

June 21, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 2218, Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

I am writing on behalf of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC) to voice our support of H.R. 2218, the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act of 2013. The bipartisan H.R. 2218 would establish a federal regulatory framework for the management and disposal of CCR as a non-hazardous waste. The bill strengthens coal ash legislation from the 112th Congress.

The Large Public Power Council represents 26 of the largest locally owned and operated not-for-profit electric systems in the nation. Members are located in 11 states and Puerto Rico. LPPC member utilities supply electricity to some of the largest cities in the country -- including Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha, Phoenix, Sacramento, Jacksonville, San Antonio, Orlando and Austin. Collectively, our members own and operate approximately 35,000 circuit miles of transmission lines and over 86,000 megawatts of generation, reflecting a portfolio of renewable energy, fossil fuel, nuclear, hydropower and other resources.

We have a strong interest in workable rules for the disposal of coal combustion residuals (CCR). The members of the LPPC believe that CCR should be regulated as a non-hazardous waste, that there should be federal guidelines for the disposal of CCR, that states should issue enforceable permits, and that EPA should be able to enforce the standards if a state fails to do so.

The language in H.R.2218 achieves these goals by establishing minimum federal standards for the disposal of CCR that states would have primarily responsibility to implement through state permit programs. Furthermore, the bill contains important regulatory backstop provisions that authorize EPA to step in and implement those minimum federal CCR standards when a state fails to do so. Importantly, not regulating CCR as a hazardous waste allows the beneficial reuse of CCR to continue. Currently, about 40% of CCR in the US is directed to beneficial reuse (e.g., cement) rather than landfills or impoundments.

The members of the LPPC urge passage of H.R. 2218 to establish effective regulatory framework for the safe and effective disposal of CCRs.

Sincerely,



Lonnie N. Carter
Chair, LPPC