

Testimony of
Missouri State Representative Jack Bondon
Before
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
“Implications of the Supreme Court Stay
of the Clean Power Plan”

June 9, 2016

Good Morning, Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, and esteemed Senators of the committee. My name is Jack Bondon and I serve the people of Missouri’s 56th District, including my hometown of Belton and areas in southern Kansas City, in the Missouri House of Representatives.

Thank you for inviting me today to share my perspective, as a state legislator, about the implications of the Supreme Court’s stay of the Clean Power Plan.

Missouri benefits in many ways by having very affordable electricity prices. In fact, our electricity prices are more than 10 percent below the national average. Currently, Missouri relies on coal for nearly 80% of its electricity. At the same time, Missourians recognize the need for an abundant, affordable, sustainable, and reliable mix of energy sources. To achieve the right mix for our state, Missouri released a comprehensive energy plan in October 2015 that includes energy efficiency provisions and a renewable portfolio standard (RPS.)

In addition, in 2014, the Missouri legislature passed a bill, signed by Governor Jay Nixon, which establishes how Missouri should set CO₂

standards for its power plants. This law makes it clear that any Missouri plan must be based on emission reduction measures that are achievable at each individual electric generating unit.

In short, Missouri has taken the lead in deciding its own energy future.

Unfortunately, the Clean Power Plan would substitute EPA's energy *preferences* for Missourians' energy *choices*. Not only will the Clean Power Plan override Missourians' choices about our electricity mix, it will increase electricity prices. A quick calculation using the EPA's own \$37per/ton estimate equates to a cost of over \$6 Billion by 2030, which could increase electricity prices in Missouri by double digits

There are many interested parties to this discussion, the energy sector, economists, ecologists and scientists, state agencies, and more. But I don't work for them. I work for the people I represent, and so I look at The Clean Power Plan from that perspective: The perspective of the rate-payer, the consumer, the single parent, the retiree on a fixed income, and the business owner struggling to make payroll for their employees. I am their voice in Jefferson City and I am their voice here today.

In Missouri, we have 1.2 million low-income and middle-income families – about half the state's households – that already spend 18 cents of every dollar they take home on energy. And, my constituents tell me that they cannot afford to pay higher electricity prices caused by the Clean Power Plan.

Missouri Attorney General, Chris Koster — a Democrat — joined 26 other states in challenging the Clean Power Plan. I am concerned about wasting the state's resources implementing a regulation that could be ruled

unlawful or even withdrawn by the next President. Therefore, I have introduced legislation that would suspend all state activity on the Clean Power Plan until the issue has been fully resolved by the courts. To further demonstrate the legislature's opposition to compliance with the Clean Power Plan, Missouri's FY2017 budget explicitly prohibits the use of any funds to implement the Clean Power Plan.

In addition to introducing legislation, I authored a letter, co-signed by 16 of my colleagues, inquiring of Governor Nixon as to whether the Missouri Department of Natural Resources intends to take any steps to implement the Clean Power Plan while the stay is in effect; I have not yet received a response. I also wrote an editorial in the *Missouri Times* expressing my concerns about the state moving forward to implement the Clean Power Plan.

In summation, I believe the Clean Power Plan is a bad idea for the people I represent. And, many of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, in Missouri agree. That is why I am pleased the Clean Power Plan has been stayed by the Supreme Court, and it is my hope that The Plan will eventually be withdrawn or overturned.

With that, Mr. Chariman, and esteemed Senators, I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I look forward to your committee's discussion.