

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

Congratulations on your confirmation as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We applaud your commitment to bolstering the EPA's partnership with states and local communities to protect our air and water quality, and we look forward to working with you on advancing these goals to improve health for our people. Today, we write to respectfully urge the EPA to use its authority provided under the Clean Air Act (CAA) to delay the final construction and full operation of the Rockwool Mineral Wool Production Facility (Rockwool) until the Rockwool facility obtains an updated prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permit that brings it into compliance with CAA requirements.

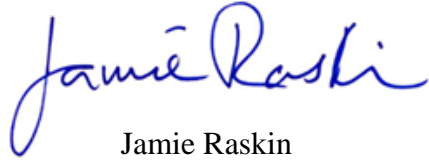
The Rockwool facility in Ranson, West Virginia, is located across the Potomac River from our constituents in Maryland. In 2020, while the facility was still being constructed, Rockwool changed its primary fuel source for its largest emission unit from coal to natural gas without being required to update its PSD permit to reflect this fundamental change in its pollutant emission profile. In order to preserve air quality, the CAA requires facilities constructed under a PSD permit to adopt the best available control technologies. Rockwool has not demonstrated that it is implementing the proper control technologies for its new fuel source, natural gas. Failure to adopt the best available control technologies for natural gas will result in much higher pollutant emissions for the region's residents. This is a pressing public health concern for our constituents and our neighbors in West Virginia.

We understand that EPA Region 3 has reached out to the Jefferson County Foundation to discuss these CAA permitting concerns, which the Foundation raised in detail to the EPA in a May 17, 2021 letter. While we are encouraged that EPA is meeting with a local group to discuss the CAA permitting of the Rockwool facility, we also urge the EPA to engage with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to require Rockwool to update or re-open its existing PSD permit. Additionally, we urge the EPA to encourage public participation in the permitting process and to hear directly from our constituents and others who have expressed their concerns to us.^[1] If these efforts should fail, we ask that the EPA take action under all applicable CAA enforcement provisions (such as sections 167 and 113) to address the situation in which the state permitting authority refuses to act to correct an improperly permitted facility. We ask the EPA to quickly engage in this matter as Rockwool recently commenced commercial operations.

^[1] In particular, we refer to the May 17, 2021 letter from Jefferson County Foundation to you, which presents well-reasoned concerns that a number of our constituents have brought to our attention.

Thank you for your attention on this urgent matter, and we look forward to working with you to protect the health of our people.

Yours truly,



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress

Cc: Lawrence Starfield, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Joseph Goffman, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
Diana Esher, Acting Regional Administrator, Region 3
Karen Melvin, Director, Region 3 Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Cristina Fernandez, Director, Region 3 Air and Radiation Division