



CEMENT OVERSHOES

THE HIGH COSTS OF UNCONTROLLED AIR POLLUTION

Uncontrolled air pollution from cement plants kills people. It also worsens childhood asthma and sends people to the emergency room with respiratory problems and heart attacks. It contaminates fish with methylmercury, which goes from dinner plates to the wombs of expecting mothers—threatening the developmental health of their unborn babies.

After more than a decade of letting this atrocity occur, the Environmental Protection Agency on September 9, 2010, issued strong standards to reduce health-damaging pollution from the nation's 100 cement plants. But the cement industry doesn't want to spend even the modest amount of money required to be a better neighbor, and its congressional allies are more than willing to get the industry out of any obligation to clean up. By using a Congressional Review Act resolution, Rep. John Carter (R-TX) is pursuing a nuclear option that will prevent the EPA's health protections from ever taking effect.

CEMENT PLANT POLLUTION HURTS OUR HEALTH...

Premature Death

Fine particle pollution from cement plants kills hundreds if not thousands of people every year. The EPA estimates that limiting this pollution will save the lives of as many as 2,500 people annually, and will prevent 1,000 E.R. visits, 1,500 heart attacks, 17,000 cases of aggravated asthma, and 130,000 days of missed work.

Brain Damage and Developmental Disability

Cement plants are the second worst industrial emitter of mercury pollution, which can affect a child's ability to think, talk, read, write and learn.

Cancer and Birth Defects

Toxic metals such as arsenic, chromium, and lead, all of which cement plants emit, can cause cancer and birth defects.

...BUT LIMITING POLLUTION WON'T HURT INDUSTRY

Modest Costs and Ample Time

The total cost for controlling the toxic air emissions from all of the nation's cement plants is less than \$400 million annually. Given that individual cement companies make billions in profits every year, these compliance costs are more than reasonable. The EPA has provided three years, and can grant a one-year extension, for plants to comply.

Tremendous Benefits

These pollution reductions will yield between \$6.7 and \$18 billion in health benefits every year. That amounts to between \$18 and \$48 in public health benefits for every dollar the industry spends to clean up.

No Plant Closures

EPA's economic analysis, reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget, found no indication that any plants would close. It states that 10 underutilized plants might temporarily idle until economic conditions improve, but points out that even this scenario is unlikely if the economy and demand for cement recover by 2013.

Domestic Production of Cement is Rising

The Portland Cement Association's predictions corroborate the EPA's analysis: three months after the EPA issued pollution limits, the PCA predicted that the production of domestic cement will surge by 25 percent between now and 2013, when emission limits will take effect, and 50 percent between now and 2015. Over the same time period, import volumes are forecast at the lowest levels in the past 20 years. (Source: Portland Cement Association, Fall Forecast 2010, Nov. 2 2010)



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