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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 22, 1982

Dear Colleague:

The issue of acid precipitation is the subject of intense discussion and debate in the Congress, the executive branch, private industry, and the scientific community.

I have obtained a study from the Department of Energy, entitled, "Costs To Reduce Sulphur Dioxide Emissions," which examines the costs of large-scale sulphur dioxide emissions reductions proposals. A copy of the study is enclosed.

The Department of Energy study draws several striking conclusions. First, the study concludes that the minimum costs of large, mandatory reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions, such as the 10-million-ton reduction proposed in legislation that has been introduced, are staggering. In real 1980 dollars, the study projects the cost of a 10-million-ton reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions at \$110 billion over the next 30 years. In nominal dollars, the cost is projected at \$200-300 billion over the next 30 years.

Second, the study concludes that these costs will be borne primarily by 10 Midwest and Appalachian states: West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri. These states comprise much of the industrial heartland of America. At present, these states suffer from the highest average unemployment levels in the country.

The potential for job losses from sulphur dioxide emissions controls is great. Representatives of the United Mine Workers of America testified before a Senate committee on February 10, 1982, that over 89,000 coal mine jobs would be lost if strict sulphur dioxide emissions reductions were required.

The gigantic costs of such reductions would weaken further the economies in those affected states, which are already reeling from the current recession.

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I urge you to carefully examine the information contained in the Energy Department study. I believe that the significant costs identified in the study must be factored into any action that the Congress may take with respect to the issue of acid precipitation.

Title IV of S. 2266, the Clean Air Reauthorization and Acid Precipitation Study Act of 1982, which I introduced on March 24, 1982, accelerates the ongoing federal study into the causes and effects of acid precipitation. This approach is a reasonable alternative to harsh sulphur dioxide emissions reductions proposals, particularly in light of the tremendous costs of such proposals, and the lack of sound, scientifically verifiable information on the phenomenon of acid precipitation.

For additional information on the Energy Department study, or on the legislation that I have introduced, please have your staff contact David Pratt of my staff at extension 4-3954.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert C. Byrd