



July 31, 2015

Governor Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor & Lt Governor
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for State Implementation of Carbon Pollution Standards

Dear Governor Dayton:

We, the undersigned companies and investors, have a significant presence in Minnesota and strongly support the implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's Carbon Pollution Standards for existing power plants. These standards, also called the Clean Power Plan, are critical for moving our country toward a clean energy economy. The Plan's flexible approach provides an exciting opportunity for states to customize their own energy portfolio, expand clean energy solutions, attract new industries to the state, and create thousands of jobs.

Our support is firmly grounded in economic reality. Clean energy solutions are cost effective and innovative ways to drive investment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Increasingly, businesses rely on renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions to cut costs and improve corporate performance. In 2014, a study by Ceres, Calvert Investments and the World Wildlife Fund revealed that 60 percent of Fortune 100 companies have set their own clean energy targets and have saved more than \$1 billion a year in the process.¹

Clear and consistent policies can send market signals that help businesses and investors plan for the future. We are seeking long-term policies that provide businesses the certainty needed to transition to a clean energy economy. Electric power plants are the single largest source of carbon pollution in the United States and the Clean Power Plan will be pivotal in reducing their emissions.

As you develop your implementation plan we hope you will include the building blocks of renewable energy and energy efficiency, which will allow you to mitigate the risks of climate change and the volatility of fossil fuel prices.

We are already experiencing increased frequency and intensity of storms, warmer temperatures, extreme precipitation, and changes in weather patterns that will continue to put trillions of dollars of institutional investors' assets at risk and require companies to be innovative at adapting to these changes. From our positions as employers and fiduciaries, we seek a greater degree of policy certainty in order to better manage these risks in our operations, supply chains, and portfolios.

We are encouraged that the Plan allows states to use a number of flexible strategies to comply with the standards. States can build on successful clean energy policies already in place around the country and thereby accelerate additional investment. Evidence shows that emissions reductions can be achieved without long-term economic harm or damage to the reliability of our electricity system.^{2,3} We also hope to see states take care to ensure a just transition for impacted workers and communities during this shift toward a low carbon economy.

We encourage your timely finalization of Minnesota's implementation plan and offer the support of the business community in your pursuit of cost-effective clean energy solutions.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Asean Corporation

Aveda

Calvert Investments

CONTEMPL8 T-Shirts LLC

Cooperative Energy Futures

EILEEN FISHER, Inc.

Innovative Power Systems

Jedlicka Design

Juhl Energy

New Moon Girl Media

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

RAES Foods, Inc.

Rune's Furniture

School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund

SheerWind

Unitarian Universalist Association

Velasquez Family Coffee

Wespath Investment Management

Bold indicates companies with >\$100M in annual revenue and investors with >\$2B in assets under management.

¹ See analysis, *Power Forward 2.0: How American Companies Are Setting Clean Energy Targets and Capturing Greater Business Value*, available at <https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-2.0-how-american-companies-are-setting-clean-energy-targets-and-capturing-greater-business-value/>

² See Center for American Progress analysis, *Cutting Carbon Pollution While Promoting Economic Growth*, available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/CarbonEmissions-brief.pdf>

³ See Brattle Group analysis, *EPA's Clean Power Plan and Reliability*, available at <http://info.aee.net/brattle-reliability-report>