrospective review and more rigorous standards for guidance documents.

President Trump today addressed a group of manufacturing CEOs where he promised to help industry by scaling back regulations.

"My administration's policies and regulatory reforms, tax reforms, trade policies will return significant manufacturing jobs to our country. Everything is going to be based on bringing our jobs back," he said.

"The good jobs, the real jobs. They've left. And they're coming back," he said. "They have to come back."

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