

Michigan Businesses for Clean Energy

News you can use: March 11, 2011

On Wednesday, more than 170 Michigan scientists and researchers released a letter urging Congress to let the EPA continue to regulate harmful pollutants and condemning the recent attacks against the organization. These scientists, who hail from almost every university in Michigan, voiced their support for the EPA's regulatory authority and its ability to protect public health.

Member news:

Our friends at **Clean Light Green Light** recently produced the world's first viable LED Emergency Battery Back-up System. This new technology opens the door for hospitals, schools and other public buildings to turn to LED lighting for back up power in case of power loss. As part of the new Emergency Back-Up System, Clean Light Green Light also developed a Smart Charging System, which prevents the battery from overcharging, and the Heat Based Sensing System, which accounts for variations in external temperature and creates an optimal charging environment.

See what other projects Clean Light Green Light is working on at www.cleanlightgreenlight.com.

If you want your business featured in the next newsletter, e-mail us at hkevnick@byrumfisk.com.

Action Alert – let Congress hear from you:

Last Tuesday, the EPA released a report on the economic and health benefits of the Clean Air Act. The report reached four major conclusions:

- Economic benefits of the Clean Air Act are expected to total more than \$2 trillion by 2020.
- The benefits exceeded costs of implementation by a ratio of 30 to 1.
- Cleaner air resulting from Clean Air Act programs improves the economy both by reducing health costs and boosting productivity.
- In 2020, it's predicted that the Clean Air Act will prevent more than 230,000 American early deaths, including 280 infants.

The findings of this report provide a great opportunity for MBCE members to write letters to the editor, contact our lawmakers in Washington, D.C., and act as a strong voice for why the EPA's ability to regulate harmful pollutants is important. Here are some useful talking points to help communicate this important message:

- A 2011 EPA study determined that the economic benefits of the Clean Air Act updates made in 1990 will exceed \$2 trillion in economic activity in the U.S. economy by 2020. In contrast, implementation costs approximately \$65 billion.
- Economic data show that we can protect public health and grow our economy at the same time. Between 1970 and 2009, total emissions of the six principal air pollutants fell by 63 percent, and private sector jobs and GDP grew by 86 percent and 204 percent respectively.
- With an investment of \$65 billion and a return of over \$2 trillion, the Clean Air Act provides a tremendous return of more than \$30 in benefits for every \$1 in investment. **It's hard to find a better economic return than the Clean Air Act.**

- According to the 2011 EPA study, the economy is stronger with the Clean Air Act. Cleaner air leads to better health and productivity for American workers and less money spent on health care to treat pollution-related health problems.
- The EPA's research shows that long-term economic growth is greater and American economic welfare is improved through benefits such as fewer sick days and lower medical costs. These benefits more than offset the cost of investing in air pollution controls to reduce levels of life- and health-threatening air pollution.

If you are interested in weighing in on the EPA debate from a business perspective, e-mail mtotzke@byrumfisk.com.