

# Alaska Legislature

## Representative Charisse Millett

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*District 24*

June 11, 2014

Environmental Protection Agency  
EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 28221T  
Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2013-0602  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.  
Washington, DC 20460

[Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602 – Clean Power Plan]

To Whom It May Concern,

This month the Obama Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency announced a plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Known as the Clean Power Plan, it threatens the power supply in the interior section of my state unless it is amended to recognize Alaska's unique circumstances.

I would like to set aside the ongoing debate among scientists over the role carbon dioxide has in climate change and the doomsday predictions that come with it to focus on how electric rates and electric grid reliability will be impacted in Interior Alaska by the Clean Power Plan

It calls for slashing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 30 percent in 16 years, a goal that can only be reached in many states, including Alaska, by converting coal fired power plants to natural gas.

Interior Alaska uses coal fired power plants because it is the *only* available energy source capable generating cost effective, on demand power. Massive natural gas reserves are available hundreds of miles north at Prudhoe Bay, but until a multibillion dollar gas pipeline is built that fuel is not an option.

Replacing coal with alternative energy sources like wind turbines endangers electric grid reliability because the winds do not always blow. Winter temperatures in Interior Alaska can hit 60 degrees below

zero and stay there for days, even weeks at a time. Having reliable power is a matter of life and death in communities like Fairbanks, North Pole and Nenana.

By the way, our coal fired power plants use some of the cleanest burning coal in the world thanks to the Usibelli Coal Mine in Healy.

The high cost of new carbon capture technology will mean significantly higher electric bills in a region where monthly energy bills can be as high as or higher than a homeowner's mortgage payment.

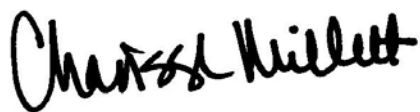
Alaskan homes and businesses are already built to withstand the long winters and the State of Alaska's Home Energy Rebate Program reimburses homeowners for making energy efficiency upgrades that save energy and lower power and heating bills. New efficiency programs will do little to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The guidelines also call on states with interconnected power grids to work together to meet the carbon dioxide reduction goals. Alaska's power grid is not connected to the Lower-48 or Canada so that is not an option.

These are only a few of the problems that the Clean Power Plan will create in Alaska. I urge the EPA to work with Alaska's congressional delegation and electric utilities on common sense changes that increase grid reliability and make energy more affordable.

Please contact my office if we can assist the EPA in making those sensible changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charisse Millett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Representative Charisse Millett  
Co-chair, House Special Committee on Energy

CC: Governor Sean Parnell  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Mark Begich  
Congressman Don Young  
Rebecca Logan, Alaska Support Industry Alliance  
Rick Rogers, Resource Development Council of Alaska