



**SOLUTIONS  
FOR POLLUTION**  
For Clean Air and  
a Healthy Climate

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Contact:**

Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club, 602.999.5790, [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org)

D.J. Portugal, Chispa AZ, 602.466.8925, [dportugal@lcv.org](mailto:dportugal@lcv.org)

## **Arizonans Weigh in For Clean Air: Deliver More Than 15,000 Comments to EPA In Support of Strong Soot Protections**

**Phoenix, Arizona** – The Environmental Protection Agency asked to hear from the public on what they think about new proposed soot standards, and more than half a million answered the call and made clear they want those standards to be as strong as possible.

More than 15,000 Arizonans were among those weighing in with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in favor of cleaner air and setting the strongest possible soot protections as the public comment period on these important public health protections comes to a close.

Moms Clean Air Force, Arizona Interfaith Power and Light, Chispa Arizona, Poder Latinx, Sierra Club's Grand cAnyon (Arizona) Chapter, Defend Our Future Arizona, EDF Action, and 15 Arizona Legislators, joined thousands of local business owners, clean energy experts, faith and public health advocates that sent comments urging the Biden administration to follow its own science and set stronger soot pollution standards than what the EPA has currently proposed.

With the EPA's public comment process now closed and more than 500,000 residents,, medical professionals, local electeds, and Members of Congress weighing in for a stronger rule, **CAC Director Margie Alt** called on the Biden administration to finish the job with a final standard even stronger than their proposal.

“The Biden administration has a real opportunity to make a huge difference in our air quality, our families’ health and to advance environmental justice in Arizona and across the country,” said **Alt**. “I hope President Biden and EPA Administrator Regan will listen to the thousands of Arizonans including doctors and nurses and other public health professionals, as well as their own Science Advisory Committee and set the strongest possible soot pollution standards. Not only will this help to prevent the deadly impacts of toxic soot pollution, especially in overburdened communities, it will also have some benefits for our climate as well.”

The EPA is considering updated standards to ensure safer air and protect our health against dangerous soot pollution – also known as particulate matter, or PM 2.5 – from power plants and other industrial sources. The standards, last updated in 2012, are insufficient to protect people from this dangerous pollution according to the latest available science. Exposure to soot is linked to many health risks and chronic conditions, including asthma, heart disease, COPD, Parkinson's disease, dementia, low birth weight, greater risk of preterm birth, and higher rates of infant mortality.

“Thousands of Arizonans are counting on the President Biden and the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize the strongest possible science-based soot pollution standards that will ensure cleaner and safer air for our families, advance environmental justice, and protect our health,” said, **Sandy Bahr, director for Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter**. “Thousands of lives – someone’s mom or dad, someone’s grandparents, someone’s children – are at stake and we need to curtail this dangerous pollution now.”

“Chispa AZ is calling on the Biden Administration and the EPA to do more for BIPOC communities on the front lines of the climate crisis. Multiple studies have found that Latinos and Hispanic communities are exposed to higher concentrations of PM2.5 than white and non-Hispanic populations. This can have fatal consequences, as

Latinx children are 40% more likely to die from asthma. Our children's lives depend on the EPA finalizing the strongest pollution standards and advancing climate justice," said **DJ Portugal, Federal Climate Organizer for Chispa Arizona**.

"Scientists and health professionals tell us beyond a shadow of doubt that soot is wreaking havoc on our health. When we know better we must do better," said **Hazel Chandler, AZ Coordinator for Moms Clean Air Force**.

"At Poder Latinx, we know that soot is having a negative impact on the Latinx community here in Arizona- our children are suffering from asthma at a higher rate than our counterparts. We call on the Environmental Protection Agency to protect our air by strengthening the soot pollution standards. Our children are depending on us to improve air quality for their future," said **Nancy Herrera, Arizona State Program Coordinator, Poder Latinx**.

"Congregations in Arizona participated by sending comments to the EPA calling for stronger soot standards to protect families, friends and neighbors across the state. The comments highlighted the harm caused to people with existing health conditions and the disproportionate effects in communities of color," said **Melanie Beikman, Executive Director for Arizona Interfaith Power & Light**. "People of faith in Arizona are calling on the EPA to save more lives by enacting the highest standards."

As part of the Climate Action Campaign's (CAC) [Solutions for Pollution](#) coalition, the campaign delivered over 500,000 comments to the EPA from Americans nationwide.

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