

Cosponsor H.R. 161, the New Source Review Permitting Improvement Act

Congressman H. Morgan Griffith (R-VA-09)

Congress must provide certainty under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Air Act permitting process for existing sources.

WHY THIS BILL MATTERS:

- The current New Source Review (NSR) permitting program is complex and stalls economic growth and job creation.
- H.R. 161 reforms how the NSR program works for existing industrial facilities and power plants by clarifying when facility upgrades require an NSR permit.

BACKGROUND:

The NSR permitting program is intended to preserve or improve air quality by ensuring that when new industrial facilities and power plants are built and when existing plants increase capacity, modern pollution controls will be installed to minimize emissions. However, EPA guidance documents, as well as court rulings, have increased the uncertainty of NSR permitting requirements, making it more difficult to determine what type of change at an existing source triggers this costly process. The time and cost associated with NSR permitting regulations discourages incremental pollution control.

WHAT THE BILL WILL DO:

- Clarifies what threshold at an existing facility will cause an increase in emissions, thereby triggering the NSR process, and at what point in the construction process NSR is required.
- Make it easier for industry to carry out pollution control projects, energy efficiency projects, and equipment reliability and safety improvements.

WHAT THE BILL WILL NOT DO:

- This legislation does not allow existing facilities to increase emission levels beyond currently issued permit limits.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

American Public Power Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Electric Power Supply Association, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Petroleum Institute, American Chemistry Council, American Cement Association, American Forest & Paper Association, Aluminum Association, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, United Mine Workers of America, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers Transportation Division, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Transportation Communications Union, International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

To Cosponsor Contact: J.R. Walker III at jr.walker@mail.house.gov