

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2007 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to include language that would prohibit federal agencies from utilizing the Social Cost of Carbon in any rulemaking, guidance document or environmental decision-making process.

The Social Cost of Carbon utilizes fundamentally flawed models developed by the Obama Administration, as a result of an executive order, to create artificial benefits that are then used to justify outrageously expensive and damaging rules in order to shut down worthwhile projects that create jobs. These models are easily manipulated and are not based on actual science.

Roger Martella, a self-described lifelong environmentalist and career environmental lawyer, testified at the [May 2015 House Natural Resources Committee hearing](#) on the revised draft guidance and the flaws associated with the “Social Cost of Carbon” Model, stating that the “Social Cost of Carbon” estimates suffer from a number of significant flaws that should exclude them [from] the NEPA process.” Among these flaws are:

1. *“That the projected costs of carbon emissions can be manipulated by changing key parameters such as timeframes, discount rates, and other values that have no relation to a given project undergoing review.”*
2. *“OMB and other federal agencies developed the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates without any known peer review or opportunity for public comment during the development process.”*
3. *“OMB’s draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates are based primarily on global rather than domestic costs and benefits.”*
4. *“There is still considerable uncertainty in many of the assumptions and data elements used to create the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates, such as the damage functions and modeled time horizons.”*

The House has voted to block implementation of the Social Cost of Carbon at least six times and the FY 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill contained similar language which aimed to restrict use of the Social Cost of Carbon. Further, President Trump recently signed an executive order to review the Social Cost of Carbon analyses, disband its working group and withdraw several documents related to the Social Cost of Carbon that were put out by the working group.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

*SEC. \_\_\_\_.* (a) *None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for—*

*(1) the use of the social cost of carbon in taking any action, including in developing, issuing, or implementing any rule, guidance, or policy; or (2) the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases convened by the Council of Economic Advisers and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.*

*(b) In this section, the term “social cost of carbon” means—*

*(1) the social cost of carbon as described in—*

*(A) the document titled “Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in February 2010;*

*(B) the document titled “Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in May 2013, and revised in November 2013 and July 2015;*

*(C) the document titled “Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, United States Government, in August 2016;*

*(D) the document titled “Addendum to Technical Support Document on Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis under Executive Order 12866: Application of the Methodology to Estimate the Social Cost of Methane and the Social Cost of Nitrous Oxide”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, United States Government, in August 2016; or*

*(E) any successor or substantially related document or guidance; or (2) any estimate of the monetized damages associated with an incremental increase in carbon dioxide emissions.*

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



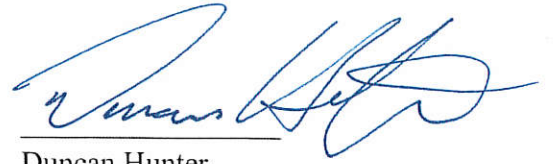
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



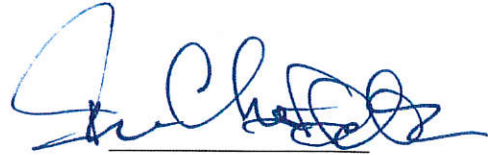
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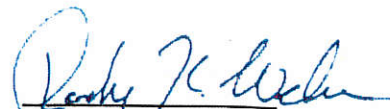
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