

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power and Subcommittee on  
Environment and the Economy  
Joint Hearing on "The FY 2013 EPA Budget"  
February 28, 2012**

Chairman Whitfield, Chairman Shimkus, thank you for calling this hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's 2013 budget request. It is particularly important to scrutinize EPA's budget request because, as we have learned in recent years, there's a very troublesome multiplier effect at work. Each dollar EPA spends can end up costing us many more dollars as a consequence of the agency's ill-advised actions.

For example, when EPA uses funds to come up with regulations that contribute to rising gasoline prices, it costs us both as taxpayers and at the pump. A similar thing happens when the agency raises our electric bills through burdensome power plant regulations.

Of particular concern to manufacturing states like Michigan, the agency continues to promulgate costly measures that put American manufacturers at a global disadvantage. It's bad enough when the federal government wastes taxpayer dollars, but it's unacceptable when money is being spent to the detriment of the country.

Worst of all, at a time of stubbornly high unemployment, the agency uses funds to pursue policies that jeopardize job growth. And this is not mere conjecture on my part. These two subcommittees have held a number of hearings over the past year, and we have learned quite a bit about the damage caused by some of EPA's actions. We have had dozens of private sector witnesses before us – representing energy companies, manufacturers, small businesses, and farmers. All of these job creators have pointed to recently promulgated and proposed EPA regulations as an unprecedented threat to them. I am concerned that the FY 2013 budget request contains funding for more of the same.

Now, there is no debate that EPA should get the resources it needs to carry out its legitimate functions under the environmental statutes Congress has enacted. But we have seen an unfortunate departure from common sense environmental regulation in recent years. To the extent EPA's new budget enables the agency to pursue an agenda that does more economic harm than environmental good, we need to demand changes.

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