

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 14, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to you today regarding three U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules that together threaten the economic competitiveness of the American integrated steel industry. We urge EPA to grant the petitions filed by the domestic integrated steel industry seeking administrative reconsiderations and stays of all three final rules until the EPA can complete a comprehensive review of each rule through the administrative reconsideration process.

Working together, EPA and industry have achieved notable reductions in environmental impacts to air, water, and land over the past 50 years. The steel industry in the U.S. is the world's cleanest major producer of steel and is already subject to more environmental regulation than its global competitors, resulting in a cleaner environment. While we appreciate EPA's efforts to address concerns raised by multiple stakeholders – including steel companies, the United Steelworkers (USW), coke producers, and numerous Members of Congress – throughout the rulemaking process, we remain concerned that the final rules contain flaws that will undermine the domestic steel industry and national security while driving production overseas. We are specifically concerned about the following three rules:

- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Taconite Iron Ore Processing (EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0664)
- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities (EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0083)
- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks, and Coke Oven Batteries (EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0085 and EPA HQ OAR 2003 0051).

A failure to get these regulations right will not only have a negative impact on domestic steel production and American steelworkers, but it will also likely fail to achieve a net reduction in emissions from the steel industry globally. In fact, emissions will likely rise as production moves to countries, like China, with far less stringent rules and regulations. By granting the requested administrative reconsideration and stay of the rules, the EPA and industry can build on their shared track record of success and continue to work together in a constructive manner to achieve durable rules that both protect the environment and our domestic integrated steel industry.