# **Overview**

As President Trump and Acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler are continuing to move forward with repealing and replacing the Clean Power Plan, coalition partners and allies are **highlighting what's at stake under the Trump administration's proposal to repeal and replace the Clean Power Plan**, focusing first and foremost on the disastrous health consequences associated with rolling back strong limits on dangerous carbon pollution, the economic impacts of wildfires, hurricanes, superstorms being made more destructive by the effects of climate change, and the clean energy benefits of the Clean Power Plan.

The climate advocacy community is briefing reporters, releasing statements, and posting on social media to advance a media narrative that pushes back on the White House's framing and emphasizes our messages while leveraging the administration's actions to drive public engagement and create an accountability moment for targeted senators in key states.

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# **Press Conferences and Briefings**

FORMER EPA OFFICIALS PREVIEWED THE ADMINISTRATION'S MOVE TO WEAKEN THE LIFESAVING CLEAN POWER PLAN: On a telepresser, former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, former Acting Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation Janet McCabe, and former Senior Counsel in the Office of Air and Radiation Joe Goffman provided insights on the legal arguments for the CPP. Over 50 reporters joined the call, and the Campaign shared the audio recording with reporters, which resulted in McCarthy's remarks being nationally broadcasted on NPR's Up First on Tuesday. Press clips in the Associated Press, Washington Post, NPR, Grist, Fox 6 Milwaukee, E&E News, and other national and local news outlets feature remarks from the speakers and include the campaign's overall messaging.

#### SENATE DEMOCRATS REACT TO "DIRTY POWER

SCAM": League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski and American Public Health Association Executive Director Dr. Georges C. Benjamin joined Sen. Markey (D-MA), Sen. Carper (D-DE), Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI), Sen. Cardin (D-MD), Sen. Heinrich (D-NM), and Sen. Smith (D-MN) press conference at Dirksen Senate Office Building. "Dirty Power Scam" messaging was included throughout their remarks and their statements on social media and in press clips in Bloomberg, NBC, Politico, Washington Post, The Hill, E&E News, Crain's Detroit Business, and the Albuquerque Journal, among other national and local news outlets.





LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS TELEPRESSER: Legal experts from leading environmental organizations provided initial reactions and analysis to the "Dirty Power Scam" after the Trump Administration unveiled it on Tuesday morning. The press call with Environmental Defense Fund Director of Regulatory Policy and Lead Attorney Tomás Carbonell, National Resources Defense Council Climate & Clean Energy Program Senior Strategic Director David Doniger, Earthjustice Counsel Howard Fox, and Sierra Club Deputy Director of the Environmental Law Program Joanne Spalding garnered extensive news coverage in the Washington Post, Maine Public, E&E News, Associated Press, Seattle Times, and 89.3 WFPL (Louisville's NPR News station), among other national and local news outlets.

FLORIDA TELEPRESSER: SOUTH MIAMI MAYOR PHILIP K. STODDARD AND FLORIDA LEADERS DECRY THE "DIRTY POWER SCAM": South Miami Mayor Philip K. Stoddard and local leaders joined a telepresser to decry the "Dirty Power Scam." They shared how the administration's scam would undercut Florida's booming clean energy economy and make extreme weather more intense and

deadlier. The telepresser was attended by reporters from the Miami Herald, Palm Beach Post, Tampa Bay Times, Politico and Florida News Network.

# **CAC** Resources

- Dirty Power Scam Toolkit
- CPP rollback email template and comment collection social, English
- CPP rollback email template and comment collection social, Spanish
- CPP rollback social guidance packet
- CPP rollback call tool (c3)

# **Social Media**

The climate advocacy community generated more than 2,400 Twitter mentions of #ProtectCPP, #DirtyPowerScam, and #DirtyPowerPlan (as of 5 PM on August 21)., and Clean Power Plan was trending nationally around midday on August 21.

Several elected officials have used #DirtyPowerScam or #DirtyPowerPlan on Twitter, including Rep. Bonamici, Rep. Blumenauer, Rep. Castor, Rep. Clark, Rep. Pallone, and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Democrats. Sen. Udall, Sen. Carper, NY Attorney General Underwood, Sen. Heinrich, and other elected officials also tweeted their opposition to the replacement.

# **Public Statements**

# **Members of Congress**

#### **ALABAMA**

#### House

# Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL)

Rep. Bradley Byrne: RT "@WhiteHouse: The Administration's new clean energy rule proposes emissions guidelines but gives states flexibility in how to achieve them. So instead of Washington calling the shots, different parts of the country can build energy portfolios to fit their needs. More: http://45.wh.gov/g8sWXg" [Twitter, @RepByrne, 8/21/18]

### Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)

Rep. Martha Roby: "President Trump's plan to roll back the Obama Administration's so-called 'Clean Power Plan' represents an important step towards returning power to the states and further dismantling the Obama-era regulatory regime." [Twitter, @RepMarthaRoby, 8/22/18]

# United States trends · Change

# #TuesdayThoughts

66.6K Tweets

#### Mollie Tibbetts 19.6K Tweets

19.6K Iweets

### #SeniorCitizensDay

@PaSenateDems is Tweeting about this

#### #Eclipse2017

@6abc is Tweeting about this

#### **Kelly Marie Tran**

15.9K Tweets

#### **Eid Mubarak**

Muslims around the world mark Eid al-Adha

#### #PrisonStrike

@voxdotcom is Tweeting about this

#### Clean Power Plan

8,903 Tweets

#### Silent Sam

Students at UNC topple Confederate statue of 'Silent Sam'

#### #NewEndingsToRosesAreRed

1,300 Tweets

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**ARIZONA** 

House

Rep Andy Biggs (R-AZ)

Rep Andy Biggs: "I applaud Administrator Wheeler and the Trump administration for taking this necessary step to replace the Clean Power Plan (CPP). The rule was a blatant attack on states' rights and yet another example of overregulation by unelected federal bureaucrats." [Twitter, @RepAndyBiggsAZ, 8/21/18]

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ)

Rep. Paul Gosar: "RT @westerncaucus: Today the @realDonaldTrump Administration, @EPAAWheeler and the @EPA took a bold step, reining in the unconstitutional excess of the Clean Power Plan by proposing the job-securing, emission-reducing Affordable Clean Energy Rule." [Twitter, @RepGosar, 8/21/18]

Rep. Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ)

Rep. Raul M. Grijalva: "Can @realDonaldTrump and his cabinet of corruption go a single day without siding with corporate interests over the well-being of our communities? Rolling back these standards accelerates #climatechange & puts our public health at risk." [Twitter, @RepRaulGrijalva, 8/21/18]

**ARKANSAS** 

Senate

**Tom Cotton (R-AR)** 

Cotton Statement On Trump Administration Rollback Of Obama Climate Rule. According to Tom Cotton, "'This is a step forward for Arkansas and all of rural America. The Obama administration's plan would have amounted to a huge energy tax that would have raised power bills for Arkansans and dealt a blow to manufacturers. The Trump administration's proposal, by contrast, will give our state's authorities the flexibility they need to make the right decisions for Arkansas. This new rule will go a long way toward rebuilding trust between the EPA and rural America, and I'm pleased to see it move forward." [Tom Cotton, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Cotton: "My statement on the Trump administration's rollback of Obama climate rule: goo.gl/dEGZQx" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

House

Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR)

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Rep. Bruce Westerman: "RT @westerncaucus: Today the @realDonaldTrump Administration, @EPAAWheeler and the @EPA took a bold step, reining in the unconstitutional excess of the Clean Power Plan by proposing the job-securing, emission-reducing Affordable Clean Energy Rule." [Twitter, @RepWesterman, 8/22/18]

# **CALIFORNIA**

#### Senate

# **Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)**

Feinstein On Trump Decision To Roll Back Clean Power Plan. According to Dianna Feinstein, "'President Trump's decision to replace the Clean Power Plan with weaker rules governing power plant emissions is the latest in a string of terrible decisions that undermine our fight against global warming, lower our quality of life and endanger lives. 'This decision, combined with his earlier move to undermine emissions guidelines for the transportation sector, mean the president has now blocked the EPA from protecting Americans against half of our country's emissions. 'President Trump consistently chooses the most destructive policy options in order to line the pockets of rich industries and their lobbyists. It's clear the president has no interest in protecting the planet or Americans from global warming, and it's a strong indictment on his total lack of leadership or foresight.'" [Dianna Feinstein, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Feinstein: "President Trump's decision to replace the Clean Power Plan with weaker rules governing power plant emissions is the latest in a string of terrible decisions that undermine our fight against global warming, lower our quality of life and endanger lives." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### Kamala Harris (D-CA)

Sen. Harris: "The Trump administration is again siding with polluters over people. Their plan to dismantle the Clean Power Plan, a critical component of our fight to combat climate change, could cause hundreds of premature deaths each year due to increased air pollution." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### House

# **Democratic Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**

Pelosi Statement on Trump's New 'Dirty Power Scam'. "Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi issued this statement after the Trump Administration announced its plan to reverse the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan that limited the levels of pollution from electricity generation: 'The Trump Administration's disdain for the clean air our children breathe and the clean water they drink knows no bounds. This rule is a brazen special interest handout that poisons families' health today, and threatens their security and well-being for decades to come by accelerating the climate crisis. Time after time, the Trump Administration has sold out our children's health to enrich special interests and big polluters pushing their toxic agenda. From pulling out of the Paris Agreement, spearheading reckless executive orders to undermine clean air and clean water, to giving polluters the green light to contaminate our communities, the Administration is devastating Americans' health every chance it gets." [Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, press release, 8/21/18]

