

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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September 7, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports H.R. 2681, the "Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011." This bipartisan bill would protect the domestic cement manufacturing industry, which could be forced to shut down up to 20 percent of its plants in order to comply with EPA's flawed "Cement MACT" regulations.

The cement industry has been hard hit by the recent economic slowdown. In addition, the industry faces seven proposed or recently finalized EPA regulations, ranging from fly ash disposal to greenhouse gases to Clean Air Act standards of performance. However, the greatest impact would come from the Cement MACT regulations. EPA's Cement MACT regulations as currently written are too strict for the cement industry to comply with in a cost-effective manner. The Portland Cement Association estimates that the regulations will force the shutdown of eighteen of the nation's nearly 100 existing cement plants. That number does not include the seven cement plants since 2008 that have already announced (due to economic and other reasons) they will permanently close.

H.R. 2681 would require EPA to propose more reasonable emission standards for cement plants and related solid waste incinerators, helping to protect up to 4,000 cement sector jobs at risk due from EPA regulations on the cement industry, and would go a long way toward keeping the nation's cement industry strong.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce