

Governor Eric Holcomb
State House
Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb:

As you know, coal and coal-fired power plants are important to Indiana. Therefore, I am writing to express our concern about plans to accelerate the shutdown of coal-fired power plants in Indiana, which already has the third largest number of coal retirements in the nation.

By way of background, America's Power is a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of the nation's fleet of coal-fired power plants, including those in Indiana. Our members include electricity generators, coal producers, railroads, and equipment manufacturers.

The coal fleet is important for a number of reasons that include contributing to an all-the-above energy strategy, assuring affordable electricity prices, maintaining a reliable and resilient electricity grid, and providing a higher degree of fuel security than almost any other electricity source. Fuel security is essential for a reliable and resilient grid. Some twenty years ago, more than 70 percent of the nation's electricity generating capacity was comprised of fuel-secure sources. However, fuel-secure sources will represent an alarmingly small 30 percent by next year because of the retirement of coal and nuclear plants.

Despite its benefits, some 40 percent of the nation's coal fleet has closed or announced plans to close. For that reason, the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and electricity grid operators are evaluating the extent to which these closures may be increasing the risk that high impact, low probability disturbances — such as extreme weather events or cyber and physical attacks — could cause massive and dangerous power outages.

Therefore, we believe it is prudent to wait for the results of these ongoing evaluations at the federal and regional levels in order to help Indiana determine whether further coal retirements are a real, not just potential, threat to the electricity grid.

Sincerely,



Michelle Bloodworth
President and Chief Executive Officer
America's Power