



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GLBN Members Call For Stringent Federal Carbon Rules

TRAVERSE CITY, MI (May 11, 2023) – In historic news today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released draft carbon rules targeting the country’s polluting power sector. The new rules are slated to reduce carbon pollution by up to 617 million metric tons from 2028 to 2042, meaning a significant boon for climate action and public health.

While the rules represent an important step to addressing the climate crisis and making good on President Biden’s carbon commitments, they divide new gas units into subcategories based on the unit’s frequency of operation. More stringent rules apply to those units providing baseload power, but less stringent standards are set for units that will operate less frequently – namely gas “peaker” plants. Members of the Great Lakes Business Network called on the EPA to tighten this rule by shortening compliance timelines and lowering the unit size and capacity factor thresholds for the new gas subcategories. Despite some shortcomings of the rule, however, GLBN supports ambitious and robust carbon regulations and celebrates the important step forward this rulemaking represents.

“BIPOC and low-income communities across the Great Lakes are disproportionately harmed by power-plant pollution. The health of our communities relies on the EPA passing the strongest possible carbon rules, which means tightly regulating natural gas peaker plants too. The health of our people, our environment, and our economy depend on robust rules for all fossil fuel generation plants,” said **Dr. Adewale Adesanya, Founder/CEO of Havenergy Consulting Inc.** with offices in Albany NY, and Okemos, MI.

Across the Great Lakes we continue to watch the climate crisis manifest, with more violent storms, extreme heat waves and flooding, along with the spread of invasive species and toxic algae,” said **Chris Sack co-owner of Great Lakes Tea & Spice**, located in Glen Arbor, MI “Yet, we continue to generate the vast majority of our electricity from polluting fossil fuels. We must now pass the strongest carbon rules possible for the power sector, to ensure a healthy climate future for the next generation.”

“Treating natural gas peaker plants differently than baseload generation in this time of climate crisis is ludicrous,” said **Sam Bennett owner of Swellminded**, based in Traverse City, MI. “We

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GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

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have one opportunity to get these rules right and lowering the standards for these plants, which are often located in low-income and BIPOC communities, will only continue to perpetuate environmental injustice. EPA must move forward with the most stringent rules possible.”

“Lake Superior is experiencing severe volatility as a result of climate change,” commented **Patrick Burns of North 61 clothing brand**, located in Grand Marais, MN. “Surface temperatures on the lake have been wildly fluctuating, wind speeds have been ramping up an average of 5% per decade for the last 40 years, and the shores have been hammered relentlessly by 500 to 1,000 year storms repeatedly in the last decade. EPA must pass the strongest carbon rules possible to protect communities across the Great Lakes and beyond.”

“We need robust solutions for cutting power plant pollution—including a strong new standard for reducing carbon emissions that ensures vulnerable communities are not left behind—we can tackle the climate crisis, protect our health, and boost our clean economy,” said **Chelsea Bay Dennis of C.Bay Design**, located in Traverse City, MI. “EPA must finalize the most stringent rule possible governing climate pollution from power plants by early next year.”

“Our business relies on a healthy Lake Erie. As the shallowest of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie has already seen the impact of warming temperatures and increased rainfall in harmful algal blooms. We applaud any steps to curb climate change and protect this vital natural resource.” said **Mark Pecot, owner of 41° North Coastal Adventures**, a kayak and paddleboard tour operator and instructional school located in Cleveland, Ohio.

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