

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Stevie Poole, Government Relations Specialist, (806) 761-7000,  
c (806) 782-8258, [stevie.poole@lubbockbiz.org](mailto:stevie.poole@lubbockbiz.org)

### **Chamber Joins Amicus Brief Against Costly Carbon Regulations**

**LUBBOCK, Texas** — On Tuesday, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce joined 166 other state and local chambers of commerce and business associations from 40 different states in an amicus brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The brief explains the economic impact posed by the Environmental Protection Agency’s carbon regulations and supports the overturning of the rule.

The lawsuit, which will be considered by a federal appeals court this summer, involves EPA’s “Clean Power Plan” rules, which aim to reconfigure state electricity systems. It is expected to be a landmark case that could shape Texas’ energy and economic future.

The brief explains that EPA’s challenged rule will pose significant harm to regional and local communities, particularly in economically challenged rural areas. In issuing these regulations, the EPA purports to regulate how states generate, transmit, and use electricity without any authority from Congress to do so, according to the brief

“In Lubbock, we know that affordable, reliable energy gives local businesses a critical advantage in today’s intensely competitive economy,” said Lubbock Chamber Chairwoman Beth Bridges. “If the courts uphold EPA’s rule, that advantage could be lost and American consumers would be left footing the bill, leading to adverse ripple effects throughout the economy.”

Through the EPA regulations, Texas would be required to reduce its electricity sector carbon emissions rate 32.9 percent by 2030. An independent analysis by NERA Economic Consulting has projected that this will increase state electricity prices by an average of 13 percent, and up to 18 percent in peak years.

“By prematurely and unnecessarily forcing power plants to close, this regulation will drive up the cost for electricity as well as the price of goods and services that depend on it,” said Eddie McBride, President and CEO of the Lubbock Chamber. “That would mean fewer dollars left for health care, food, education and other needs critical to Lubbock residents and our local economy.”



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A decision in the case is likely to be issued by the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit later this year. From there, the challenge is expected to make its way to the Supreme Court, which has ordered EPA to halt all implementation and enforcement actions on the rule until it has the opportunity to consider the case.

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,000 businesses and over 79,000 employees on the South Plains which accounts for over \$2 billion in annual household earnings in Lubbock and West Texas. The Chamber twice earned the distinguished 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and is a two-time Chamber of the Year recognized by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

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