

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2013

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Federal Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 3000
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

We are writing to ask your agency to pursue commonsense policies that accelerate the phase down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in this country and globally. We believe the agency can ensure we continue to have affordable, safe refrigeration and air conditioning, while also driving greenhouse gas emissions down.

Since its ratification in 1989, the Montreal Protocol has been an example of a highly successful multi-national environmental initiative. Under the Montreal Protocol, U.S. corporations and corporations in participating countries agreed to replace ozone depleting products - such as Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) - used globally in refrigerants, aerosols and solvents. As a result, we have seen a 97% reduction in the global consumption of controlled ozone depleting substances.

Today, most countries are choosing to replace CFCs and HCFCs with HFC compounds because HFCs have been found to be a safe and efficient alternative. The United States has already made the transition to HFCs, meaning HFCs are now used in a majority of our air conditioners and refrigerants found in our homes, cars, hospitals, and supermarkets. Developing countries participating in the Montreal Protocol are now starting to make their transitions - ramping up their use of HFCs. As a result, the global use of HFCs is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years. The increased HFC use is good for the ozone layer, but evidently not good for our climate. Unfortunately, it is now determined that HFC compounds can have a very high global warming potential. Should their use go unchecked, it is estimated that HFCs could account for approximately 20 percent of greenhouse gas pollution by 2050. So by using HFCs, we are addressing one global environmental problem, while contributing to another.

Our experience with the Montreal Protocol has shown the global community can work together to save the environment without disrupting the market place. That is why using the Montreal Protocol regime to transition the global use of HFCs to materials that are safe for the ozone and

Protocol regime to transition the global use of HFCs to materials that are safe for the ozone and safe for our climate makes sense and why we applaud the Administration's efforts to do so. We believe this process will give our country and the world the most flexibility and cost-effective path toward reducing HFCs.

As we wait for global action, some sectors in this country and in other countries are already beginning to transition away from HFCs, influenced by regulation, voluntary programs and a growing suite of alternatives. For example, many home refrigerators and window air conditioning units have changed over to hydrocarbon refrigerants. Transitions are also being seen in vending machines, supermarkets, motor vehicle air conditioning, and insulating foams. In fact, a Hannaford supermarket just opened in Turner, Maine that is the first HFC-free supermarket in the country. It is estimated that the new system will reduce the store's carbon footprint by 3.4 million pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent every year and will save the store money in the long run in repair and energy costs. Not all sectors have a clear transition, but for some sectors there are clear, safe alternatives to HFCs.

Recognizing that it may take some time to amend the Montreal Protocol and incorporate those changes into US regulations, we believe the EPA does not need to wait to implement smart policies that can help accelerate these transitions in the United States and globally. We encourage you to focus your agency on HFC applications where technology solutions and alternative products are already available or soon to be in the market, similar to what the European Union has done with their Mobile Air Conditioning Directive. The agency should look to where market transitions are already underway – like in Turner, Maine - and where EPA action could hasten the pace of those transitions, both domestically and elsewhere. We think that such actions would not only have significant cost-effective environmental benefits but would also strengthen the Administration's hand in the Montreal Protocol negotiations.

Thank you for your efforts in this area and we look forward to working with you on this issue in the future.

With best personal regards, we are

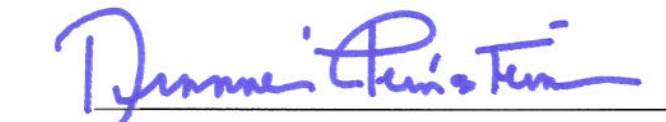
Sincerely yours,

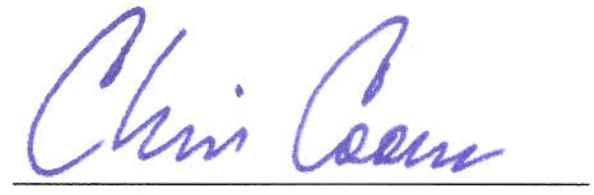


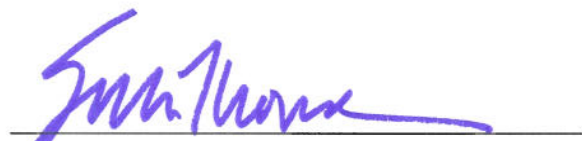
Tom Carper
U.S. Senator

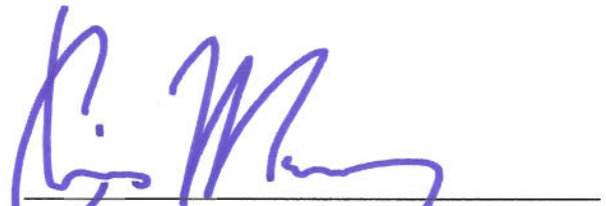


Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator



Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator

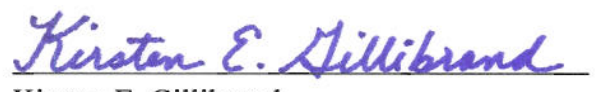

Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator


Christopher Murphy
U.S. Senator


Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator


Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator


Edward Markey
U.S. Senator


Kirsten E. Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



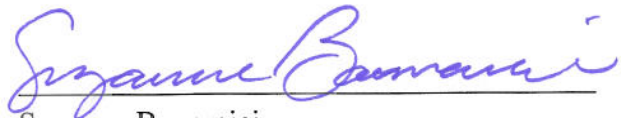
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress