

February 15, 2017

Gary Cohn
Director, National Economic Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Cohn:

We are reaching out to you following the widely-publicized meeting you attended on February 8 with members of the “Climate Leadership Council” to discuss their ideas regarding the establishment of a nationwide carbon tax.

Our organizations have significant concerns regarding any prospective carbon tax proposal. Such a policy would place undue economic burdens on American families and businesses by *intentionally* increasing the cost of the energy they rely on every day. A carbon tax would also be regressive – doing the most harm to our nation’s economically disadvantaged – and would destroy American jobs, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

We are heartened by the fact that President Trump flatly rejected the notion of a carbon tax during his 2016 candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. We are equally heartened that streamlining our nation’s vastly overgrown and economically destructive regulatory system remains one of the President’s top priorities. This Administration is already taking steps to eliminate harmful regulations such as the so-called “Clean Power Plan,” *because doing so will be good for American workers, families, and businesses*. Adding a new tax on energy in return would represent an extremely costly step in the wrong direction – one that those workers, families, and businesses cannot afford.

We respectfully request a meeting with you to further discuss our concerns regarding a carbon tax and to provide additional information that may be helpful in your assessment of the issue. Each of our organizations has a unique perspective to offer; together, we represent a nationwide coalition of activists, concerned citizens, and stakeholders who have a vested interest in ensuring the formulation of sound energy and tax policy that will best support, serve, and strengthen our great nation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Pyle
President, American Energy Alliance

Grover Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

Michael Needham
President, Heritage Action for America

Myron Ebell
Director, Center for Energy and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute

Adam Brandon
President, FreedomWorks

cc: White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, White House Senior Advisor Stephen Miller