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Rep. Nancy Pelosi: "The Trump Administration's disdain for the clean air our children breathe and the clean water they drink is on full display as it announces its plan to end the Clean Power Plan." [Twitter, @NancyPelosi, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Nanette D. Barragán (D-CA)

Rep. Nanette D. Barragán: "President Trump's proposed rollback of the #CleanPowerPlan is a big win for polluters, but a huge loss for our communities. Weaker emissions standards for coal power plants will have drastic consequences for the environment and will only worsen climate change." [Twitter, @RepBarragan, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA)

Rep. Tony Cárdenas: "Trump's removal of the Clean Power Plan fails to protect American families from harmful pollution. To no one's surprise, Trump is choosing his polluter friends over the health and well-being of our children and future generations." [Twitter, @RepCardenas, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)

Rep. Judy Chu: "Coal pollution is a large contributor to greenhouse gas emissions that harms human health. EPA rolling back #CleanPowerPlan can produce more premature deaths. We must be responsible stewards of our environment & push for clean energy alternatives. #ActOnClimate #ClimateChange" [Twitter, @RepJudyChu, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier: "President Trump's #DirtyPowerPlan seeks to undo this progress, turn back the clock on clean energy innovation, and harm public health." [Twitter, @RepDeSaulnier, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)

Rep. Doug LaMalfa: "RT @westerncaucus: Today the @realDonaldTrump Administration, @EPAAWheeler and the @EPA took a bold step, reining in the unconstitutional excess of the Clean Power Plan by proposing the job-securing, emission-reducing Affordable Clean Energy Rule." [Twitter, @RepLaMalfa, 8/22/18]

### Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Rep. Barbara Lee:"The Trump Administration's proposed rollback of the Clean Power Plan will kill people. That's not hyperbole – EPA experts predict in their OWN proposal that this plan could cause 1,400 premature deaths every year." [Twitter, @RepBarbaraLee, 8/21/18]

Rep. Barbara Lee: "This was the Jim Crow South. And it was Black & Latinx communities forced to live next door to the smelter. My family & classmates contracted all sorts of illnesses: asthma, cancer,

neurological disorders. Decades later, they're still suffering from their exposure to pollutants." [Twitter, @RepBarbaraLee, 8/21/18]

Rep. Barbara Lee: "This smelter was toxic. The smokestacks from the plant blanketed our neighborhood with dangerous chemicals. A CDC study in the 1970's found kids living within a mile of the smelter had 4x the safe limit of lead in their blood." [Twitter, @RepBarbaraLee, 8/21/18]

Rep. Barbara Lee: "I've shared this story before, but given the news today, I think it's worth repeating. I grew up in segregated El Paso, TX in the shadow of the Asarco copper smelter. I've seen the impact of unchecked pollution on public health." [Twitter, @RepBarbaraLee, 8/21/18]

### Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)

Rep. Ted Lieu: "By nixing the Clean Power Plan, the Trump Administration is creating a public health crisis that they even admit could lead to up to 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030. To be clear: making our air and water dirtier will not create jobs." [Twitter, @RepTedLieu, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)

Rep. Alan Lowenthal: "THREAD: The Trump Administration have announced their latest effort to gut the Clean Power Plan. Predictably, it's an outrageous attack on public health and our environment, which will only worsen climate change. Just as predictably, it puts special interests first. 1/6 It will allow vastly more pollutants and green-house gasses to be released than the Obama Administration's plans. 2/6" [Twitter, @RepLowenthal, 8/21/18]

Rep. Alan Lowenthal: "It deepens our reliance on dirty and inefficient coal power plants and will weaken the vital effort to transition to cleaner, more sustainable renewables. 3/6 The Trump Administration's own data admits that increases in sulfur dioxide and other dangerous pollutants allowed by new regulations could cause up to 1,400 premature deaths in the next decade." [Twitter, @RepLowenthal, 8/21/18]

Rep. Alan Lowenthal: "It'll worsen climate change. We can't afford to wait. We're already seeing record droughts, floods, wildfires and hurricanes. Without major investment to slash greenhouse gas emissions, we're gambling recklessly with the future of the entire planet. 5/6 We'll work tooth and nail to block this new plan. The stakes are simply too high. We can promote affordable and reliable power, while meeting our climate goal by modernizing our power generation systems. this should be our goal as a nation. The era of dirty fuel must end. 6/6" [Twitter, @RepLowenthal, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)

Rep. Doris Matsui: "The Administration's irresponsible effort to reverse President Obama's Clean Power Plan puts public health in danger and fails to protect our children and grandchildren from harmful pollution." [Twitter, @DorisMatsui, 8/21/18]

Rep. Doris Matsui: "RT @SEEC: While Americans across the country battle devastating wildfires, floods, and heatwaves, the Trump Administration is releasing a power plan that does almost nothing

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to protect them from the climate-warming impacts of carbon pollution: https://t.co/OZIDQznc3r. #DirtyPowerScam https://t.co/pKG2MHfd5Z" [Twitter, @DorisMatsui, 8/22/18]

### Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)

Rep. Grace Napolitano: "It is infuriating that President Trump is again siding with coal-burning states and coal lobbyists over the health and safety of all Americans. It does not take a scientist to understand that pollution does not follow state boundaries." [Twitter, @gracenapolitano, 8/21/18]

# **Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA)**

Rep. Peters: "Dirty Power Plan" Ignores Increasing Signs of Climate Change. "Today, U.S. Congressman Scott Peters (CA-52) released the following statement after President Trump announced his administration is replacing the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan: 'Once again, the president has tossed aside a carefully crafted plan to keep our air clean and protect the environment and the public from the effects of climate change. It is another step backward for energy innovation, public health, and our decades of progress combatting climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency's own projections acknowledge that this new rule will cause up to 1,400 premature deaths per year and increased carbon emissions. Yet, the administration is choosing to ignore the increasing signs of climate change—wildfires, drought, floods, and more—to push a policy that will worsen these disasters." [Office of Rep. Scott Peters, press release, 8/21/18]

Rep. Scott Peters: "Once again, the president is tossing aside a carefully crafted plan to keep our air clean. His replacement will worsen the natural disasters already happening from climate change. I will do everything I can to fight it. #DirtyPowerPlan" [Twitter, @RepScottPeters, 8/21/18]

#### Rep Linda Sanchez (D-CA)

Rep Linda Sanchez: RT "@FrankPallone: The Trump #DirtyPowerScam will not lower electric bills, create jobs or revive the coal industry, but will instead stifle innovation in clean energy, harm human health and exacerbate #ClimateChange. Read my full statement here: https://t.co/5Z3r7o4WUz" [Twitter, @RepLindaSanchez, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)

Rep. Adam Schiff: "Once again, the Trump Administration has chosen the profits of polluters over public health and safety. Their proposal to gut the Clean Power Plan represents another step backward in the fight against climate change. We will resist this all-out assault on the environment." [Twitter, @RepAdamSchiff, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA)

Rep. Norma Torres "The #DirtyPowerScam is the Trump Administration's latest threat against the health & security of our children & climate in exchange for kickbacks to special interests. We can't stop fighting for the clean air, clean water, & clean energy future generations of Americans depend on." [Twitter, @NormaJTorres, 8/21/18]

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**COLORADO** 

Senate

#### Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Bennet Statement On Trump Administration Effort To Gut The Clean Power Plan. According to Michael Bennett, "'President Trump claims he is ending the war on coal. In reality, his plan creates more uncertainty for coal miners. This is not a plan—it's a punt,' Bennet said. 'The President is placing the views of extreme partisans and special interests above the overwhelming judgment of scientists. Meanwhile, our children will continue to get sick, more wildfires will rage throughout the West, and more storms will damage our coasts. President Trump should embrace a lasting policy that makes the air cleaner for our children, addresses climate change, and provides real certainty for businesses. 'In the absence of leadership from Washington, Colorado will continue to reduce our emissions, grow our clean energy economy, and fulfill our obligation to safeguard the environment for the next generation,' Bennet said." [Michael Bennett, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Bennet: "LIVE: With my colleagues talking about President Trump's efforts to gut the Clean Power Plan and the damage this will do to Colorado. Tune in: facebook.com/97172997732/po..." [Twitter, 8/31/18 (+)]

Sen. Bennet: ".@POTUS should embrace a lasting policy that makes the air cleaner, addresses climate change & provides real certainty for businesses. In absence of this leadership, Colorado will reduce emissions, grow our clean energy economy & safeguard the environment for the next generation." [Twitter, 8/31/18 (+)]

Sen. Bennet: ".@realDonaldTrump is placing the views of extreme partisans and special interests above the overwhelming judgment of scientists. Meanwhile, our children will continue to get sick, more wildfires will rage throughout the West, and more storms will damage our coasts." [Twitter, 8/31/18 (+)]

Sen. Bennet: "By rolling back the Clean Power Plan, @POTUS claims he is ending the war on coal. In reality, his plan creates more uncertainty for coal miners. This is not a plan—it's a punt." [Twitter, 8/31/18 (+)]

House

# Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)

Rep. Diana DeGette: "We can't let ideologues in the #Trump administration harm public health, pollute our environment and slow the fight against #climatechange through their shameful twisting of @EPA's mission and legacy. I'll continue working to push back on these startling developments." [Twitter, @RepDianaDeGette, 8/21/18]

Rep. Diana DeGette: "Even worse, @EPA wants to silence the research that led to this estimated health impact -- the 'Six Cities' health study. Under its new "transparency rule," such data could not

