



Insight

The Senate on Regulation: Boiler MACT Relief

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Last July, Senator Susan Collins introduced [S. 1392](#), the “EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011.” Despite its 41 co-sponsors, including 12 Democrats, the bill has languished at the committee level. There may be light at the end of the tunnel, though. Recently introduced as an amendment to the highway re-authorization bill (Amendment 1660) currently meandering through the Senate, the EPA Regulatory Relief Act could soon face an up-or-down vote.

Senator Collins’s bill would essentially impose a 15-month delay of the Environmental Protection Agency’s re-proposed “Boiler MACT” rules. EPA would then have to devise new standards that “can be met under actual operating conditions.” In addition, the bill explicitly requires EPA to impose the “least burdensome” alternative allowed under the Clean Air Act.

Combined, Senator Collins’s legislation could:

- Save private entities more than **\$3.5 billion** in costs.
- Reduce the paperwork burden by more than **3 million hours**.
- Prevent the loss of approximately **3,000 jobs**.

All of these estimates come from EPA’s own figures. Outside estimates project compliance costs of more than **\$14 billion**. Click [here](#) for a more detailed analysis of the rules.

The previous iterations of these regulations were so egregious that EPA went back to the drawing board. The re-proposed regulations only increased the paperwork burden and cost of compliance. This legislation gives EPA another chance to get these rules right.