

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chair
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 205210

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 205210

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Whitehouse,

The undersigned groups represent industries that are vital to America's economic success and hundreds of thousands of workers across the country. Manufacturing in America is among the cleanest in the world, but manufacturers are facing staggering costs to comply with federal regulations — in particular, environmental regulations that have recently required manufacturers to achieve the implausible or impossible. In order to boost our economy and secure our jobs, it is vital to return the Environmental Protection Agency to its original mission of providing clean air and clean water with achievable, common-sense regulations that can support manufacturing. We believe that Aaron Szabo is an excellent choice to fight for manufacturing in America, and we offer our strong endorsement for his confirmation as Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation of the EPA.

Szabo's career as a public servant makes him eminently qualified for this nomination. His work spanned three Presidential administrations. At the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and within the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Aaron was at the forefront, analyzing and providing sound counsel on numerous air quality and permitting reform regulations.

The position of Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air is one of the most vital in the EPA, and there is much to do. For instance, last year the Biden administration ignored warning signs of severe economic consequences and prematurely reconsidered a previous rulemaking to set a particulate matter standard at or below naturally occurring background levels throughout much of the country, which impacts all industrial sectors. The revised standard will have a chilling effect on investments for both existing and new manufacturing facilities. Many manufacturing facilities that had initiated their permitting under the previous protective standard are now having difficulty demonstrating to state regulators that they can meet the revised standard, threatening both economic growth and livelihoods. The rule was changed despite at the time being the most stringent global standard.

In another instance, the EPA last year finalized a regulation on power plants that threatens energy availability. As we are looking to revitalize manufacturing in the United States and deploy the latest AI, we need more kilowatts on the grid, not a regulation that could shut down much needed American-made power generation.

Szabo will work with Administrator Zeldin tirelessly to implement President Trump's smart regulatory policy that aims to put America first. We encourage the Committee to support Szabo and move quickly to confirm him as Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation.

Sincerely,

The Aluminum Association
American Chemistry Council
American Forest & Paper Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Iron and Steel Institute
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
The Fertilizer Institute
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
Institute of Makers of Explosives
National Propane Gas Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
Portland Cement Association
Steel Manufacturers Association