Testimony for Kansas City CPP Repeal Listening Session

Testimony of
Jermaine Reed, Councilman for Kansas City’s 3rd District
February 21, 2018
for
Clean Power Plan Hearing
Docket Identification No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355
at
U.S. Department of Agriculture Beacon Complex
6501 Beacon Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64133

Public Hearing Testimony

Hello, my name is Councilman Jermaine Reed and I proudly serve as Councilman for Kansas City’s Third District. On behalf of the hardworking families in my district, I would like to welcome the Environmental Protection Agency to Kansas City, and thank you for holding this important listening session. My hope is that you truly listen and adhere to the concerns that are being expressed today.

Day after day, the Trump Administration aims to invalidate and unravel some of the biggest wins from President Obama’s presidency. We have witnessed this through the countless attempts to dismantle Obamacare. And now, we are seeing this through the latest attacks on our environment.

Hence, I am here today to speak out in opposition to Administrator Scott Pruitt’s proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan. The Clean Power Plan sets the first ever federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants and encourages investment in clean energy.

The Clean Power Plan – a monumental Obama era policy – would help places like Kansas City move forward with clean energy plans and create new jobs, driving economic growth in clean energy and related industries. It would also reduce dangerous power plant pollution that make our children sick and worsen the effects of climate change.

By moving to repeal the Clean Power Plan, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is once turning a blind eye to the welfare of American families and their health. Particularly children, seniors, and communities of color.
Repealing the Clean Power Plan would worsen climate change, threaten our health, hurt clean energy businesses, and place our communities in danger. Pruitt is not listening to the vast majority of Americans who support these standards, which would prevent 90,000 asthma attacks and 300,000 missed work and school days every year by 2030.

No matter what some may say, we don’t have to choose between a healthy economy and healthy environment – we can have both. American innovation can solve the challenge of reducing the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change and threatens our health and economy.

The Clean Power Plan would also accelerate the transition to clean energy that is already underway in Missouri. Clean energy jobs have seen incredible growth in recent years, with solar and wind jobs growing at a rate 12 times faster than the rest of the U.S. economy. As a board member on National League of Cities, I can assure you that cities across the country are moving forward with clean energy solutions. They understand the economic, environmental and health benefits of clean energy solutions and the risks associated with dirty energy sources.

My family and neighbors are counting on the health benefits and economic opportunities that the Clean Power Plan provides for all Americans. I strongly urge Scott Pruitt to stop this reckless attempt to roll back these essential clean air standards – for our health, for our economy, and for all Americans.