

Aug 3, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

RE -- Docket ID Number: EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-00044

Administrator Wheeler,

The COVID-19 pandemic and the government's response to it has played havoc with businesses of all types around the country. Colorado has not been spared, as restaurants and other businesses have lost millions of dollars of revenue and have laid off workers. Our once-booming energy industry has also taken a substantial hit.

As our business community begins to pick up the pieces and rebuild, business owners are going to need a couple things: a degree of certainty going forward and some relief from one of their biggest costs – government regulation.

To that end, I fully support the proposed rule that requires the EPA to apply consistent guidelines to the cost-benefit analysis included in their regulatory evaluations. For years, the EPA has failed to apply a consistent, transparent set of standards concerning how costs and benefits of proposed regulation were determined. This has resulted in benefits being overstated, and costs being downplayed. As we move into the economic recovery phase, it is imperative that government, industry, and the public know the true costs of any regulation or rule that may impact them.

Thank you to you and your agency for working on developing this rule which will correct some long-standing shortcomings in the regulatory culture of the federal government.

Yours sincerely,

Senator John Cooke