Expert Commentary on NRDC’s updated proposal: “Cleaner and Cheaper: Using the Clean Air Act to Sharply Reduce Carbon Pollution from Existing Power Plants, Delivering Health, Environmental and Economic Benefits”

Carol Browner, former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy:

"NRDC has made a valuable contribution by proposing a pathway to fight climate change under the Clean Air Act while capitalizing on innovation in the states. Giving states the maximum flexibility is the right strategy; they are best suited to work with power companies to curb the nation's biggest source of carbon pollution driving climate change. States will design the most cost-effective way to protect their consumers and create clean energy jobs, while collaborating with power companies to alter their generation mix and clean up the air."

William K. Reilly, former Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

“NRDC continues to demonstrate responsible and sophisticated advocacy, with research into alternatives, their costs and benefits to put the country on the vital path of carbon reduction and climate protection.”

Susan Tierney, Managing Principal at the Analysis Group, and former Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy, and state public utility commissioner:

“Since issuing its original proposal in December 2012, NRDC has continued to sharpen its pencil to explore the costs and benefits of different GHG emissions reduction targets that the EPA might adopt as part of its upcoming guidance to states. NRDC’s approach recognizes that the 50 states have different conditions in the electricity system, and that they will have a range of options for how they might chose to meet the EPA standards in the most cost-effective way. This goes to the heart of the “cooperative federalism” model of emissions reductions anticipated in the part of the Clean Air Act under which EPA is proposing to reduce carbon pollution. And NRDC continues to shine a light on the trade-offs, in terms of costs and benefits, associated with different levels of stringencies that EPA might adopt. I applaud NRDC for this analysis which usefully informs the choices in front of EPA and the states.”

Doug Scott, Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission:

"States such as Illinois have long been at the forefront of developing renewable energy and promoting energy efficiency policies. As NRDC suggests, EPA’s proposal should capitalize on state expertise in EE and renewable power, and put each of the states in position to utilize that expertise to deliver economic and health benefits to their citizens, while lowering the carbon pollution that is impacting their health and climate. EPA's guidelines should also acknowledge that the states have different fuel mixes to produce electricity, and should empower states with a wide range of options to comply with the standards in a cost-effective way for their consumers and economies.”