COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

September 14, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong concern about the proposed "Boiler MACT" rule under consideration by the Environmental Protection Agency. The June 4th proposal would result in extremely stringent – and some would argue unattainable – air regulations on facilities that rely on boilers for their stream, electrical and heating needs.

I believe we can all agree that risks to public health should be a principal concern when designing such regulations. However, the proposed Boiler MACT rule misses the opportunity to avoid controls where certain air emissions are not a problem. Instead, it should be redrafted to support a health based approach and set standards that reflect the variety of boilers in use and their variable performance. EPA can protect the environment while preventing job losses and billions of dollars in unnecessary regulatory costs. A new study commissioned by the American Forest and Paper Association indicates that the job losses attributed to the implementation of the proposed rules would be over 70,000 in the paper and forest products industry, the supply chain, and surrounding communities.

There are 94 boilers in Virginia representing a wide variety of businesses, industries, and even universities, which will be impacted by this rule. The combined cost to these entities in Virginia is approximately one billion dollars. In the midst of a continued recession where Virginia has shed thousands of jobs over the past few years, our communities simply cannot suffer the additional losses that this regulation would trigger.

I know that we share many of the same concerns of protecting the environment and the welfare of our citizens. The final Boiler MACT rule needs to be reasonable and workable. As your Administration moves toward finalizing this rule, I ask that you make the necessary

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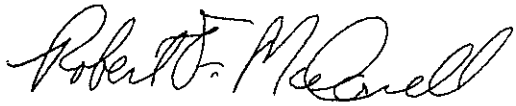
adjustments to protect health of our citizens without threatening their livelihoods and the recovery of our economy.

Sincerely,



Robert F. McDonnell

CC: VA Congressional Delegation