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September 8, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Chairman
Committee On Energy & Natural Resources
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin,

On behalf of the West Virginia Business & Industry Council, an organization representing West Virginia trade associations and businesses accounting for hundreds of thousands of employees across the state, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Clean Energy Standard being proposed by U.S. Senator Lisa Smith and others for inclusion in the budget reconciliation bill.

This proposal, which seeks to achieve an unrealistic 80% reduction in utility carbon emissions by 2030, would decimate West Virginia's economy.

According to a recent study conducted by the West Virginia University Bureau for Business and Economic Research (BBER), the combined economic impact of coal mining and coal-fired electric power generation in West Virginia was approximately \$13.9 billion, meaning the industries supported 17 percent of the state's total economic output or one out of every six dollars generated.

Coal mining and coal-fired electric power generation supported nearly 33,000 jobs in West Virginia and provided around \$2.8 billion in employee compensation.

Under the proposed Clean Energy Standard, West Virginia would need to shut down virtually all eight of our baseload power plants. This would result in significant loss of jobs, local and state tax revenue, and require West Virginia to import power from neighboring states.

For all these reasons, we ask that you oppose efforts to include the Clean Energy Standard in the budget reconciliation bill.

Sincerely,

Mike Clowser
Chairman