

Opposition to Final ACE Rule

State Attorneys Generals

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra in a [statement](#): “President Trump’s Dirty Power Plan is more than just disgraceful and immoral, it is unlawful. There is no justification for gutting a law that would have significantly reduced emissions and prevented thousands of premature deaths per year. While the Trump Administration might lack the necessary courage, we’re prepared to confront the climate crisis head-on.”

Connecticut Attorney General Tong in a [statement](#): “There is nothing affordable or clean about coal. The Trump Administration is taking another giant step backwards in protecting our planet. They are trampling on the Clean Air Act and ignoring administrative law to finalize this outrageous rule. Connecticut is in close coordination with states across the nation and we are prepared to take legal action to block this measure. There is no serious debate—climate change is a severe threat and we ignore science at our own peril.”

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul in a [statement](#): “As a country, we need to take meaningful action to address the devastating effects of climate change. The EPA’s Affordable Clean Energy rule announced this morning is a giant step backward in that effort. The ACE rule is misguided policy that is neither safe, nor clean, nor affordable because it does nothing to combat climate change. I am committed to ensuring that this illegal and ineffective rule does not stand. The people of Illinois and around the country cannot afford the impact of unchecked climate change.”

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller in a [statement](#): “A combination of smart federal and state policies have contributed to the rapid growth of renewable energy in Iowa. The Trump administration will endanger this progress by replacing the Clean Power Plan. Iowa is affected by climate change, particularly by flooding and droughts. We’re paying a cost. We can see how [the] Clean Power Plan will make a difference for Iowa.”

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey in a [statement](#): “The coal lobbyists and climate deniers running the Trump Administration wrote every word of this unjustifiable and illegal rule that will pollute the air, explode emissions, and cost thousands of lives. Massachusetts is committed to addressing the climate crisis and the public health impacts on our residents, and we will be suing to stand up for science and federal law.”

Megan Herzog, Special Assistant Attorney General at Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office [quote](#) (speaking at the RFF event *CPP vs. ACE: Evaluating the Economic and Legal Impacts*): ““State regulators and regulated industry have been really clear and surprisingly incredibly united in asking @EPA to provide a rule that’s flexible, that provides a level playing field of certainty, that incorporates trading and averaging mechanisms, that builds on compliance measures already in place at the state and regional level that have been terrifically successful in reducing carbon emissions from the sector ... The [ACE] rule is really the opposite of that. It’s really rigid. What the #CleanPowerPlan did really reasonably and sensibly is look at the context of how the #ElectricSector actually works ... and come up with a rule that sensibly fits within that context and is workable. There’s just sort of a disconnect here between EPA’s really rigid, hyperliteral reading of the text and the actual context of what’s going on.”

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel in a [statement](#): "I will oppose the Trump Administration's attempt to keep America dependent on 19th century technology and ignore the impacts of greenhouse gases on our climate. The so called 'Affordable Clean Energy Rule' would replace the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan, which would have reduced our dependency on old, coal-fired power plants, encouraged clean energy generation, and protected our environment and public health. I will be working with other states to challenge this backward facing 'regulation' that will do nothing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and address the imminent threat presented by climate change. While the rest of the world is working to try to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Trump Administration continues to pander to its fossil fuel supporters."

New York Attorney General Letitia James in a [statement](#): "The EPA's so-called 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule neither promotes clean energy nor is affordable by any measure to the average American. It is yet another prime example of the Trump Administration's weak attempt to deny that climate change has caused—and will continue to cause—devastating impacts on both the safety and health of all Americans and the economy. This catastrophic rule will prop up dirty and expensive coal power plants, undercut clean and sustainable electricity, and leave New Yorkers and all other Americans to foot the bill. Given its clear violation of the Clean Air Act, I intend to sue the EPA over this 'Dirty Power' rule and look forward to collaborating with other states and cities in taking action to protect all Americans from the increasingly disastrous impacts of climate change."

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein in a [statement](#): "The Clean Power Plan was a much needed plan to address the climate change crisis. The EPA's fig leaf replacement neither promotes clean energy nor meaningfully reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, it incentivizes the continued use of coal power generation. . . There are serious legal concerns about this action as well. The EPA has violated its duties under the Clean Air Act, has ignored relevant evidence in the record, and has used false assumptions to generate numbers in its new rule. For these and many other reasons, EPA's change is arbitrary and capricious. The Trump Administration isn't just sitting idly by as this crisis grows – it is actively making it worse. We need real action to address climate change and the tragic consequences it will bring to our economy and health."

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum in a [statement](#): "This administration has gone to great lengths to deny Climate Change. The only way to avoid the worst case scenario is to adopt the Obama Clean Power Plan. We must act now. The lawsuit we will be filing in the coming weeks is one more step we can take as state Attorneys General, cities, counties and local governments to combat climate disruption. We no longer have the luxury of waiting, we must make these changes now."

Washington Governor Jay Inslee and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson in a joint [statement](#): "Today's action is one of the most dangerous steps taken by the Trump administration to date for the health of our families, our environment and our economy. Our nation and our planet cannot afford for the federal government to be a bystander in the climate crisis, and we will challenge this unlawful action in court. By finalizing this plan, the EPA is abandoning its legal and moral responsibility to protect Americans against the harmful effects of carbon pollution, and sending a clear signal that it cares more about propping up the dirtiest sources of energy than it does about protecting the American people...Our communities have experienced the dire consequences of inaction, including horrific wildfires, extreme heat and dangerous flooding...But carbon emissions and pollution do not respect

borders, and without a strong federal partner we are leaving our children and grandchildren vulnerable to an increasingly hostile climate. The Trump administration has chosen to ignore the facts, the clear science, and the letter of the law. The EPA has a legal obligation — as established by the bipartisan Clean Air Act and subsequent court rulings — to keep Americans safe from dirty and polluted air and the impacts of climate change. We can't and won't stand for this abdication of responsibility."

Governors

California Governor Gavin Newsom in a [statement](#): "The deceptively named Affordable Clean Energy Rule fails to protect Americans from the rising environmental and health costs of climate change – and our children will pay the most because of dirty air, deadly heat waves, droughts and wildfires. The Trump Administration is once again prioritizing corporate greed over people's health. It's a disgrace and it cannot stand. California and a coalition of states will initiate a legal challenge against the Trump Administration's continued attempts to prop up the coal industry by ignoring sensible efforts to use cleaner, healthier and more efficient energy sources."

Colorado Governor Jared Polis in a [statement](#): "While some in Washington are trying to reverse climate action and ensure more pollutants end up in our air and our lungs, in Colorado we are committed to protecting clean air and ensuring a transition to renewable energy. That's why we've set a goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2040, a challenge that will not only protect our climate and environment for generations to come, but strengthen our economy and workforce, lower health care costs and improve the health of our communities."

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont in a [statement](#): "There is no denying that the Trump administration's rollback of the Clean Power Plan threatens the environment and the health of our residents. We fought this rollback every step of the way and we will continue to advocate for a federal policy that puts the health and welfare of our citizens, and addresses the threat of climate change, before the interests of America's largest polluters."

Delaware Governor John Carney in a [statement](#): "I'm disappointed in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to replace the Clean Power Plan with the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule, which removes a strong incentive for states and the Federal government to work together to protect and improve air quality. Delaware citizens and our economy will be negatively affected by the ACE Rule. Rising average temperatures and prolonged heat waves pose critical health risks to Delaware farmers, outdoor workers, children, and the elderly. Changing climate conditions will increase local levels of particulate matter and ground-level ozone, which increase the risk our residents face of premature death and chronic heart and lung problems, and many of these pollutants are transported from states to the west of us. These threats will only increase if we do not take a stance as a nation and a global community to reduce the human emissions of greenhouse gases that feed rapid climate change. We must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to address climate change and the dangers it poses to all of us."

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in a [tweet](#): "Maryland will continue to lead on climate and the environment despite these shortsighted federal rollbacks. This disappointing move underscores—more than ever—the importance of state-led clean and renewable energy solutions."

State and Local Elected Officials

U.S. Conference of Mayors President and Columbia, SC Mayor Steve Benjamin in a [tweet](#): "This decision by the @EPA & the Administration is both wrong and dangerous. @POTUS #readyfor100"

Connecticut Department of Energy and the Environment Commissioner Katie Dykes in a [statement](#): “This regressive step by the EPA is a major disappointment. We need a federal policy that meets the challenge of climate change. We will stand against this and other rollbacks while at the same time leading the nation on energy and climate policy and working with like-minded states to advance policies that protect the health and welfare of our residents.”

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director Richard Whitman in a [statement](#): “The federal EPA’s recent announcement of its “Affordable Clean Energy Rule” is one of Washington D.C.’s biggest pollution rollbacks to date. The rule will interfere with states’ ability to protect public health and the environment. Oregonians have made substantial progress in reducing pollution resulting from our use of electricity, but this federal action will make regional cooperation more difficult. Under the Clean Power Plan, which was repealed as part of the EPA’s new rule, Oregon would have worked with other states in the region to find the most cost efficient ways to reduce power plant emissions. EPA’s new rules relax the standards for power plants and remove the opportunities to find cost savings. This unfortunate step underscores the value of the recently signed Oregon Environmental Protection Act. Oregon DEQ will now be developing recommendations to the state Environmental Quality Commission on actions that could offset the federal government’s repeal of the Clean Power Plan.”

Members of Congress

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressional Safe Climate Caucus:

- [tweet](#): “On the same day we learned US air quality is slipping for the first time in decades, the Trump Admin. announced its #DirtyPowerScam to rollback clean air standards. The White House must stop putting polluter profits over the health & interests of the American people #ProtectCPP”
- [Tweet](#): “The #CleanPowerPlan protects public health, promotes climate change solutions, and encourages investment in clean energy. @EPAAWheeler wants to gut these protections and replace them with his #DirtyPowerScam.”

House of Representatives Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition in a [tweet](#): “Today Trump is finalizing a #CleanPowerPlan replacement rule that puts more lives at risk and will actually result in more carbon pollution in some states. It really is a #DirtyPowerScam.”

House Energy and Commerce Committee in a [tweet](#): “Two years and countless taxpayer dollars later, and this is what we get – a #DirtyPowerScam that doesn’t set a single carbon reduction requirement, lets polluters off the hook and utterly fails to value Americans’ health.”

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker of the House [statement](#): “The Trump Administration’s outrageous Dirty Power Scam is a stunning giveaway to big polluters, giving dirty special interests the greenlight to choke our skies, poison our waters and worsen the climate crisis. The growing climate crisis is the existential threat of our time and President Trump’s shameful response was to put lobbyists and polluters in charge of protecting your health and safety. By repealing the historic Clean Power Plan, the Trump Administration has doubled down on their all-out assault on the health and well-being of our children and our communities. As rising temperatures, surging seas and record-breaking natural disasters ravage communities everywhere, the Trump Administration continues to ignore science and put the interests of polluters ahead of the American people, by rolling back countless life-saving

environmental protections...Together with cities, states, international allies and scientists and experts around the world, we are leading the way with creative, innovative and effective solutions to reverse the climate crisis and protect our children's future, and we will not stop until we have succeeded."

House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD):

- [Statement](#): "The Trump Administration continues its unrelenting assault on Americans' clean air and clean water today. The new rule to dismantle the Clean Power Plan pretends that climate change does not threaten us and will result in more pollution making its way into the air our children breathe and the water they drink, provide fewer incentives for job-creating innovation in clean energy, and a further abdication of America's global leadership on addressing the climate crisis. The science behind climate change could not be more clear. More frequent and extreme weather, longer and more intense wildfire seasons, rising sea levels, and melting permafrost affecting millions of Americans bear out these facts. We need to take dramatic action to reduce carbon pollution in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, not provide a giveaway to polluters at the expense of public health and a worsening of the climate crisis. House Democrats are committed to doing our part to protect the environment and public health and combat the climate crisis...I call on the Trump Administration to abandon its dirty power scam and put agencies back to work ensuring clean air and clean water for all Americans and promoting more efficient and cleaner power sources for America's future."
- [Tweet](#): "The Trump Admin's #DirtyPowerScam to dismantle the #CleanPowerPlan pretends climate change is not a threat & will result in more pollution, less job-creating innovation, & a further abdication of our global leadership on addressing the climate crisis."

Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ) [tweet](#): "Rolling back the Clean Power Plan means ending a critical plan to reduce emissions and combat #ClimateChange. We can't afford Trump's #DirtyPowerScam, and the public health of our communities will pay the price."

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) [tweet](#): "Trump's disastrous plan to rescind the #CleanPowerPlan will make climate change and public health worse by the day. We need to strengthen the #CleanPowerPlan, not gut these protections and replace them with Trump's #DirtyPowerScam."

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) [quote](#) (*E&E News*): "It's definitely going to get challenged in court, and I would expect it to be on really shaky ground. From what I saw, their attempts to justify this were tortured and, I am sure, legally vulnerable."

Rep. Harley Rouda (D-CA) [tweet](#): "The #CleanPowerPlan protects American's lungs, promotes climate change solutions, and encourages investment in clean energy. The @EPA #DirtyPowerScam is bad for business and even worse for public health."

Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) [tweet](#): "The Trump administration's own analysis found that the #CleanPowerPlan could prevent as many as 4,500 premature deaths each year by 2030. Our communities can't afford @EPAWheeler's #DirtyPowerScam."

Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) [tweet](#): "@realDonaldTrump and @EPAWheeler's #DirtyPowerScam is a dangerous step in the wrong direction. We can't afford to wait any longer for climate action. The #CleanPowerPlan creates clean energy jobs, fosters innovation, and stimulates the economy."

Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA) [tweet](#): “The Trump administration is moving forward with their #DirtyPowerScam – gutting the #CleanPowerPlan & rolling back the progress we’ve made on climate change solutions. @EPAAWheeler is once again putting polluter profits over Americans’ best interests.”

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) [tweet](#): “By protecting public health & encouraging investment in clean energy, the #CleanPowerPlan was one of our best tools for addressing the climate crisis. We can’t afford to wait for climate action and we certainly can’t afford @EPAAWheeler’s #DirtyPowerScam.”

Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), Chairwoman of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis [quote](#) (E&E News): “The appropriations package is very extensive. That is where we have leverage. We will continue pressing for bold action moving forward.”

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD) [tweet](#): “Led by a former coal lobbyist, the Trump @EPA will roll back critical clean air protections and allow coal-fired power plants to release more carbon emissions and other pollutants into the air we breathe. #DirtyPowerScam”

Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) [tweet](#): “The Trump Administration has cooked up a #DirtyPowerPlan that will make more people sick & pollute our environment while continuing to ignore a climate crisis that could bankrupt us. Not acceptable.”

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) [quote](#) (E&E News): “Whether there's value in it [a symbolic CRA challenge] I think is kind of a political determination. I think that passing a resolution on something so technical in scope may not have the messaging impact that people tend to reserve for resolutions, but I think it's important that we have a response and action.”

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) [tweet](#): “The @EPA Administrator is a former coal lobbyist & Trump is a #climatechange denier. After a yr of devastating hurricanes, wildfires & floods, that’s one hell of a dangerous combo. We can’t afford @EPAAWheeler’s #DirtyPowerScam. Shame on them for putting 💰💰 over ppl.”

Rep. Susanne Bonamici (D-OR) [tweet](#): “Make no mistake - the Trump Administration's new rule to rollback President Obama’s Clean Power Plan ignores the gravity of the #ClimateCrisis and fails to uphold the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act to protect public health and the environment. The Trump rule fails to cut emissions of pollutants, will harm public health, and should be resoundingly rejected. This dangerous rule demonstrates that the Trump Administration is doubling down on its climate denial and dismissal of science. We should be encouraging states to meet carbon emission reduction standards based on energy consumption and we should incentivize investments in clean energy. Fortunately, many cities & states are already leading the way, and the #DirtyPowerScam isn't going to stop their efforts.”

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) [statement](#): “The Trump Administration has chosen yet again not to act on climate—inaction that comes at the expense of protecting the health and safety of the American people. Reducing carbon emissions is the most effective way to deal with the increasing impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, more frequent and intense extreme weather events, and loss of sea ice. Reducing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants, the most carbon-intensive form of electricity generation, would also reduce public exposure to fine particulate matter that contributes to a variety of negative health effects. The federal government should be increasing its support for the

development and use of technologies that will substantially reduce these emissions, not loosening pollution standards and jeopardizing the health of Americans across the country.”

Rep. Pramilla Jayapal (D-WA) [tweet](#): “The #CleanPowerPlan protects public health, promotes climate change solutions, and encourages investment in clean energy. @EPAAWheeler wants to gut these protections and replace them with his #DirtyPowerScam.”

Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA) [tweet](#): “The #CleanPowerPlan protects the health of our planet & helps create clean energy jobs. There’s no justification for the Trump administration ending this program & replacing it with a #DirtyPowerScam that is dangerous for the environment & future generations.”

U.S. Senate

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in a [tweet](#): “Today, President @realDonaldTrump’s Administration announced their so-called “Affordable Clean Energy” rule, which is neither affordable nor clean. It’s just a giveaway to big polluters, and does nothing to reduce carbon pollution. #DirtyPowerScam”

Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) [tweet](#): “Earlier today, the EPA rolled out its plan to give states the option to do *absolutely nothing* about reducing their carbon pollution. This is a failure of leadership from the Trump administration that threatens lives—Americans deserve better.”

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO):

- [tweet](#): “Just when you think the Trump Administration’s attacks on the environment can’t get any worse, today the @EPA announced it’s gutting the #CleanPowerPlan – essentially giving a huge handout to big polluters at the expense of public health and our planet.”
- [Facebook post](#): “Just when you think the Trump Administration’s attacks on the environment can’t get any worse, today the Environmental Protection Agency announced it’s gutting the Clean Power Plan – essentially giving a huge handout to big polluters at the expense of public health and our planet. The Clean Power Plan would have fought climate change by reducing carbon pollution from power plants, providing significant health impacts, including preventing an estimated 3,600 premature deaths and 90,000 asthma attacks per year. Instead, Trump’s #DirtyPowerScam would roll back clean air standards, putting the health of millions of Americans at risk. And how is Trump justifying this decision? By ignoring science and using shady math to determine important climate metrics. This is exactly why our Carbon Pollution Transparency Act – which requires the government to use actual science-based methods to determine the true cost of carbon pollution – is needed.”

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) [tweet](#): “A clear failure of vision & leadership. Trump’s #DirtyPowerScam is a distorted interpretation of the Clean Power Plan—failing to set real carbon emission standards for power plants & other key polluters. Climate change is not a myth, we must stop dragging our feet & take action.”

Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-DE), Senate Environment and Public Works ranking member:

- [Statement](#): “America’s utilities are already on track to meet and surpass the goals set by the Clean Power Plan, and Americans are reaping the benefits with lower utility bills. The fact is, the Obama-Biden Administration had both the foresight to know that our future lies in the clean

energy economy and the political courage to tackle climate change in a way that would unite our country and set an example for the rest of the world. Instead of building off the momentum from the last administration, the Trump Administration is showing us yet again that they lack the foresight and political courage to lead on the issue of climate change. By repealing the Clean Power Plan and replacing it with a perverse version, the Trump Administration is putting American lives and our economy at risk, and ensuring that our country will forego the economic opportunities of a clean energy future...At a time when Americans are urging us to take meaningful climate action and reduce our carbon footprint, today's Dirty Power Plan is a failure of vision and leadership."

- [quote](#) (Roll Call): "The Trump plan is founded upon a warped reinterpretation of the Clean Air Act that allows states to decide whether or not to regulate one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in our country. Once again, we see that this EPA is manipulating the very meaning of 'cooperative federalism' to whatever definition benefits industry the most, even if that means hurting public health."
- [Tweet](#): "By abandoning bold emissions reductions and ignoring the reality of climate change, the #DirtyPowerScam endangers the coastline of America's lowest lying state."

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA):

- [Statement](#): "The climate crisis is endangering our country, our health, our economy, and our national security, while the Trump administration continues to put the profits of corporate polluters over the well-being of Americans. What we need instead are policies that spur investments in a clean energy economy and ambitiously tackle our climate crisis, economic inequality, and racial injustice."
- Senator Warren strongly opposed the repeal of the Clean Power Plan in 2017, [commenting](#): "The Clean Power Plan is about one thing: stopping big corporations from dumping dangerous amounts of carbon pollution into our air. But this Administration's only priority seems to be stuffing the pockets of Big Oil and Big Coal executives while American families are left to suffer the consequences..."
- [Tweet](#): "This is what happens when the president of the United States picks a former big coal lobbyist to lead the @EPA. I've got not one but two plans to ensure that, in a Warren administration, we'll make big, structural changes to protect our environment."

Senator Ed Markey (D-MA):

- [Tweet](#): "This new rule is nothing more than corporate welfare for the coal industry. Former coal lobbyist and now EPA Admin. Wheeler doesn't understand that it is the EPA's job to protect public health and the environment, not the coal industry."
- [Statement](#): "Instead of writing an invitation to clean energy producers, President Trump has written a love letter to King Coal. This new rule is nothing more than corporate welfare for the coal industry. We don't need a dirty power plan, we need a Green New Deal. We can and we must find a way to provide energy jobs and a future to coal communities. We can take care of coal miners. We can restore abandoned mine lands and stimulate economic development in coal communities. And we can ensure that more coal miners get the pensions and health benefits they have earned and deserve. America's energy future will not be found in the dark of a mine but in the light of the sun. Wind and solar are beating coal in the free market. Today

there are 350,000 jobs in solar and wind and only 50,000 in coal mining. We are already employing seven times more Americans in the wind and solar industries, and they are expected to be the two of the fastest growing jobs in America in the next decade. Sadly, it is clear that former coal lobbyist and now EPA Administrator Tom Wheeler doesn't understand that it is the EPA's job to protect public health and the environment, not the coal industry. This roll-back of the Clean Power Plan is an assault on public health, on clean air and water, on jobs, and the future of our planet. We will not let it stand."

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) [tweet](#): "The Trump Administration just took its final step to repeal the Clean Power Plan—the most important step we've taken to address climate change, transition us into a clean energy economy, and prevent premature deaths. Tune in to find out how we fight back"

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD):

- Statement on the Senate floor ([posted by NRDC](#)): "There are many reasons we should be concerned about this rule, we should be concerned about what we are doing about carbon pollution. Let me just cite a few: In the area of public health, we know that without controlling carbon emissions we will have more premature deaths. The New York Times estimates that there would be 1,400 annual deaths, premature, as a result of not regulating properly the carbon emissions coming from power plants. We know also that because of the impact that carbon has on public health that the failure to regulate means that more children will miss school days because of their respiratory challenges, and more parents won't be able to work because they are going to have to take care of their children...Power plants are the largest single source of carbon pollution...we need strong federal regulation. We were moving in that direction under the previous administration, now we demote the current emissions standards to a mere suggestion. That is wrong."
- [Tweet](#): "In Maryland each year, more than 85 million pounds of nitrogen pollution, or one-third of the Chesapeake Bay's total yearly load, comes from air pollution. States have acted as members of <http://www.rggi.org>...and it's worked. Regionally, we've come together and been able to make a 40% reduction since 2009. But we're down wind and need the help of national standards. This rule is basically saying the federal government's not going to take a stand. That's wrong. It should be rejected. #DirtyPowerPlan"
- [Tweet](#): "The largest source of carbon pollution in the US comes from power plants - 40% of total carbon emissions. @POTUS is demoting the current emission standards, which were real and based on science, to a mere suggestion. That's not what the federal govt should be doing. #publichealth"
- [tweet](#): "This is a matter of public health, make no mistake about it. #dirtypowerplan"

Senator Angus King (I-ME) [tweet](#): "Climate change is an existential threat that affects us all, so we need an aggressive and unified effort to mitigate its impacts. Unfortunately, the administration's proposal is a major setback when we need to making strides towards cleaner emissions."

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) [tweet](#): "The facts are clear, but this President continues to ignore science and is undermining efforts to reduce carbon emissions. This is staggeringly irresponsible."

Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) [tweet](#): “Trump’s Clean Power Plan repeal comes at a steep cost: our planet. Clean air, clean water, and our natural resources are too big a price to pay for a massive handout to big polluters. 🇺🇸 #DirtyPowerScam”

Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) [tweet](#): “The Trump administration’s Dirty Power Plan props up the expensive and dirty coal industry. If we fail to reduce carbon pollution, the consequences of inaction will only become greater, and our solutions to the climate crisis will only become more expensive.”

Senator Tom Udall (D-NM):

- [Tweet](#): “Profits over people” feels like the Trump @EPA motto at this point— today, they scrapped the Clean Power Plan, giving significant leeway to polluters. They’re surrendering in the fight against climate change, irreparably damaging our environment -- especially in the Southwest. We need to #ActOnClimate change, and the agency charged with protecting our air and water should be on the front lines of that action. But the Trump EPA is more concerned with boosting profits for their corporate cronies than stopping the greatest threat facing our world.”
- [Statement](#): “Yet again, the Trump administration has prioritized polluters over people by repealing the Clean Power Plan in an egregious giveaway to big corporations. This is all part of a large-scale effort by this administration to systematically dismantle our nation’s best efforts to combat climate change, curb pollution, and embrace a clean energy economy. Now, with this latest move, the administration has turned its back on the American public, jeopardizing our health, safety, and way of life – all in service of padding the pockets of big polluters. The EPA should be leading the charge in the fight against climate change. Instead, President Trump and Andrew Wheeler are more invested in doing the bidding of special interests -- at the expense of the public interest. America can no longer afford inaction on climate change. In New Mexico, which is right in the bull’s eye of the climate crisis, the costs will be particularly devastating – and we will all continue to pay the price in the form of polluted air, rising temperatures, more frequent droughts, and increasingly severe wildfires. Now, it falls to the American public to fight back and do our part to make up for the mistakes of this administration. The Southwest is rich in renewable resources like wind and solar, and New Mexico has the potential to be at the epicenter of America’s clean energy economy. It’s imperative that states, elected officials, local communities, and the broader business community step up and come together to build a better future and safeguard the future of our planet.”

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY):

- [Tweet](#): “This perfectly summarizes this president's legacy: protecting an industry that has caused severe environmental health problems, instead of protecting our planet.”
- [Tweet](#): “The Clean Power Plan set us on a path to transition to clean energy and meaningfully address climate change. And what did the Trump admin do? Replace it with a handout to polluters that does nothing to reduce carbon emissions—a terrifying setback that could put lives at risk.”

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR): [tweet](#): “Trump’s admin is repealing the Clean Power Plan, which set the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution for existing power plants. They are literally tearing apart what few protections the US has in place, to the benefit of the fossil fuel industry.”

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

- [Tweet](#): “By replacing the Clean Power Plan, @realDonaldTrump’s EPA is delivering yet another handout to polluters at the expense of Americans’ health and environment. Just remember, Americans can see what’s happening to our climate. They see the harm climate change already does.”
- [Statement](#): “Trump’s EPA is delivering yet another handout to polluters at the expense of Americans’ health and environment. Market forces are moving us rapidly away from polluting energy like coal and toward renewables. There’s nothing Trump or the fossil fuel industry can do to stop that. The coal lobbyist leading Trump’s EPA can’t stop that either. Americans see what’s happening to our climate. They see the harm climate change already does. They see the stream of warnings about economic calamities we could face, like plunging coastal property values or collapsing energy company assets. They want America to reclaim its leadership on climate. They don’t want to give polluters another handout. And they hate the spectacle of an EPA captured by the fossil fuel industry and doing the industry’s bidding.”

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT):

- [Facebook post](#): “This is outrageous. President Trump’s proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan is a stark reminder that instead of worrying about the future of our planet, he is more concerned with protecting the interests of his friends in the fossil fuel industry. While the EPA’s own scientists tell us that this decision will lead to thousands more deaths each year, Trump continues to cling to the absurd notion that climate change is a hoax. At this moment, when climate change is already causing devastating harm in our country, we must come together to aggressively transition our economy away from carbon pollution toward sustainable energy to ensure a habitable planet for our kids and grandchildren.”
- [Tweet](#): “This is outrageous. President Trump’s proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan is a stark reminder that instead of worrying about the future of our planet, he is more concerned with protecting the interests of his friends in the fossil fuel industry.”

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA):

- [Tweet](#): “President Trump has already abdicated our nation’s leadership in the global fight against climate change, and by rolling back the Clean Power Plan, he is leaving communities in WA & across the country even more vulnerable to the growing dangers of the worsening climate crisis. We are obligated to preserve our environment and natural resources for future generations, and I will not stop working to reverse this damaging new rule that undermines bedrock environmental protections.”
- [Statement](#): “As the wildfire season starts, and our air quality becomes the primary concern for so many families across Washington state, it is downright shameful that President Trump and his administration are doubling-down on propping up coal companies. By recklessly loosening these regulations on coal power plants—a major source of the nation’s harmful carbon pollution—the EPA is making clear that it prioritizes profits for Big Coal over clean air for children and families. Unfortunately this is just the latest attack on our nation’s bedrock environmental laws that undermines public health and flies in the face of our national consensus that protecting our environment from pollution is in the public’s best interest.”

President Trump has already abdicated our nation's leadership in the global fight against climate change, and with this latest move, is leaving communities in Washington state and across the country even more vulnerable to the growing dangers of the worsening climate crisis—decisions that could impact public health, safety, and well-being in our state, as well as key parts of our economy like outdoor recreation and salmon fishing. Like those who came before us, we are obligated to preserve our environment and natural resources for future generations, and I will not stop working to reverse this damaging new rule.”

Business and Industry Representatives

Business Council for Sustainable Energy [statement](#): “Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical and clean energy technologies have proven they can do so effectively and cost-efficiently. The Council is disappointed that the EPA’s Affordable Clean Energy rule does not fully incorporate the emission reductions achievable from deploying the broad range of clean energy technologies that are already decarbonizing the electricity sector. These include energy efficiency, energy storage, renewable energy technologies, natural gas, and carbon capture, storage and utilization applications. The rule has also limited the flexibility states have to choose the most cost-effective means of reducing emissions. The Council will continue to advocate for meaningful emissions reductions policies at the federal level and for the increased deployment of the wide range of clean energy technologies available to achieve these reductions, and looks forward to working collaboratively with the administration and Congress in doing so.”

Roy Jones, CEO of [ElectriCities](#) [quote](#) at a media roundtable (E&E News): “In the Carolinas, we have and are continuing to retire coal units...No sir, I don't think it's going to make any difference. When I look at the rule, if the heat rate improvements at a plant were economic, they would have already been done...having a finger on the pulse on the community is very important. Without exception, every one of [the communities [ElectriCities](#) serves] have individuals in their communities who want to do more with renewables...What are the things that we can do to reduce that carbon footprint in each community and in the aggregate will make a difference?”

Dan Shugar, CEO of [NexTracker](#) [op-ed](#) (San Francisco Chronicle): “The economic case is clear, and the market shift is under way. With the rollback of the Clean Power Plan, we will only add more pollution to the air without changing the coal industry’s trajectory...The climate science is clear and real, and so are the economic realities. The Trump administration ought to support new clean energy solutions, not prop up a declining industry that continues to threaten our planet’s existence.”

Energy, Environment, and Legal Experts

Richard Revesz, Lawrence King Professor of Law at Dean Emeritus at NYU School of Law and director of the Institute for Policy Integrity [statement](#): “With this rule, the EPA is dodging its responsibility. The agency is required to control greenhouse gas pollution with the ‘best system of emission reduction,’ but this approach is nowhere close, making the rule legally vulnerable. While Americans face mounting threats from climate change, the Trump administration is undermining environmental safeguards and manipulating its math to conceal the damage it is causing.”

Resources for the Future [tweet](#): “Big news today out of the Trump @EPA. The agency finalized its Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, which will replace Obama’s #CleanPowerPlan. ACE aims to reduce #GHG #emissions in the power sector by targeting efficiency improvements at #coal plants. But does it

work? @DallasBurtraw and Amelia Keyes, along w/ researchers at @HarvardCCHANGE, @SyracuseU, and @BU_Tweets, found that ACE would cause an emissions rebound effect by inducing coal plants to operate more often and delay retirement. The emissions rebound effect is projected to increase GHG emissions in 18 states + DC in 2030, and specifically increase #CO2 emissions at 28% of coal plants. @LFFriedman reports that ACE will “very likely prompt a flurry of legal challenges.” Why’s that? @DallasBurtraw and Amelia Keyes explain the vulnerability in ACE’s definition of the “best system of emission reduction” that uses measures that apply only to individual facilities rather than the power sector as a whole. Additionally, @ndrichardson details why the ACE rule may not hold up in court: “But where an agency proposes a rule that actually makes the problem it claims to address worse, even a non-expert judge might be willing to call that arbitrary.” @DallasBurtraw commented to @Axios on the move from a "flexible regulation" to an "inflexible technology mandate": "Such a template implies greater costs ... In this sense ACE may be long-run foolish from the perspective of industrial interests."

Zorka Milin, Senior Legal Advisor at Global Witness, in a [tweet](#): What do you get when you put a coal lobbyist in charge of US environmental policy? Polluted air, resulting in more premature deaths and health risks for Americans. #DirtyPowerScam”

Sally Katzen, Resources for the Future Board Member and legal scholar [quote](#) (speaking at the RFF event *CPP vs. ACE: Evaluating the Economic and Legal Impacts*): “The [EPA] has to specifically address the underpinnings of the #CleanPowerPlan in order to justify the [#ACERule], and that has to be supported by the record.”

Michael Greenstone, chief economist at the Council of Economic Advisors under Obama [quote](#) (E&E News): “They looked for two dials that would reduce the social cost of carbon as much as possible, they found them, and they turned them...The dream of all policy wonks is to have evidence-based policymaking where the evidence leads to the policy. This looks and smells an awful lot like evidence-based policymaking where you decide what the policy is going to be and then go back and make the evidence up.”

Dr. Dallas Burtraw, Darius Gaskins Senior Fellow at Resources for the Future [quote](#) (speaking at the RFF event *CPP vs. ACE: Evaluating the Economic and Legal Impacts*): “We’re probably emitting about as much carbon dioxide up here on this panel as the ACE rule will withdraw from the economy.”

Jody Freeman, professor of environmental law at Harvard Law School and former legal counsel to the Obama administration [quote](#) (New York Times): “No matter how you slice it, this is a dramatic retrenchment. It’s not just that they’re doing very small, modest steps to reduce emissions. It’s that they’re not creating momentum to substitute renewables and substitute natural gas for coal. That’s what the Obama rule was doing, and it had a long-term view to bigger emission cuts over time.”

Former Public Officials

Former Representative Beto O’Rourke [tweet](#): “We should be doing everything possible to strengthen the clean air rules for power plants so we can cut pollution, improve the quality of our air and water, and fight climate change before it’s too late. My administration will.”

Former California Governor Jerry Brown [tweet](#): “This Trump environmental rollback is a declaration of war against America and all of humanity. The president and his cynical enablers refuse to recognize that global warming is real and getting worse — soon to be catastrophic. Stop this insanity.”

Gina McCarthy, former EPA Administrator:

- [Quote \(Roll Call\)](#): “They have shown a callous disregard for EPA’s mission, a pattern of climate science denial, and an inexcusable indifference to the consequences of climate change. With this rule, EPA does virtually nothing to address its obligation to regulate carbon dioxide and confirms its support of the coal industry at the expense of our health and our children’s future.”
- [Op-ed](#), co-authored with **Janet McCabe, former acting assistant administrator to the EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation**, and **Joseph Goffman, former associate assistant administrator and senior counsel in the EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation (Newsweek)**: The CPP pollution cuts would have saved thousands of lives and prevented tens of thousands of pollution-related illnesses. In sharp contrast, the Trump administration’s ACE will achieve virtually no reductions in CO2 emissions and next to no cuts in soot and smog pollution. It will prevent next to none of the premature deaths, cardiac problems, lung damage or asthma attacks suffered by the most vulnerable among us—our kids, seniors and poor families—that the CPP would have prevented...Our approach took advantage of market forces and state and local policies that were already driving down CO2 emissions by an estimated 12 to 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, locked in those reductions and then went far beyond to set pollution standards that doubled the amount of reductions electric utilities were already planning... Now, the administration’s words and deeds demonstrate its callous disregard for the EPA’s mission to protect public health and our precious natural resources in favor of its singular quest to save polluters money even at the expense of our children’s future. And in the meantime, we are running out of time to meet our moral obligation to prevent the most harmful impacts of climate change. The three of us will continue to work with those who are fighting the climate crisis.”

Public Health Organizations

Paul Billings, Vice President of public policy for the American Lung Association [quote \(E&E News\)](#): “I think what it really shows is how little this rule actually does. This rule shows very, very small benefits because it’s providing very few reductions...The major changes I’m seeing between proposal and final here are not changes to the ACE rule, the changes are in the baseline.”

American Lung Association, Allergy & Asthma Network, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, American Heart Association, American Public Health Association, American Thoracic Society, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Center for Climate Change and Health, Children’s Environmental Health Network, Climate for Health, Health Care Without Harm, Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, National Medical Association, and Physicians for Social Responsibility [joint statement](#): “EPA’s decision to finalize the ACE rule means that more Americans will experience illness and early death – plain and simple. Furthermore, this rule will allow power plants across the nation to continue to be a major source of emissions that are driving climate change. The ACE rule is wholly inadequate for reducing carbon pollution to address the urgent health crisis of climate change. Furthermore, research suggests that following the approach outlined in the final ACE rule could mean that some fossil fuel plants run more often, resulting in more dangerous pollution than there would have been under no rule at all. Today, EPA also rescinded the Clean Power Plan, which was estimated to prevent 4,500 early deaths every year once fully implemented in 2030, and drive meaningful reductions in the carbon pollution that causes climate

change. Americans across the country are feeling the impacts of climate change every day from floods, wildfires and hurricanes. Each day that passes without action on climate means that we are one step closer to a grim scenario with devastating consequences for human health. Our organizations are committed to fighting climate change and will be taking action to protect our families from the disastrous outcomes of the Administration's decision today. It's time for EPA to return to its work to deliver the promise of the Clean Air Act: healthy air for all to breathe."

American Lung Association and the American Public Health Association joint [statement](#): "In repealing the Clean Power Plan and adopting the ACE rule, EPA abdicates its legal duties and obligations to protect public health under the Clean Air Act, which is why we are challenging these actions. As affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, EPA has legal authority and obligation under the Clean Air Act to protect and preserve public health and welfare, including by regulating carbon dioxide pollution from coal-fired power plants. However, it is simply not lawful for EPA to use its legal authority in ways that will increase dangerous air pollutants and harm the health of Americans. The Clean Air Act directs and authorizes EPA to take steps to reduce air pollution to protect public health and the environment. As 74 health and medical organizations (including the American Lung Association, American Public Health Association) emphasized recently, climate change is a health emergency, already taking a toll on the health of millions of people across the United States. From increased heat, more frequent and intense wildfires, extreme storms and floods to the increased formation of ozone pollution and the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases like Lyme Disease, climate change is already harming the health of people in the United States. In addition to increasing the carbon dioxide pollution that fuels climate change, independent research from 2019 predicts that the ACE rule will result in some fossil fuel plants running more often and delaying their retirement, which would mean increased emissions of dangerous pollution as compared to the Clean Power Plan, and even as compared to no rule at all. EPA's decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan and replace it with the ACE rule continues to disregard the vast health consequences of climate change and puts more lives at risk. Our organizations remain committed to fight to protect public health in the United States from EPA's continued efforts to roll back these protections."

Citizen & Consumer Organizations

Amit Narang, regulatory policy advocate at Public Citizen [quote](#): "To me, it just looks like they're rigging the cost-benefit analysis to serve their political ends no matter how inconsistent it looks."

Public Citizen [tweet](#): "BREAKING: The EPA just rolled back the Clean Power Plan, a move that the agency itself says could result in 1,400 more premature deaths by 2030. This is what happens when you appoint a coal lobbyist as EPA chief. Industry profit is all that matters."

NextGen America [tweet](#): "Trump and the GOP serve polluting fossil fuel companies, not the American people. It's time to take back our government and protect our air and water."

Mom's Clean Air Force [statement](#): "In response to the outrageous news that Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized its plan to gut the first and only federal limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants – the largest stationary source of climate pollution, moms say, "NO WAY." Donald Trump and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler are gutting a plan that would reduce carbon pollution, slow climate change, and protect our children's health. If anything, the Clean Power Plan should be made stronger, not gutted with a replacement plan that does nothing to put us on the path to

climate safety. Our million-plus members oppose this ill-conceived “ACE” plan because it doesn’t provide meaningful solutions to limit climate pollution at a time when our children’s lives are on the line. In fact, this administration’s do-nothing approach is a stunning abdication of every parental instinct to prevent harm and protect children. 2018 was the fourth-warmest year on record, and what parents want is bold and decisive action to cut climate pollution now. Perhaps most disturbing of all is the level of cynicism that this plan lays bare. The Trump administration’s own analysis found that the Clean Power Plan could prevent an estimated 90,000 childhood asthma attacks and as many as 4,500 early deaths each year. Replacing the Clean Power Plan with the “ACE” plan would lead to more than 1,000 additional deaths from air pollution in 2030 alone, relative to the Clean Power Plan and according to the EPA itself. ‘Today it feels like the future of our kids and our country is at stake,’ said former Obama EPA chief Gina McCarthy, now director of the Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment at the Harvard School of Public Health. ‘We do not have the cleanest air and we have not crossed the finish line when it comes to pollution.’ Our children deserve better.”

Mark Magaña, President & CEO of GreenLatinos, in a [statement](#): “The Trump Administration’s deceptively named “Affordable Clean Energy” rule makes it very clear that President Trump and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler care more about the profits of polluters than the lives of Americans suffering from toxic pollution and the effects of climate change. Even the Trump Administration’s own regulatory analysis of the ACE rule last year found that, once implemented, it would kill an extra 300 to 1,500 people each year by 2030, from additional air pollution created by the increase in dirty power development. There is a good chance that those lives lost will come from Latinx or African American communities. The risks are too high when our communities are more exposed to air pollutants than white communities. We already know that Latinx children are 40% more likely to die from asthma than non-Latinx white children. The Trump Administration continues to put the health of the Latino community and all Americans at risk by gutting the Clean Power Plan, the first and only federal limit on carbon pollution from power plants. This reckless weakening of carbon emission levels will directly impact Latinx of whom about 40% of live within 30 miles of a power plant. GreenLatinos rejects the sabotage by the Trump Administration and Administrator Wheeler as they disregard the overwhelming support for increasing efforts to protect our air quality while fighting climate change, and instead choose to threaten the health of Latinx communities and all communities across the country.”

PennEnvironment [tweet](#): “As we rallied for 100% #RenewableEnergy in Harrisburg yesterday, the Trump admin released their #DirtyPowerPlan, reversing course on clean power and a stable climate. This means more climate pollution and health risks.”

Illinois Environmental Council [tweet](#): “Trump’s #DirtyPowerPlan is a #CoalBailout, but Illinois is moving forward toward a 100% clean energy economy. @GovPritzker's commitment to #ActonClimate can counter Trump’s rollbacks with a bold plan to reduce pollution from IL power plants. So, let's pass the #CleanEnergyJobsAct”