

October 30, 2017

Sarah Dunham  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
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Re: Request for Public Hearings on Proposed Repeal of Clean Power Plan

Dear Acting Assistant Administrator Dunham:

As Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, I hereby request public hearings on EPA's proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan, 82 Fed. Reg. 48,035 (Oct. 16, 2017). Because climate change is an issue of immense importance to the State of Connecticut, I request that, in addition to holding a public hearing in Washington, D.C., EPA also hold public hearings in Hartford, Connecticut. These hearings are essential to ensure that the EPA will hear first-hand from Connecticut citizens about the harms we are already experiencing from climate change and why EPA's proposal to eliminate the Clean Power Plan – a vital tool to combat climate change – would be a serious and costly mistake.

The harmful impacts of climate change in Connecticut have been unmistakable. Rising temperatures increase the number, intensity, and duration of heat waves and lead to poorer air quality through increases in ground level ozone. Poor air quality impairs lung function and can result in increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for people suffering from asthma, particularly children. This is especially concerning to Connecticut's residents as our State already has one of the Nation's highest incidences of asthma.

Connecticut is also especially vulnerable to sea level rise caused by climate change because of its lengthy coastline. Sea level rise from climate change is already exacerbating coastal flooding and erosion from storm events, such as Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy, which combined caused over one million Connecticut residents to lose power and billions of dollars of property damage to the East coast. Sea level rise will eventually inundate low-lying communities, including Bridgeport, the largest city in the State.

In addition to rising water levels, water temperatures are increasing, resulting in a decline in cold water fish species and a marked increase in warm water species. Due to projected changes in climate, seventy-five species characterized as at-risk or endangered will experience large population declines. At the same time, ten invasive or potentially invasive species are likely to experience a significant population increase. These unwelcome invasive – including Asian

clams, mile-a-minute vine, and a new species of mosquito – can spread diseases and will put new stresses on our environment and public health. Furthermore, changing temperatures impact Connecticut’s agriculture and aquiculture industries threatening, for instance, to drive sugar maple trees out of our state.

Due to the urgent need to take action to face these threats to the health of our citizens and natural resources, Connecticut has already taken steps to shift away from reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation, transportation, and in other sectors of our economy. Connecticut has adopted a broad portfolio of laws and regulations to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050, including the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and programs to promote low and zero-emission vehicles, among others. We have also joined together with other states and cities to advocate for and defend policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as the Clean Power Plan.

Because repealing the Clean Power Plan—especially without a commitment to replace it with any equivalent rule to deal with the urgent problem of carbon pollution from electric generation—would be a grave mistake, we urge EPA to take the time to listen to the people of the State of Connecticut. We recommend in particular scheduling the hearings in Hartford due to its central location and ease of public access. We have excellent facilities available at the Gina McCarthy Auditorium at our Department's headquarters that we would gladly make available for an EPA hearing on the Clean Power Plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Klee  
Commissioner  
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

CC: Peter Tsigotis  
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