August 20, 2014

Administrator Gina McCarthy
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0602

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

The impacts of climate change described in the recently released National Climate Assessment\(^1\) are of particular relevance to south Florida. In fact, Miami is listed as one of the major cities most at risk from climate change impacts, such as more extreme weather events and sea level rise. In south Florida, the threat from sea level rise includes salt water intrusion into our municipal drinking water wells, flood control system challenges, and inundation threats to roads, infrastructure, and private property.

As local elected officials, we can take individual and collective action to shore up our communities against sea level rise. Yet scientists say that at the heart of the problem is increasing carbon pollution from fossil fuel emissions that continue to warm the planet. Therefore, carbon pollution reductions are necessary if we wish to avert the worst impacts from climate change. Carbon pollution emissions from existing power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States.

On June 2, 2014, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the first-ever draft rule on reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants. I understand that this rule will allow the states flexibility in meeting the proposed carbon pollution reduction levels, including the more efficient use of electricity and the increased development of clean, renewable energy such as solar power.

As local elected officials in the south Florida region, we support the EPA’s new rule and urge the agency to finalize the rule and implement it. It’s time we limit carbon pollution, put a clean power plan in place for Florida that helps our homes and businesses be more energy efficient, and invest in clean solar power to create more jobs in the state. As local elected officials we are doing our part to address climate change impacts, we support the EPA in doing its part to reduce carbon pollution from exiting power plants.

Sincerely,

City of North Miami
Councilwoman Carol Keys
Councilman Scott Galvin

City of North Bay Village
Vice Mayor Eddie Lim
Commissioner Dr. Richard Chevrony

City of Bal Harbour
Councilwoman Patricia Cohen

City of North Miami Beach
Councilwoman Barbara Kramer
Councilman Anthony DePhillipo

City of Aventura
Commissioner Luz Urbaez

City of Miami Beach
Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Commissioner Michael Greco
Commissioner Joy Malokof

Village of Pinecrest
Mayor Cindy Lerner
Councilmember Bob Ros
Councilmember James E. McDonald

City of El Portal
Mayor Daysi Black

City of Homestead
Mayor Jeff Porter
City of Cutler Bay
Councilwoman Mary Ann Mixon

City of South Miami
Mayor Philip Stoddard

City of Miami Gardens
Councilman David Williams Jr.

Palm Beach Garden
Council Member David J. Levy

Town of Jupiter
Mayor Karen Golonka

Hallandel Beach
Mayor Joy Cooper

Broward County
Commissioner Sue Gunzburger
Commissioner Kristin Jacobs
Commissioner Martin David Kiar
Commissioner Lois Wexler

City of Hollywood
Mayor Peter Bober

City of Coconut Creek
Vice Mayor Becky Tooley
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere

Town of Davie
Mayor Judy Paul
Vice Mayor Bryan Caletka
Councilmember Susan Starkey
City of Oakland Park

Commissioner John Adornato