



## Principles for Strong Carbon Rules

### WE NEED BOLD ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO MEET CLIMATE GOALS:

- The climate crisis is already upon us, and swift action to reduce emissions in the next decade is critical if we hope to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. To that end, President Biden made an international pledge to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 50 to 52 percent by 2030, and set an ambitious goal to reach 100 percent carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035.
- Any path toward achieving our economy-wide emission reduction targets requires rapid reduction of carbon pollution from the power sector, which as of 2020 was responsible for a quarter of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Power sector CO<sub>2</sub> reductions will also help curtail lifecycle emissions from other sectors, like transportation, buildings, and industry.
- The Inflation Reduction Act's historic clean energy investments will help to lower the cost of clean energy, expand its accessibility to communities across the country, create hundreds of thousands of clean energy jobs, and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. But IRA investments alone are not enough to reach our climate goals and protect us from the harms caused by fossil power generation.
- EPA can and must act quickly to set enforceable limits on carbon pollution from fossil fuel-fired power plants under the existing authority of Clean Air Act Section 111. Although the Supreme Court's decision in *West Virginia v. EPA* constrained EPA's Section 111 authority, the agency is still authorized—and in fact, is *obligated*—by the statute to promulgate strong rules to reduce climate pollution from this sector. Congress reinforced its intent that EPA regulate power plants' carbon pollution by expressly amending the Clean Air Act in the IRA.



### CALL FOR EPA ACTION:

- **Support for Strong Rules:** CAC groups call on EPA to use its Clean Air Act authority to set the strongest possible carbon pollution limits for new gas-fired power plants under Section 111(b) and for existing coal- and gas-fired power plants under Section 111(d). (EPA must also move ahead with an ambitious suite of safeguards—such as strengthened Mercury & Air Toxics Standards, a robust final Good Neighbor Plan, and stronger National Ambient Air Quality Standards for soot and smog, coal ash disposal requirements, and Effluent Limitation Guidelines—to protect communities from fossil power plants’ harmful air and water pollution.)
- **Support for Robust Community Engagement:** CAC groups call on EPA to conduct meaningful and sustained engagement with environmental justice and community-based organizations and ensure that the communities that have experienced the most harm from our fossil fuel economy and are on the frontlines of the climate crisis have a strong voice in EPA proceedings to adopt these crucial rules and in their implementation.
- **Urgent Timeline:** We urge the Agency to finalize all three rules by the end of 2023 – this is 5 months faster than current Unified Agenda lists (June 2024).
- **Guardrails and Community Protections:** To the extent CCS is available as an option for compliance with these rules, EPA must ensure rigorous monitoring and enforcement of any emissions or leaks from capture to sequestration. In addition, the Biden administration should move swiftly to update requirements outside of EPA air authorities to ensure any such projects are held to the highest health and safety standards, lead to permanent sequestration without leaks or damaging earthquakes, and do not present additional harms to nearby communities.