



Paul A. Yost

Vice President

Energy & Resources Policy

September 1, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the 18.6 million jobs supported by the industrial sector, I am writing to express my strong support for H.R. 2681, the Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011.

This bipartisan bill provides much-needed support to the Portland cement industry, requiring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to re-propose three burdensome rules specifically directed at this industry. Although domestic cement manufacturers are among the most highly regulated enterprises in the country, the sector faces an avalanche of new regulations at a time when it can least afford them. The bill would vacate the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) rule for cement kilns; the commercial and industrial solid waste incinerator (CISWI) rule and its change in the definition of “solid waste;” and the new source performance standards rule.

A recent study found that one of these regulations alone – NESHAP – will force the closure of approximately 18 of the United States' nearly 100 cement manufacturing plants. In addition to further downsizing domestic payrolls and manufacturing capacity, the rule will cost the industry – which currently generates barely more than \$6.5 billion in annual revenue – \$3.4 billion over three years.

Manufacturers believe this legislation is needed to rein in the EPA's aggressive regulations, which will severely cripple an industry that is critical to U.S. construction and economic recovery. We urge swift consideration of H.R. 2681.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Yost", is written over a light green rectangular background.

Paul A. Yost
Vice President, Energy & Resources Policy
National Association of Manufacturers

cc: Members of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce