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Wisconsin Residents Call for Strong Carbon Pollution Limits from Existing Power Plants
Clean Air Advocates Rally for Climate Action at Chicago EPA Listening Session

CHICAGO - Today hundreds of residents from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin testified at the regional Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office in Chicago, calling on officials to enact the strongest possible limits on carbon pollution from coal and gas-fired power plants. Wisconsin parents, community and faith leaders, public health advocates and clean energy innovators spoke out about the harsh effects of climate disruption in their communities.

Carbon pollution is the main cause of climate disruption. The Midwest has been hard-hit by the impacts of climate disruption, including droughts, floods and Lake Michigan water levels at historic lows.

“Our way of life in the Midwest is being threatened by climate disruption,” said Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator, Sierra Club Wisconsin John Muir Chapter. “Now is the time to take action on climate by holding power plants responsible for the dangerous pollution they emit and setting strong carbon limits.”

Coal and gas-fired power plants are the country's biggest carbon polluters, which means that in order to address climate disruption, the EPA must issue strong carbon standards on power plants. Power plants are also responsible for life-threatening air pollution like smog, which triggers asthma attacks and other respiratory issues.

“As a person of faith, I believe it is our moral responsibility, for the benefit of our neighbors and future generations, to care for all that has been entrusted to us,” said Huda Alkaff, President of Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light and Director of the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin. “I urge the EPA to move forward with safeguards for existing power plants so that we can reduce carbon pollution as quickly as possible to address climate change, protect human health, and care for all of Creation.”

Climate disruption means big costs for Americans both economically and environmentally. Last year alone, Americans spent over \$140 billion as a result of devastating droughts, raging wildfires, tragic floods, record heat and powerful storms. That’s \$1,110 per American.

“Wisconsin has no fossil fuels, but has significant untapped wind and solar resources, and introducing strong carbon pollution standards gives us an opportunity to create many clean energy jobs and modernize our communities with locally-produced energy,” said Don Ferber, Wisconsin Beyond Coal Team, Sierra Club Wisconsin John Muir Chapter. “It is a win-win for Wisconsin.”

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