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**Environmental Defense Fund**

**Testimony for the Maryland Hearing on the Repeal of the Clean Power Plan**

**Annapolis, MD**

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My name is Emma Averill. I am a lifelong Maryland resident, and I am here on behalf of Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), a non-profit and non-partisan environmental organization with more than two million members and supporters, including nearly 45,000 members in Maryland. I am here today to testify in support of the Clean Power Plan, which will help protect the Chesapeake Bay and other Maryland environmental treasures, and would support healthier air and a more stable climate for Maryland families and millions of Americans.

EDF is strongly opposed to Administrator Pruitt's proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan, America's only national limit on carbon pollution from existing fossil fuel power plants. EPA has a moral and legal obligation to protect all Americans from air pollution that contributes to climate change and damages our health. By repealing the Clean Power Plan, EPA would fail to carry out this duty and would ignore the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Americans who support strong action to limit this harmful pollution.

EPA's proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan is deeply harmful to the health and climate security of our communities. EPA's own analysis of the proposed repeal indicates that once fully implemented, the Clean Power Plan would save up to 4,500 lives per year. Additionally, the Trump Administration recently released the latest [Climate Science Special Report](#). The report concluded that climate change is accelerating, and that America is already seeing its harmful effects in the form of more severe weather events and wildfires. In particular, it noted that coastal areas like Maryland are especially vulnerable to stronger storms and rising sea levels. The Clean Power Plan is essential to achieving major, long-term reductions in the pollution that is driving these impacts.

In addition, the Clean Power Plan will benefit Maryland communities and our economy in numerous other ways. For example, EPA's analysis concluded that the Clean Power Plan would ultimately not only reduce carbon emissions but would also result in less nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution. NOx pollution is the leading cause of [nitrogen pollution](#) in the Chesapeake Bay. Nitrogen pollution creates dead zones in the bay, seriously harming crabs, fish, and other marine life. Unhealthy levels of pollution negatively affect the livelihoods of all Marylanders who count on a healthy bay to improve the local economy, which is heavily dependent on regional tourism, boating, and strong crab and oyster populations. By incentivizing less polluting energy sources, the Clean Power Plan supports a cleaner future for the bay.

We are also deeply concerned that EPA is proposing its harmful repeal of this protection without providing Americans across the country with an adequate opportunity to present their views. When EPA proposed the Clean Power Plan, it held four public hearings in different regions of the country, in addition to eleven public listening sessions that preceded the proposal. All of these opportunities to provide the agency with input occurred before the close of the comment period. Before repealing the Clean Power Plan—and depriving Americans of its health and climate benefits—EPA owes the American people at least that level of outreach. To date, EPA has only held a single public hearing,

and has announced—but not set dates for—three additional listening sessions, which may take place after the close of the comment period on January 16.

In closing, EDF would like to thank the Maryland Office of the Attorney General and the Maryland General Assembly for holding this hearing today. As a lifelong state resident, I greatly appreciate your efforts to ensure that Marylanders have a full opportunity to publically voice their opinions about the deeply harmful proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan.