## **Sample Testimony**

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Testimony of

[NAME, CURRENT OCCUPATION]

on

July 17, 2018

for

Censored Science Hearing

Docket Identification No. [EPA-HQ-EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259]

at

EPA Headquarters

William Jefferson Clinton East Building, Main Floor

Room 1153

1201 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460

Public Hearing Testimony

Hello, my name is [NAME] and I am from [HOMETOWN]. Thank you for this opportunity to offer comment. I am a member of [GROUP/ORGANIZATION or OCCUPATION] and I am here today to speak out in opposition to Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler’s attempts to censor science in the name of transparency.

Under the intentionally misleading guise of "transparency," Wheeler is moving forward with Scott Pruitt’s dangerous “censoring science” plan to limit the scientific information EPA can use to identify public health threats and protect us from pollution. This misguided proposal would throw shade on the best available science by essentially requiring researchers to make private, personal medical information public in order for the EPA to use their research in its decision making.

If Wheeler is serious about restoring the public’s trust in the EPA after Scott Pruitt’s scandal-ridden tenure, he must immediately suspend and review all of Pruitt’s rollbacks of health protections, including all of Pruitt’s attempts to undermine science at the agency. These decisions were irreparably tainted by Pruitt’s more than a dozen ethics scandals and his deep conflicts of interest with corporate polluters. If Wheeler continues to implement Pruitt’s censoring science plan, he will have confirmed that he plans to only work on behalf of polluting industries instead of on behalf of the American people.

There is nothing secret about the science EPA uses to protect you. The EPA already makes available the scientific studies it relies on to make decisions. But sometimes those studies use private medical data that can’t and shouldn’t be made public—Wheeler and his staff know that. They are just making up an excuse to discount these studies so they can weaken public health protections.

This proposal means that many studies on populations such as the elderly, young people, and people of color – groups who often suffer disproportionately from pollution – would be excluded from EPA consideration because making the data public could identify the participating individuals. Excluding this important data from consideration means that implementing this proposal could even further exacerbate negative environmental impacts on these and other vulnerable communities.

[OPTION TO ADD PERSONAL STORY]

My family, and my fellow [STATE DEMONYM]s, are counting on the sound and transparent science the EPA has used for decades - and we are counting on our medical records remaining private. I strongly urge the EPA to stop this radical proposal – for the health and safety of all Americans.