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be used for rulemaking. I led a letter opposing this Orwellian policy." [Twitter, @RepDianaDeGette, 8/21/18]

Rep. Diana DeGette: "Simply unconscionable. With these new rules, @EPA takes its reckless repeal of @POTUS44's environmental legacy to new depths, admitting the plan will result in an additional 1,400 premature deaths, while also prolonging unsustainable carbon emissions." [Twitter, @RepDianaDeGette, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)

Rep. Ed Perlmutter: "In 2004, Colorado became the first state in the country to pass a renewable portfolio standard. Since then we have made great strides to reduce our carbon footprint. We cannot let the Trump's #DirtyPowerPlan undo our progress and take us backward." [Twitter, @RepPerlmutter, 8/21/18]

# **CONNECTICUT**

#### Senate

#### **Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)**

Sen. Blumenthal: "Trump's plan to roll back the Clean Power Plan by weakening pollution controls for coal-fired power plants will increase carbon emissions & premature deaths—a disaster for our planet & detriment to our health. nytimes.com/2018/08/21/cli..." [Twitter, 8/21/18(+)]

#### House

#### Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

Rep. Rosa DeLauro: "The Trump administration's plan to dismantle the Clean Power Plan will hurt people's health and lead to increased pollution in our air and water. That is unacceptable and dangerous." [Twitter, @rosadelauro, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D-CT)

Rep. Elizabeth Esty: "We can no longer afford to ignore the dangers of climate change and the consequences of our nation's dependency on dirty fossil fuels. This is a dangerous proposal that threatens the health of our environment and our communities." [Twitter, @RepEsty, 8/21/18]

### **DELAWARE**

# Senate

# Tom Carper (D-DE)

Carper Slams Trump Administration's Plan To Dismantle The Clean Power Plan. According to Tom Carper, "'If I were grading the Trump Administration's proposal to replace the Clean Power Plan, I would give it an 'F.' This egregious climate denial plan fails to protect the American people from the serious risks of climate change, fails to produce the same health and energy saving benefits that were achieved under the Clean Power Plan, and could send clean energy jobs to China. That alone would be enough for anyone to get a failing grade, but this proposal goes even further and allows polluters to increase the amount of smog and soot they emit into the air our children breathe. Only in President Trump's world could good policy mean ignoring the threats of climate change, increasing consumer energy costs, sending jobs overseas, and threatening the lives of our country's most vulnerable citizens. 'The American people deserve better, plain and simple. I will fight tooth and nail to keep this senseless policy that would especially harm low-lying, coastal states like Delaware and prevent it from moving forward. This administration must be held accountable for the actions it takes to reverse our progress on climate change, risk clean energy jobs here at home and damage our health. I've said this before, and I'll say it again: repealing the Clean Power Plan and replacing it with a proposal as ill-conceived as this isn't just a talking point. It will have serious consequences for the health of the public and our planet. It is possible to have clean air and also have a growing economy; the Clean Power Plan was built around that very premise, while the Trump Administration's proposal fails to do either." [Tom Carper, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Carper: "This #DirtyPowerPlan fills our atmosphere with more: CO2 Sulfur NOX @realDonaldTrump's plan threatens the lives of Americans across the country and leaves my home state of Delaware more vulnerable to sea level impacts. We deserve better than this." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Carper: "A recurring theme for Trump energy policies: Nobody benefits except narrow interests. Families are charged more in power bills, our children face a greater climate burden, and America surrenders energy innovation leadership to nations like China. carper.senate.gov/public/index.c..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Carper: "My state knows all too well that air pollution doesn't recognize boundaries. The Clean Power Plan is one of the most effective tools limiting hazardous air pollutants – and letting coal-heavy states write the rules puts us at even greater risk." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Carper: ".@realdonaldtrump's plan isn't a "replacement" – it's a retreat. Retreat from our most basic responsibilities to ensure breathable air, usher in economic progress and tackle the greatest environmental crisis we face today. #CleanPowerPlan" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

# **FLORIDA**

#### House

# Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)

Rep. Kathy Castor: "Trump Admin sides w dirty air & coal plants over kids & our health: 'the fine print includes an acknowledgment that the plan would increase carbon emissions and lead to up to 1,400 premature deaths annually.' #DirtyPowerPlan #TrumpToxicTeam @" [Twitter, @USRepKCastor, 8/21/18]

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Rep. Kathy Castor: "#TrumpToxicTeam: dirty air for our kids, higher costs for all, but GOP donors get help Instead, US needs clean energy future, good-paying jobs! We have a moral obligation to future generations to crack down on corruption & sp interest dark money polluting our air, water https://twitter.com/nrdc/status/1031908149870116864 ..." [Twitter, @USRepKCastor, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL)

Rep. Charlie Crist: "This would be a big step backwards for our environment and our country. Undermining our nation's clean energy strategy and efforts to combat climate change puts us all at risk." [Twitter, @RepCharlieCrist, 8/21/18]

### Rep. Val Demings (D-FL)

Rep. Val Demings: "RT- @RepMikeQuigley: Action to combat #climatechange can be a major boost to our economy. Instead @realDonaldTrump + @EPAAWheeler are endangering our #cleanair, jeopardizing public safety, and costing our economy billions by repealing the #CleanPowerPlan and replacing it with their #DirtyPowerScam" [Twitter, @RepValDemings, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)

Rep. Lois Frankel: "The Trump Admin is taking us backwards again, putting the air our children breathe & the water they drink in danger. We need to protect our families from harmful pollution, not sell out public health & safety for toxic special interests. #DirtyPowerScam" [Twitter, @RepLoisFrankel, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)

Rep. Alcee Hastings: "The Trump Administration's dangerous proposal to gut the #CleanPowerPlan will lead to more asthma and more deaths. This is yet another example of the Administration putting special interests ahead of Americans. Climate change is real and calls for action now. #DirtyPowerPlan" [Twitter, @RepHastingsFL, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen: "Admin plan that encourages instead of helps retire coal power plants will release more #CO2 into our atmosphere. This only contributes to #ClimateChange and worsens #SeaLevelRise. We should have forward, not backward looking energy policy" [Twitter, @RosLehtinen, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL)

Rep. Darren Soto: "We have one of the hottest years on record and Trump pushes to end Obama's Clean Power Plan? Congress must block this ridiculous proposal! @LCVoters, @SierraClub, @audubonsociety, @OceanChampions, @HispanicCaucus" [Twitter, @RepDarrenSoto, 8/22/18]

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Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)

Rep. Wasserman Schultz: "Today the Trump Admin announced its plan to allow special interests to pollute our air - a move Trump's own @EPA says will lead to 1,400 premature deaths and 48,000 new cases of exacerbated asthma. It's absolutely disgraceful and I'll do everything in my power to stop it." [Twitter, @RepDWStweets, 8/21/18]

Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL)

Rep. Frederica Wilson: "RT @HouseDemocrats: Republicans are literally putting the profits of coal companies ahead of the health of the American people. This cannot stand. https://t.co/gDhC8UU9vu" [Twitter, @RepWilson, 8/21/18]

**GEORGIA** 

Senate

**David Perdue (R-GA)** 

Senator David Perdue: Prioritizing America's Energy Independence. According to David Perdue, "'Prioritizing America's energy independence is a key component of President Trump's plan to get the economy going again. Low cost energy is essential to keeping us competitive with other countries. By rolling back stifling, Obama-era regulations, the Trump Administration is giving power back to the States to decide what's best for their industries. It's refreshing to have a President who is committed to fighting for American workers and growing the economy, instead of a political agenda." [David Perdue, 8/21/18 (-)]

**HAWAII** 

Senate

**Brian Schatz (D-HI)** 

Schatz Slams Trump Proposal To Roll Back Clean Power Plan. According to Brian Schatz, "'President Trump's proposal is full-fledged climate denial. It gives coal companies the green light to pollute the air we breathe and the water we drink. This proposal flies in the face of scientific fact, morality, and America's leadership,' said Senator Schatz. 'The good news is that the clean energy revolution cannot be stopped. And while this administration continues to ignore the reality of climate change, clean energy is growing in states and countries around the world.'" [Brian Schatz, 8/22/18 (+)]

Sen. Schatz: "RT @EricLiptonNYT: Here is an extraordinary/blunt admission from Trump-era EPA: between 470 & 1,400 people in the US will die prematurely E..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Schatz: "The government figured out that their insane new plan for polluters will cause "between 470 and 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030" and "48,000 new cases of exacerbated asthma and

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at least 21,000 new missed days of school annually" BUT THEY ARE DOING IT ANYWAY." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### **ILLINOIS**

#### Senate

#### Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Senator Dick Durbin "Make communities less clean. Prop up corporate interests. Cede global leadership on combating climate change. That is the Trump Administration's #DirtyPowerPlan strategy for our environment and public health. Our kids and grandkids deserve better." [Twitter, @SenatorDurbin, 8/21/18]

#### Sen. Duckworth (R-IL)

Sen. Duckworth: "By the Trump Administration's own analysis, 1,400 Americans will die prematurely and 48,000 will contract new asthma cases every year because of their decision yesterday to undo the Clean Power Plan. Read for yourself here: epa.gov/sites/producti..." [Tammy Duckworth, 8/21/18]

Sen. Duckworth: "By comparison, the Clean Power Plan would have PREVENTED 1,500 to 3,600 premature deaths each year by 2030. I am proud that Illinois is leading our nation in reducing carbon pollution and will fight to save the lives of Illinois families who deserve to breathe safe and clean air." [Tammy Duckworth, 8/22/18]

Sen. Duckworth: "We are currently experiencing record droughts, wildfires, floods and natural disasters across the country and around the world. We need to be taking urgent action to address the effects of climate change. Simply put, this is yet another bad idea:" [Tammy Duckworth, 8/22/18]

#### House

# Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL)

Rep. Bill Foster: "Once again, @realDonaldTrump has placed special interests ahead of the health and safety of our children and the future of our planet. Ending the Clean Power Plan will have serious public health consequences." [Twitter, @RepBillFoster, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)

Rep. Mike Quigley: "Action to combat #climatechange can be a major boost to our economy. Instead @realDonaldTrump + @EPAAWheeler are endangering our #cleanair, jeopardizing public safety, and costing our economy billions by repealing the #CleanPowerPlan and replacing it with their #DirtyPowerScam" [Twitter, @RepMikeQuigley, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)

Rush Statement on Trump's Efforts to Weaken Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan. "Today, U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush (D-III.) released the following statement after the Trump Administration announced its plan to reverse the Obama-era Clean Power Plan: 'It should come as no surprise that the Trump Administration, which has been riddled with an unprecedented culture of corruption, cronyism, and self-enrichment has decided to put the profits of polluters over the health and safety of Americans. Trump's toxic team is clearly beholden to their special interest friends' dirty energy agenda, which threatens the health of our nation. It is appalling that this Administration continues its assault on critical environmental protections and is willing to sell off our health and safety to the highest and most well-connected bidder. Instead of removing environmental safeguards — that are so desperately needed in communities across this country — and denying the existence of climate change, this beleaguered Administration should be working every day to protect our environment for future generations, and investing in the good paying, clean energy jobs of the future." [Office of Rep. Bobby Rush, press release, 8/21/18]

Rep. Bobby Rush: "My statement on Trump's Efforts to Weaken Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan: https://go.usa.gov/xUzge Trump's toxic team is clearly beholden to their special interest friends' dirty energy agenda, which threatens the health of our nation." [Twitter, @RepBobbyRush, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

Schakowsky, a Chief Deputy Whip and member of the Safe Climate Caucus, released the following statement in response to President Trump's announcement that he intends to roll back the Clean Power Plan: 'President Trump is not content with simply sitting on his hands and doing nothing to address the ravaging effects of climate change. Instead, he has taken it upon himself to go further and undo the progress that had already been made. At the beginning of this month, his Administration announced that they intended to roll back the emissions standards that were put in place to protect the air our children breathe. Today, the President is allowing for further pollution of this air by proposing to undo the Clean Power Plan, which set strict limits on how much carbon dioxide states could emit and encouraged the transition to clean energy.'" [Office of rep. Jan Schakowsky, press release, 8/21/18]

Rep. Jan Schakowsky: "There is no room for debate: climate change is happening, and it threatens to upend every aspect of our lives. As the world comes together to solve this monumental crisis, President Trump brutishly rolls back the modest steps forward that had been taken." [Twitter, @janschakowsky, 8/21/18]

# Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL)

Shimkus Statement on Affordable Clean Energy Rule. "Congressman John Shimkus (R-III.), Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment, released the following statement regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule: 'A majority of the states, a majority of Congress, along with dozens of rural electric co-ops, trade associations and labor unions rejected the previous administration's overreaching Clean Power Plan. We knew the costs – from the loss of jobs, manufacturing, and energy security – would ultimately outweigh the purported benefits of the plan's Washington-knows-best approach to environmental policy. I'm glad to see the Trump Administration return to the principles of cooperative federalism that have successfully and impressively reduced air pollution for decades. Rather than dictate burdensome, top-down mandates on the states,

the Affordable Clean Energy rule seeks to empower states to continue reducing emissions in ways that best fit their various energy portfolios." [Office of Rep. John Shimkus, press release, 8/21/18]

#### **INDIANA**

#### Senate

# **Todd Young (R-IN)**

Young Applauds Affordable Clean Energy Rule. According to Todd Young, "'This is encouraging news for Indiana, where we prioritize affordable, reliable, and clean energy. The misguided 'Clean Power Plan' failed to consider input from energy producing states like ours, and mandated a burdensome one-size-fits-all approach. In the House, I voted to repeal the harmful 'Clean Power Plan,' and I am pleased that an alternative has been introduced that takes into account Hoosier concerns.'" [Todd Young, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen: Young: ".@EPA's proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule is encouraging news for Indiana where we prioritize affordable, reliable, and clean energy. young.senate.gov/newsroom/press..." [Twitter, 8/21/18]

#### House

# Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN)

Dr. Bucshon's Statement on the Trump Administration's Affordable Clean Energy Rule. "Congressman Larry Bucshon, M.D. (IN-08) released the following statement after the Trump Administration unveiled its new Affordable Clean Energy rule: 'American families and businesses need affordable energy costs in order to thrive. Our nation has been blessed with abundant and diverse sources of energy, and it's critical that Americans are able to use these American made sources of energy to power our way of life and our economy and keep costs low. The Obama Administration's so-called Clean Power Plan was a top-down, one-size-fits-all, jobs-killing regulatory scheme that would have caused energy prices to skyrocket for rate-payers and made it virtually impossible to use certain forms of American-made energy. The Trump Administration's Affordable Clean Energy rule is a responsible proposal that will protect the environment while also protecting the pocketbooks of American families and businesses from skyrocketing energy prices." [Office of Rep. Larry Bucshon, press release, 8/21/18]

#### **KENTUCKY**

#### Senate

# Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

**McConnell On The Affordable Clean Energy Rule.** According to Mitch McConnell, "'The Obama Administration's so-called 'Clean Power Plan' offered a typical story from that era. An innocent-seeming name. A pleasant-sounding objective. But underneath, an intrusive regulatory regime -- built not on effective policy, but on far-left ideology. That's why I am so grateful that, today, the Trump

Administration is unveiling its plan to pare back this unfair, unworkable, and likely illegal policy. 'Remember, the far left tried to push through radical legislation like an energy tax through Congress. Well, enough of us knew it would have hurt American competitiveness, victimized the poor, and done little to actually give the American people a cleaner environment. But instead of learning from those failures, the Obama Administration tried to go it alone and impose their radical agenda unilaterally. 'This so-called 'Clean Power Plan' they dreamed up would've had no meaningful effect on global emissions. It would, however, have packed up middle-class American jobs and sent them overseas. It would have piled a heavier burden onto the most vulnerable families. Lower-income Americans are hit the hardest when energy costs take off. And this plan was projected to yield double-digit percentage increases in electricity costs in 40 states, including Kentucky. Unfair. Ineffective. Unaffordable. More than likely illegal. That's quite the pedigree." [Mitch McConnell, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. McConnell: "I am grateful the Trump administration is unveiling its plan to pare back this unfair, unworkable, and likely illegal policy. courier-journal.com/story/news/loc..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. McConnell: "I applaud @POTUS's plan to pare back the Obama administration's unfair, unaffordable, and likely illegal "Clean Power Plan" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

#### Rand Paul (R-KY)

Sen. Paul: "A very good day for Kentucky. I applaud @realDonaldTrump for continuing to roll back and working to end the Obama war on coal." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

#### House

### Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY)

Rep. John Yarmuth: "Today, the Trump Administration took another dangerous step in its continued assault on clean air, clean water, and a healthy future for Americans." [Twitter, @RepJohnYarmuth, 8/21/18]

Rep. John Yarmuth: "Replacing the Clean Power Plan with this irresponsible plan is a complete giveaway to large corporate polluters and fossil fuel special interests at the expense of American families." [Twitter, @RepJohnYarmuth, 8/21/18]

# **LOUISIANA**

#### House

#### Majority Whip Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA)

Rep. Steve Scalise "@realDonaldTrump promised he'd end radical Obama job-killing regulations on coal and restore American energy independence, and he's delivering with today's action. This means more jobs, lower prices, and a return of American strength!" [Twitter, @SteveScalise, 8/21/18]

August 21, 2018

MAINE

Senate

#### Susan Collins (R-ME)

Sen. Collins: "In Maine, our economy is inextricably linked to the environment. And our state has made substantial progress in reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy efficiency, adopting clean energy technologies, & improving air quality & public health." [Twitter, 8/22/18]

Sen. Collins: "But Maine is also located at the end of our nation's air pollution "tailpipe," receiving pollution generated by power plants in other states. The Administration's proposal to rewrite the national standards established by the Clean Power Plan is a step in the wrong direction." [Twitter, 8/22/18]

# Angus King (I-ME)

Sen. King: "Climate change is a serious challenge facing Maine people, and we must meet it head-on. The Clean Power Plan was an important step in the right direction, and any alternative that undoes its work to restrict emissions is a major mistake; the CPP should remain in place." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

House

# Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

Pingree Statement on Proposed Rollback of Clean Power Plan. "Portland, Maine—Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME) released the following statement on the Trump Administration's proposal to undo President Obama's Clean Power Plan. 'From the wildfires raging across the West to tick-borne Lyme disease spreading across Maine, it's clear that we ignore climate change at our own peril. Yet that is exactly what the Trump Administration is doing here by rolling back some of the best strategies we have for stemming the tide of power-plant carbon emissions. We can't keep putting pollutants into our air at such a rate and not to expect to pay with our health, homes, and livelihoods. President Trump's own EPA reports that undoing these rules will result in as many as 1,400 premature deaths because of the airborne toxins it will lead to. That screaming red flag should bring this proposal to an immediate halt, but there are many others—halted innovation and lost clean-energy jobs among them. I will fight against this proposal however I can in Congress." [Office of Rep. Chellie Pingree, press release, 8/21/18]

Rep. Chellie Pingree: "From wildfires raging across the West to spread of tick-borne Lyme disease in Maine, it's clear that we ignore climate change at our peril. Yet that is exactly what Trump Administration is doing by rolling back Clean Power Plan" [Twitter, @chelliepingree, 8/21/18]

Rep. Chellie Pingree: "President Trump's own EPA reports that undoing these rules will result in as many as 1,400 premature deaths because of the airborne toxins it will lead to." [Twitter, @chelliepingree, 8/21/18]

August 21, 2018

**MARYLAND** 

Senate

#### Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Sen. Van Hollen: "We see the mounting costs of climate change in the disastrous floods in Ellicott City and extreme weather events that put life and property at risk. Yet Trump is again doing the bidding of powerful special interests and we will pay the price. Mr. President, see you in court!" [Twitter, 8/21/18]

Sen. Van Hollen: "This has never been a witch hunt or a hoax—today's guilty verdict of Manafort and the plea deal of Cohen show that these investigations are uncovering real wrongdoing. It's more important than ever to stand up for the rule of law and protect the integrity of these investigations." [Twitter, 8/21/18]

### Ben Cardin (D-MD)

Sen. Cardin: "In Maryland, the people of Ellicott City have endured TWO 1,000-year floods in just 22 months. Families' homes and businesses have been devastated, some permanently. That's due to climate change. Repealing the #CleanPowerPlan will only make matters worse. And they deserve better." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Cardin: "Scrapping the #CleanPowerPlan represents yet another attack on public health. More Americans will develop health conditions, the U.S. economy will fall behind as other nations outpace us on renewable energy, and our children will have to reckon with the steep environmental costs." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

# House

# **Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD)**

Hoyer Statement on the Trump Administration's Proposed Rule Scrapping the Clean Power Plan. "House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement today after the Trump Administration announced their proposed rule on carbon dioxide emissions, which will end the Clean Power Plan: 'Today, the Trump Administration doubled down on its war on clean air by ending the Clean Power Plan and replacing it with a proposal to advantage the same polluters whose former lobbyists and executives now populate the EPA and other Administration agencies. This is yet another example of this Administration placing the profits of large corporations ahead of the safety of our children and the future of our planet." [Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, press release, 8/21/18]

Rep. Steny Hoyer: "The @EPA's rule announced today to end the Clean Power Plan is yet another example of this Administration placing the profits of large corporations ahead of the safety of our children & the future of our planet." [Twitter, @WhipHoyer, 8/21/18]

August 21, 2018

Rep. Anthony G. Brown (D-MD)

Rep. Anthony G. Brown: "The U.S. could be a leader in saving our planet. We could be investing in thousands of new jobs building America's green energy infrastructure. Instead, the Trump administration is making our air dirtier and our climate warmer. And ultimately, our children will suffer." [Twitter, @RepAnthonyBrown, 8/21/18]

Rep. John Delaney (D-MD)

Rep. John Delaney: "Every American should be alarmed by what this White House is doing. President Trump doesn't want to just ignore climate change, he wants to make things worse – this is going to impact our economy, public health and national security." [Twitter, @RepJohnDelaney, 8/21/18]

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)

Rep. John Sarbanes: "In another act of fealty to dirty polluters, the Trump @EPA will boost industry profits by poisoning our air and threatening human life." [Twitter, @RepSarbanes, 8/21/18]

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Senate

**Ed Markey (D-MA)** 

Senator Markey: Trump's Clean Power Plan Replacement Is King Coal Corporate Welfare. According to Ed Markey, "The price of renewables is plummeting and clean energy jobs are increasing, while black lung cases in coal miners are resurgent,' said Senator Markey. Yet the Trump administration, with the help of former coal lobbyist and new EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, is forgoing our clean energy future for the sake of giveaways to King Coal. This Dirty Power Plan is King Coal corporate welfare, propping open the doors to aging, polluting coal plants. Coal cannot compete against wind, solar and renewables in the free market. It's not a conspiracy, it's competition. In 2016, more jobs were created in solar than existed in the entire coal industry. 'This Dirty Power Plan is an abdication of U.S. leadership on climate change and a betrayal of the public's health, our environment, and the planet's future. Unless we reduce carbon and other dangerous air pollution, the public's health with suffer from more asthma attacks and respiratory illness. A clean energy revolution is happening across the globe, but President Trump wants to hand over countless American clean energy jobs and the development of new technologies to China, Germany, India, and other nations. America's energy future won't be found in the dark of a mine but in the light of the sun.'" [Ed Markey, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Markey: "RT @deantscott: .2@SenMarkey2 says Dems will use all legislative tools available to quash @EPA rollback of #CleanPowerPlan including the Co..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Markey: "RT @LCVoters: WATCH LIVE: @SenMarkey kicks off the response to the #DirtyPowerScam. Follow along here: m.facebook.com/EdJMarkey/ https://t.co..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

House

August 21, 2018

#### Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA)

Rep. Michael Capuano: "The longer we wait to address climate change the harder it is to halt its harmful effects. Trump's roll back of the Clean Power Plan makes a mockery of EPA's mission. It trims one-tenth the CO2 and according to EPA's own estimates will cause more deaths." [Twitter, @RepMikeCapuano, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)

Rep. Katherine Clark: "Newsflash, @EPAAWheeler: Greenhouse gas emissions are one of the leading causes of #climatechange. Rolling back these regulations in an outdated effort to revive coal will cost us clean water & air & the viability of future generations. #DirtyPowerScam" [Twitter, @RepKClark, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA)

Rep. Joe Kennedy: "Not to be missed among yesterday's convictions and plea deals, the Trump Administration is pushing a coal bailout that would kill up to 1,400 American prematurely every year. And @realDonaldTrump proudly stands by it." [Twitter, @RepJoeKennedy, 8/22/18]

#### **MICHIGAN**

# House

#### Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)

Rep. Debbie Dingell: "We cannot go back to the days when #cleanair wasn't a given. We must look to the future and energy sources that reduce costs, protect clean air, and create jobs in the green-economy." [Twitter, @RepDebDingell, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI)

Rep. Dan Kildee: "President Trump's announcement today means more profits for polluters, at the expense of good-paying jobs and the health of Michigan families. This is the wrong approach for Michigan and our country. https://bit.ly/2MtGZHi" [Twitter, @RepDanKildee, 8/21/18]

#### **MINNESOTA**

#### Senate

# Tina Smith (D-MN)

Sen. Smith: "My colleagues & I are at the Capitol speaking out against Pres. Trump's misnamed "Clean Power Plan". This reckless proposal would let U.S. coal plants emit more harmful pollutants & in turn put

human health & our environment at serious risk. Watch live  $\rightarrow$  facebook.com/EdJMarkey/vide..." [Twitter, 8/21/18]

#### House

#### Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)

Rep. Betty McCollum "@realDonaldTrump has announced he will reverse the Clean Power Plan, ensuring more pollution, more greenhouse gases, and less clean air. This decision is an affront to our environment and our public health. The American people deserve better." [Twitter, @BettyMcCollum04, 8/21/18]

# **MISSISSIPPI**

#### Senate

# Roger Wicker (-MS)

**Wicker Supports EPA's Affordable Clean Energy Rule.** According to Roger Wicker, "'The top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to environmental protection promoted by the Obama Administration would have increased electricity costs for many American families and businesses,' Wicker said. 'The plan announced today is a much better option to ensure environmental protections without sacrificing the economic gains made under Republican leadership.'" [Roger Wicker, 8/21/18 (-)]

# **Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)**

Hyde-Smith Says Mississippians Protected By Trump's Gutting Of Clean Power Plan. According to Cindy Hyde-Smith, "'President Trump's Affordable Clean Energy is a strong step away from the Obama administration's heavy-handed attitude that Washington knows best,' Hyde-Smith said. 'The proposed rule would give our state's leaders flexibility to determine the best way to meet Clean Air Act requirements without forcing plant closures or sticking Mississippi families with higher electric bills.' 'I commend President Trump and Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler for working to reestablish cooperation between states and the federal government to attain American energy security and to meet our environmental goals,' said Hyde-Smith, who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee and its subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the EPA." [Cindy Hyde-Smith, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Hyde-Smith: "America's energy independence from foreign sources is a step toward viable, long-term economic growth, and today, @realDonaldTrump paved the way for production that will give us a competitive edge!" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

## House

Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-MS)

August 21, 2018

Rep. Steven Palazzo: ".@realDonaldTrump @EPA today announced the Affordable Clean Energy rule that replaces job-killing regulations, provides states with more flexibility, supports affordable energy and promotes American energy independence. #BetterOffNow" [Twitter, @CongPalazzo, 8/21/18]

**MISSOURI** 

Senate

#### Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Blunt Statement On The Affordable Clean Energy Rule. According to Roy Blunt, "I'm pleased President Trump is moving forward with an all-of-the-above energy policy that will benefit Missouri families and help businesses compete in a global economy,' said Blunt. 'The Obama administration's energy regulations could have increased Missourians' utility costs by double digits and made it harder for energy-intensive industries, like agriculture and manufacturing, to grow and create jobs. The EPA's proposed rule paves the way for a smarter approach that reduces emissions, provides more flexibility to states, and promotes U.S. energy independence. I look forward to working with the administration as we continue our efforts to roll back excessive, unnecessary regulations and provide relief to Missourians.'" [Roy Blunt, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Blunt: "The EPA's Affordable Clean Energy rule, which was announced today, prioritizes an all-of-the-above energy policy that will benefit Missouri families and promote U.S. competitiveness: bit.ly/2P04oNB" [Twitter, 8/21/18]

House

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver: "President Trump's own EPA admits that 1,400 Americans are expected to be killed annually by 2030 due to their new coal pollution rules. They are quite literally putting corporate profits over the lives of American citizens." [Twitter, @repcleaver, 8/22/18]

Rep. Lacy Clay (D-MO)

Rep. Lacy Clay: "RT @NancyPelosi: The Trump Administration's disdain for the clean air our children breathe and the clean water they drink is on full display as it announces its plan to end the Clean Power Plan. https://t.co/loAhyuyEP7" [Twitter, @LacyClayMO1, 8/21/18]

**NEVADA** 

Senate

**Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)** 

Cortez Masto: Trump Carbon Rule Reversal Attacks Our Communities, Country, & Kids Future.

According to Catherine Cortez Masto, "'Today's announcement is yet another example of failed climate

leadership by this President. This Administration's rule trims less than a tenth of the carbon emissions as the previous rule and allows states to opt out of regulating emissions altogether. Reversing these protections will harm communities throughout our country, and increased carbon pollution will only contribute even more to the challenges we see in Nevada on a host of issues including drought, extreme weather, and wildfires. This President should be leading our country, like the State of Nevada already is, in supporting research and production of cleaner energy sources that also create good paying jobs like renewables and natural gas. This announcement is an attack on our communities, our country, and our kids' future and I will do all I can to fight it.'" [Catherine Cortez Masto, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Masto: "Yet another example of failed climate leadership by @realDonaldTrump. He ought to be leading our country, like NV has been, in supporting cleaner energy sources that create green jobs. This is an attack on our communities & I'll do all I can to fight it. ktvn.com/story/38928347..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Masto: "RT @NVconservation: Thank you @SenCortezMasto for standing up for #Nevada! @realDonaldTrump's #DirtyPowerScam is a threat to clean air, cle..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

House

# Rep. Ruben J. Kihuen (D-NV)

Rep. Ruben Kihuen: "This decision by the Trump Administration is a blatant attack on our health and environment. By rolling back President Obama's #CleanPowerPlan, Trump is set on increasing corporate profits while increasing carbon emissions. This will lead to up to 1,400 premature deaths annually." [Twitter, @RepKihuen, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

Rep. Jacky Rosen: "I oppose this reckless move gutting efforts to build a clean energy economy. This Administration is once again placing profits for big polluters over the interests of Nevada families who want clean air and clean water." [Twitter, @RepJackyRosen, 8/21/18]

### Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)

Rep. Dina Titus: "The Trump dirty power plan will lead to more pollution, more asthma, and more premature deaths. Nevada is not going back to coal. Clean energy is our future." [Twitter, @repdinatitus, 8/21/18]

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

#### Senate

#### Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

**Senator Hassan Statement On Trump Administration's Repeal Of Clean Power Plan.** According to Maggie Hassan, "'As a downwind state, much of New Hampshire's air pollution comes from coal plants

in other states. The Trump Administration is giving coal plants free rein to pollute our air at the expense of our economy, our quality of life, and the health of New Hampshire citizens, especially our children,' Senator Hassan said. 'Unfortunately, this backward policy is no surprise given that President Trump put a fossil fuel lobbyist in charge of developing it. As climate change continues to impact communities across New Hampshire, this giant step backward from the administration will put the health and safety of our people at risk, hurt our long-term economic growth, and threaten the beautiful natural resources that help define us as a state. I will continue fighting for a cleaner environment and stronger renewable energy future that reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and helps our people, businesses, and economy thrive.'" [Maggie Hassan, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Hassan: "The Trump Administration is giving coal plants free rein to pollute our air at the expense of our economy, our quality of life, and the health of our citizens. This is no surprise considering President Trump put a fossil fuel lobbyist in charge of developing this new rule." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)

Shaheen Statement On Trump Roll Back Of Clean Power Plan. According to Jeanne Shaheen, "'The President's continued efforts to undo the progress we've made to combat the effects of climate change are threatening the health and safety of the American people,' said Shaheen. 'Rising temperatures interrupt New Hampshire's fall foliage season and maple syrup production, directly impeding our business and tourism sectors, and elevated sea levels put the homes and livelihoods of our Seacoast families at risk. It is unconscionable that the administration is knowingly pursuing a policy that puts the wellbeing of the fossil fuel industry over American lives. The President's actions also undermine years of work by small businesses in New Hampshire and across the nation that were incentivized under the Obama administration to prioritize technology in renewable energy and to curb carbon emissions. I'm deeply concerned by the President's destructive efforts to unravel necessary protections that safeguard our air, water and land, and that preserve our environment and wildlife. I'll continue to oppose the administration's dangerous policies that put Americans' health at risk and jeopardize the sustainability of our planet." [Jeanne Shaheen, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Shaheen: "Unconscionable. The administration is knowingly pursuing a policy that puts the wellbeing of the fossil fuel industry over American lives. nyti.ms/2vYH2Ro" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

# House

Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH)

Rep. Ann Kuster: "The environment & public health in NH is impacted by emissions of coal plants across the country, which is why strong protections are critical. I'm outraged @realDonaldTrump is rolling back Clean Power Plan. I'll keep fighting to protect our environment, public health & economy." [Twitter, @RepAnnieKuster, 8/21/18]

### **NEW JERSEY**

# Senate

August 21, 2018

**Robert Menendez (D-NJ)** 

Sen. Menendez: "This headline says it all. EPA's new rules will lead to more deaths. The Trump Administration is literally putting fossil fuel corporate interests ahead of Americans' lives. nyti.ms/2PqJtEc" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (=)]

Sen. Menendez: "NJ will suffer the consequences of this rule, as winds bring pollution from coal plants burning in Pennsylvania. That's why I supported President Obama's #CleanPowerPlan, why I've fought to keep it, and why you can count on me to do everything in my power to stop its rescission" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (=)]

House

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman: "@HouseGOP and their ringleader Trump have repeatedly shown they will prop up big polluters and the rich who profit from them at the expense of everyday families. They continue to escalate their abuse of our environment, at the cost of 1,400 lives a year." [Twitter, @RepBonnie, 8/21/18]

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman: "We can't afford to continue our reliance on fossil fuels. We need to focus on green energy, and the jobs and benefits that will come with renewable energy sources." [Twitter, @RepBonnie, 8/21/18]

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

Pallone on Trump Rollback of Clean Power Plan. "Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) released the following statement today after President Trump announced his replacement program for the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan: 'As expected, the Trump Administration has replaced the Clean Power Plan with a Coal Protection Plan that fails to safeguard our families and communities from harmful carbon pollution. Once again, this Administration is choosing polluters' profits over public health and safety. The wildfires, droughts, flash floods and more frequent coastal flooding we are experiencing again this year are all consistent with climate change. Yet, the Trump Administration continues to deny the problem, and doubles down on policies that will increase climate-damaging emissions.'" [Office of Rep. Frank Pallone, press release, 8/21/18]

Rep. Frank Pallone: "The Trump #DirtyPowerScam will not lower electric bills, create jobs or revive the coal industry, but will instead stifle innovation in clean energy, harm human health and exacerbate #ClimateChange. Read my full statement here:" [Twitter, @FrankPallone, 8/21/18]

**NEW MEXICO** 

Senate

Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

Heinrich Statement On Trump's Rollback Of Clean Power Plan. According to Martin Heinrich, "'There is no doubt that climate change is already disrupting our lives. We are seeing unprecedented wildfires raging throughout the West, more extreme weather events across the nation, and volatile precipitation patterns in New Mexico that are causing both dangerous drought conditions and violent flash floods. We cannot afford to wait on action to confront climate change. 'The Clean Power Plan was a historic step in combating climate change and protecting the health of our kids and future generations. It established reasonable and achievable standards to reduce our carbon emissions and create thousands of new clean energy jobs in the process. 'Now, President Trump is taking us in the completely wrong direction. When we know exactly what we need to do to reduce our contributions to climate change—and when we have the capability to create thousands of new jobs and build a thriving clean energy economy—President Trump's decision to retreat from leadership is shortsighted, willfully ignorant, and immoral. 'If we fail to reduce carbon emissions, the consequences of our inaction will only become greater, and our solutions will only become more expensive. I will do everything I can to oppose this proposal because we can no longer wait to act on climate.'" [Martin Heinrich, 8/21/18 (+)]

Heinrich To Speak At Press Conference On Rollback Of Clean Power Plan. According to Martin Heinrich, "U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, will speak at a press conference today, Tuesday, August 21 at 10:30 a.m. MT/12:30 p.m. ET with leading climate and public health advocates to outline the damage the Trump administration's plan to replace the Clean Power Plan will do to the environment, public health, and climate change progress. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a rule today that will gut the Obama administration's plan that would have cut power plant emissions of carbon pollution by 19 percent by 2030 and smog forming pollutants by more than 22 percent. In contrast, the Trump administration Dirty Power Plan proposal would cut CO2 emissions from 2005 levels only by between 0.7 percent and 1.5 percent over that time." [Martin Heinrich, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Heinrich: "I'm joining leading climate and public health advocates to outline the damage the Trump administration's plan to gut the Clean Power Plan will do to the environment, public health, and progress on confronting climate change. facebook.com/EdJMarkey/vide..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Heinrich: "Welcome to Trump's America. More asthma, gas guzzling cars, and ever worsening forest fires. politico.com/story/2018/08/..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Team Heinrich: "This is the world Donald Trump is leaving for our children — that's why we need people like Martin in the Senate who will fight for stronger environmental protections. "DirtyPowerScam" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

# Tom Udall (D-NM)

**Udall Statement On Trump Move To Gut Clean Power Plan.** According to Tom Udall, "'The Trump administration's proposal is a big win — for big polluters. The EPA's new rule guts the Clean Power Plan, the latest — and most damaging — chapter in this administration's campaign to surrender the fight against climate change. Today's announcement represents a head-in-the-sand denial of climate science and a giveaway to corporate polluters on the backs of future generations, plain and simple. 'Even the EPA admits that this proposal would result in higher levels of carbon emissions and toxic air pollutants. The long-term repercussions of this rollback threaten to reverse the progress we've made and cause irreparable damage to our environment, especially in the Southwest, which is at the front lines in the fight against climate change. New Mexicans have a front row seat to the devastating effects of climate

change: more severe droughts and lower snowpack leaving vast stretches of the Rio Grande and other rivers dried up earlier than ever, and more frequent and severe wildfires and hotter temperatures devastating our forests and other habitats. The increase in toxic air pollution associated with the rise in carbon emissions will lead to as many as 1,400 premature deaths and 48,000 new cases of asthma over the next 12 years, according to EPA's own scientific models. 'We cannot stop fighting to protect our way of life in the West. New Mexico can help lead a new, diversified clean energy economy, bringing investment and good-paying jobs in wind and solar technology to our state. As long as this administration and Republican Congress refuse to act, it's on all of us — states, lawmakers, businesses, communities — to work together and take bold action to secure a better future for generations to come.'" [Tom Udall, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Udall: ".@EPA's own scientific analysis shows the Trump dirty air plan means more carbon pollution and toxic emissions—leading to as many as 1,400 premature deaths and 48,000 new asthma cases over the next 12 years. This #CleanPowerPlan repeal is shameful. nytimes.com/2018/08/21/cli..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Udall: While #NM communities grapple with raging wildfires and increasingly severe droughts, Trump @EPA again undermines our safety & kills the #CleanPowerPlan. Climate change denial in service of big polluters will have grave consequences for future generations. politico.com/story/2018/08/..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

### **NEW YORK**

#### Senate

# **Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)**

Sen. Gillibrand: "The Trump administration just dealt yet another huge blow to environmental protections in our country, making your voice in our fight for clean air and water that much more important: abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireS..." [Twitter, 8/21/18]

#### **Chuck Schumer (D-NY)**

Sen. Schumer: "Under this proposal, the air will be dirtier and we'll be less healthy as a country because President Trump is siding with a few powerful special interests. reuters.com/article/us-usa..." [Twitter, 8/21/18]

#### House

#### Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY)

Rep. Eliot Engel: "#Trump's proposal to rollback the #cleanpowerplan is not at all surprising. Once again, the #GOP shows that it puts #pollution over people. Their latest proposal hinders progress, is hazardous to our families, and in some cases threatens life itself." [Twitter, @RepEliotEngel, 8/21/18]

August 21, 2018

Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY)

Rep. Brian Higgins "RT @nytimes: The Trump administration's own analysis revealed that the new EPA coal rules could lead to as many as 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030 https://t.co/62rcOzb2ZW" [Twitter, @RepBrianHiggins, 8/22/18]

### Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney: "1/ We're going from the Clean Power Plan to the pro-pollution power plan. It's bad for our kids, it's bad for our environment, and it's going to leave us out of the green tech revolution. 2/ China's going to pick up the torch on developing new power sources and we're going to be relying on century-old technology. Americans are innovative, not lazy. And the President should start acting like it. 3/ The President is mortgaging our kids' futures to support his coal executive buddies and American workers and our economy will pay the price." [Twitter, @RepSeanMaloney, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)

Rep. Elise Stefanik: "I oppose the Trump Administration's regulatory roll back of the Clean Power Plan that was announced today. As the proud home of the Adirondacks, the North Country knows the importance of protecting our environment for future generations. Read more: https://www.facebook.com/RepEliseStefanik/posts/1869374113128768 ..." [Twitter, @RepStefanik, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)

Tonko Condemns Trump's Proposed Rollback of Clean Energy Standards. "Congressman Paul D. Tonko resorted to science and facts in his reaction to the Trump Administration today after its release of a proposed rule weakening clean energy standards allowing for more carbon pollution that could lead to as many as 1,400 more premature deaths in the U.S. every year. 'This proposal not only ignores the clear and growing threat of climate change, it exposes countless New York families and communities to real dangers from air pollution,' said Tonko. 'In New York, we rely on science and evidence to set standards; yet we have suffered the consequences of cross-state air pollution for decades. We simply cannot afford a piecemeal approach to protecting our air, our environment and the health of our families and communities. Directing the market to put a price on carbon is the answer, not exposing children, seniors and the rest of us to greater health risks from pollution and extreme weather.'" [Office of Rep. Paul Tonko, Press release, 8/21/18]

Rep. Paul Tonko: "This proposal not only ignores the clear and growing threat of climate change, it exposes countless families and communities to real dangers from air pollution. It reflects a staggering failure to protect the American people and should be immediately withdrawn." [Twitter, @RepPaulTonko, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

Rep. Nydia Velazquez: "My statement on the Trump Administration's reckless "polluters-first" proposal to gut the Clean Power Plan." [Twitter, @NydiaVelazquez, 8/21/18]

August 21, 2018

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

House

Rep. Alma S. Adams (D-NC)

Rep. Alma S. Adams: "Replacing the Clean Power Plan with the #DirtyPowerScam could cause up to 3,600 premature deaths by 2030. How will this impact #BlackMaternalHealth? Black women have the highest infant mortality rate in the country. We must #ProtectCPP!" [Twitter, @RepAdams, 8/21/18]

Rep. David E. Price (D-NC)

Rep. David E. Price: "Repealing the Clean Power Plan is another example of the Trump admin putting the profits of polluters above the health & safety of the American people. His own @EPA estimates that his "plan" could result in up to 1,400 premature deaths per year by 2030." [Twitter, @RepDavidEPrice, 8/21/18]

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

Senate

# John Hoeven (R-ND)

Hoeven: Administration Releases Plan To Replace One-Size-Fits-All Regulations On Coal Power Plants. According to John Hoeven, "'We can achieve better environmental stewardship while still ensuring affordable and reliable electricity service around this nation,' said Hoeven. 'The power plan advanced by the previous administration far exceeded the authority granted to the EPA by Congress. Further, it would have set unattainable goals for our state, imposing tremendous costs on our businesses and our consumers as well as all of the states where we export our energy. Rather than try to force the grid in a certain direction, we should encourage investment and innovation, which will bring more efficient, commercially-viable technologies to the market, like the CCS technologies we are developing for coal power plants in North Dakota with Project Tundra and the Allam Cycle. This new proposal from the administration will allow the flexibility necessary for states to develop a plan to reduce emissions that is feasible and best meets their needs." [John Hoeven, 8/21/18 (-)]

# Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)

Heitkamp Statement On Administration's Replacement Clean Power Plan. According to Heidi Heitkamp, "'I'm encouraged by what I have seen so far of the draft rule, and I will work with North Dakotans to make sure the final rule recognizes our all-of-the-above energy policy that has been successful for our state,' Heitkamp said. 'The misguided, one-size-fits-all rule put in place by the previous administration did not take the needs of North Dakota into account and would have resulted in higher energy costs to consumers and loss of jobs as power plants would have been forced to shut down early. It is encouraging to see that the EPA has decided to focus the rule 'inside the fence-line' so that the rule is applied to reducing emissions at plants on an individual basis - and that they account for the useful life

of power plants so that co-ops and utilities in North Dakota aren't stuck with stranded assets. The federal government should not mandate what steps states should take in achieving their own emissions reduction goals, and I will continue to review the draft rule over the coming weeks and talk to co-ops, utilities, regulators, and other stakeholders in North Dakota to get a better understanding of how this draft rule will impact them. 'I will also continue my work to ensure North Dakota coal remains a viable source of energy in a carbon constrained future, which is why I led the charge to pass the FUTURE Act earlier this year. Now signed into law, the FUTURE Act is leading to innovations that could reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants and ensure North Dakota is able to continue to harness its plentiful sources of energy – including coal.'" [Heidi Heitkamp, 8/21/18 (-)]

#### House

#### Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)

Cramer Encouraged By Affordable Clean Energy Rule Proposal. "Congressman Kevin Cramer made the following comments on the Trump Administration's proposal, the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, to replace the Clean Power Plan rule. The Obama-era Clean Power Plan issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires North Dakota's existing power plants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 45 percent which would have caused 11 percent annual electricity price increases through 2031 and multiple coal-fired power plant closures. The Trump Administration says the ACE rule will result in significantly lower electricity prices than the Clean Power Plan and carbon dioxide emissions will continue to decline. The ACE rule also remains within the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Twenty-seven states and numerous stakeholders filed legal challenges against the Obama Administration rule and successfully received an unprecedented stay by the U.S. Supreme Court to halt the rule while litigation proceeded." [Office of Rep. Kevin Cramer, press release, 8/21/18]

#### OHIO

#### House

#### Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH)

