

Testimony for the Proposed Rule Revising the NSPS for GHG Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed EGUs on behalf of the American Lung Association

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Good morning. My name is Lyndsay Alexander, National Assistant Vice President at the American Lung Association. I lead the American Lung Association's Healthy Air Campaign to reduce air pollution so that it does not cause or worsen lung disease and to support policy solutions to climate change that protect lung health.

The American Lung Association strongly supported EPA's first-ever New Source Performance Standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired power plants proposed in 2012 and finally adopted in 2015.

We supported that historic step because of people like Dan Dolan-Laughlin, an American Lung Association volunteer from Chicago who suffered, nearly fatally, from COPD before receiving a double-lung transplant. Pollution literally makes Dan sick. On bad air days, he is often forced to stay indoors. For Dan, pollution controls can mean the difference between life and death.

Dan spoke at EPA's 2012 public hearing. "I cannot take my gift of new lungs for granted," he said. "And I ask that the EPA not take it for granted, either." Dan went on to say, "I'm not here simply to talk about my own battle for healthy air. I'm here as an advocate for everyone with lung diseases. Asthma sufferers, COPD patients, and others rely on pollution controls to simply get through another day. Lung disease impacts people young and old, rich and poor, all over the country. Every single one of them deserves the right to breathe healthy air. On behalf of these people, I support EPA's limits on carbon pollution from new power plants."

Here in the United States, we are fortunate that the Clean Air Act requires pollution reduction to protect health, and prevents hundreds of thousands early deaths each year. Yet, 1 in 4 Americans still lives in areas with unhealthful ozone or particle pollution.

Emissions from power plants that burn fossil fuels have placed an undue burden on the health of Americans for too long. They emit dangerous pollutants linked to asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, learning disabilities, early death, and more.

We need only look at the national headlines to see the devastation caused by carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases that drive climate change. We see extreme heat, drought and wildfires; stronger hurricanes and flooding; and the spread of diseases. The Lung Association's own annual "State of the Air" report shows how climate change is making it harder to reduce air pollution that leads to sickness and early death.

That's why I am appalled that EPA's proposal loosens pollution limits for carbon pollution from power plants.

Dan Dolan-Laughlin and millions of people living with lung diseases know that if you can't breathe, nothing else matters.

EPA should prioritize actions that achieve *greater* pollution reductions *faster* to protect *more* people.

That's why I urge you to withdraw this proposal and enforce the existing limits on carbon pollution from new, modified and reconstructed power plants to protect the health of our families and communities.