Rep. Tim Ryan: "The Clean Power Plan was an important step for our nation to combat climate change. Today's decision continues a long line of misguided actions by this President that are toxic to our planet and to the American people." [Twitter, @RepTimRyan, 8/21/18]

Rep. Tim Ryan: "The Clean Power Plan was an important step for our nation to combat climate change. Today's decision continues a long line of misguided actions by this President that are toxic to our planet and to the American people. https://t.co/mmSFG4IXCv" [Twitter, @RepTimRyan, 8/21/18]

#### **OKLAHOMA**

#### Senate

August 21, 2018

# Jim Inhofe (R-OK)

Inhofe Statement On Trump Administration Rollback Of Obama Climate Rule. According to James Inhofe, "'I applaud President Trump and Acting Administrator Wheeler for delivering on their promise to repeal President Obama's illegal clean power plan. Their replacement rule respects the Clean Air Act's spirit of cooperative federalism, giving state governments flexibility to develop their own plans without dictating energy policy, imposing costs on consumers or increasing energy prices. History has shown that light touch regulation combined with technological and economic advancement produce better results for innovation and growth. 'I maintain that the best course of action remains to completely overturn the endangerment finding so that there is neither statutory nor legal need for any greenhouse gas regulations. I will continue to work with President Trump and Acting Administrator Wheeler toward this goal.'" [James Inhofe, 8/21/18 (-)]

# James Lankford (R-OK)

Sen. Lankford: (1/2) The previous administration's Clean Power Plan far overreached their authority to regulate power generation. Today, the @EPA proposed the Affordable Clean Energy rule to replace CPP." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Lankford: "(2/2) We all want to protect the environment. @EPAAWheeler is taking the right steps to propose new guidelines that do not pick winners and losers. It is right to restore the proper role of federal and state governments in regulating greenhouse gases." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

#### House

# Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)

Rep. Markwayne Mullin: "RT @westerncaucus: Today the @realDonaldTrump Administration, @EPAAWheeler and the @EPA took a bold step, reining in the unconstitutional excess of the Clean Power Plan by proposing the job-securing, emission-reducing Affordable Clean Energy Rule." [Twitter, @RepMullin, 8/22/18]

#### **OREGON**

### Senate

# Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Merkley Reacts To Trump's Pro-Pollution Plan. According to Jeff Merkley, "'Today, the Trump agenda to turn the Environmental Protection Agency into the Polluter Protection Agency is complete. This propollution plan is a threat to public health and will produce more catastrophic wildfires, more devastating droughts, and more climate chaos that will wreak havoc on lives, businesses and jobs. 'The Obama administration's Clean Power Plan would have reduced harmful carbon pollution by over 30% by 2030, as well as devastating toxins like mercury. The Trump Pro-Pollution Plan would offer incentives for coal plants to keep operating and avoid modern pollution standards, releasing more pollution, soot, and toxins into the air our children breathe. 'Today's announcement is just further proof that fossil fuel

special interests have hijacked our democracy, and We the People are paying the price.'" [Jeff Merkley, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Merkley: "If we don't take action against climate chaos NOW, US economic growth will be a third lower than what it could have been. #TodaysClimateFact money.cnn.com/2018/08/17/new..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Merkley: "Today, the Trump agenda to turn the EPA into the Polluter Protection Agency is complete. medium.com/@SenJeffMerkle..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

### Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Sen. Wyden: "Donald Trump's @EPA is willing to kill 1,400 people EVERY YEAR to prop up dirty coal plants and so more of your money ends up in the pockets of coal barons. This is Washington corruption at its worst." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### House

# Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

Rep. Earl Blumenauer: "While the West burns & the world suffers from climate change, Trump unveils a #DirtyPowerScam letting polluters off the hook & putting future generations at risk. Irresponsible & dangerous. We must fight back at the ballot box. A better Congress is our best check on Trump." [Twitter, @repblumenauer, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici: RT: "@FrankPallone: The Trump #DirtyPowerScam will not lower electric bills, create jobs or revive the coal industry, but will instead stifle innovation in clean energy, harm human health and exacerbate #ClimateChange. Read my full statement here:" [Twitter, @RepBonamici, 8/21/18]

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici: "I will do everything I can to fight back against this #DirtyPowerScam. By ignoring the warnings of their own researchers, Trump and his EPA are putting coal lobbyists and interest groups ahead of public health." [Twitter, @RepBonamici, 8/21/18]

# **PENNSYLVANIA**

#### House

### Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)

Rep. Brendan Boyle: "Today, the Trump Admin. took yet another step backward, dismantling the Clean Power Plan. Instead of ignoring climate change, we need to invest in our future – creating solar and wind infrastructure to help our economy and leave a better planet for our children." [Twitter, @CongBoyle, 8/21/18]

August 21, 2018

# Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA)

Rep. Mike Doyle: "Rolling back the Clean Power Plan undermines our nationwide effort to reduce air pollution & protect public health while creating jobs & growing the economy. @POTUS wants to allow more greenhouse gases & deadly chemicals into the air, leading to 3600 more premature deaths a year." [Twitter, @USRepMikeDoyle, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA)

Rep. Mike Kelly: "Good news for Western #PA jobs, energy, manufacturing, and household budgets—all things threatened by the Obama admin's devastating "Clean Power Plan." The new ACE rule replaces the CPP, gives power back to the states, and properly protects both our environment AND our economy!" [Twitter, @MikeKellyPA, 8/21/18]

#### RHODE ISLAND

#### Senate

#### **Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)**

Whitehouse Slams Trump Rollback Of Clean Power Plan. According to Sheldon Whitehouse, "'This proposal guts a solid and sensible plan this country put forth to fight the pollution driving climate change, and replaces it with a fossil fuel handout. The funding of the Republican Party by the fossil fuel industry has just reaped a rich reward. It shows not much has changed from Scott Pruitt's EPA. This craven obedience to polluting interests will lead to serious consequences for American communities and our economy, as well as for the planet we call home. Economists, scientists, central bankers, and real estate insurance and finance professionals are all warning of dire consequences of climate change, and we get this?'" [Sheldon Whitehouse, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Whitehouse: "Proud to see #Rhodelsland leaders speaking out against the Trump administration's abysmal proposal to replace the @EPA's #CleanPowerPlan." [Twitter, 8/22/18 (+)]

Sen. Whitehouse: "Economists, scientists, central bankers, and real estate insurance and finance professionals are all warning of dire consequences of #climatechange, and we get this? #TimeToWakeUp" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Whitehouse: "It shows not much has changed from Pruitt's @EPA. This craven obedience to polluting interests will lead to serious consequences for American communities and our economy, as well as for the planet we call home." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Whitehouse: "This proposal guts a solid and sensible plan this country put forth to fight the pollution driving #climatechange, and replaces it with a fossil fuel handout. The funding of the #RepublicanParty by the fossil fuel industry has just reaped a rich reward." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### House

# Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI)

Rep. Jim Langevin: "The President is alarmingly out of touch with the real and imminent threats posed by #climatechange. Instead of doubling down on fossil fuels, we must focus on building a sustainable future for our planet utilizing clean energy solutions." [Twitter, @JimLangevin, 8/21/18]

Rep. Jim Langevin: "The President's decision to gut the #CleanPowerPlan displays a stunning disregard for the health and safety of our communities and the dangers of #climatechange. https://langevin.house.gov/press-release/langevin-statement-trump%E2%80%99s-misguided-procoal-energy-plan ..." [Twitter, @JimLangevin, 8/22/18]

#### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

#### Senate

### John Thune (R-SD)

Sen. Thune: "Obama admin's "Clean Power Plan," which amounted to a backdoor nat'l energy tax, would have raised energy costs for consumers & entrepreneurs. I'm glad to see @POTUS take things in a more productive direction for an all-of-the-above energy strategy and respect for states' needs." [Twitter, 8/21/18]

#### Mike Rounds (R-SD)

Rounds Statement On EPA's Proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule. According to Mike Rounds, "'The previous administration's costly and burdensome Clean Power Plan was a prime example of 'government-knows-best' rule-making. Not only did it threaten job creation and economic growth, it was a recipe for sky-high electricity costs for American families and businesses. We were glad to see the rule was halted by the Supreme Court after more than two dozen states called for it to be stopped. The new proposed ACE rule respects the rights of individual states in setting energy policies that work best for them. I support the current administration's goal of providing affordable energy to South Dakota families while at the same time working to protect our environment and natural resources.' In January 2017, Rounds joined all Republican members of the EPW Committee in a letter to President Trump supporting repeal of the Clean Power Plan rule. In March 2017, President Trump issued an executive order to suspend, revise or rescind four actions related to the Clean Power Plan. The proposed ACE rule will be open for public comment for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. More information on the proposed rule and the comment period can be found here." [Mike Rounds, 8/21/18 (-)]

Rounds Meets With EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. According to Mike Rounds, "I thank Acting Administrator Wheeler for meeting with me today for a candid conversation about EPA proposals that impact our state,' said Rounds. 'I reiterated to him my support of year-round sales of E15, and we also discussed my concerns with the EPA's decision to issue Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) waivers to small refineries. In issuing these waivers, the EPA helped the small refineries. It now must act to help our small ag producers. As I told Acting Administrator Wheeler again today, corn ethanol production has created thousands of jobs for South Dakotans and has increased American energy independence—two major goals of this administration. We also discussed the EPA's new proposal to replace the previous

administration's costly Clean Power Plan, and I thanked him for taking steps to provide cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy that will strengthen our economy. I look forward to continuing to work with Acting Administrator Wheeler to promote South Dakota's energy and environmental priorities.'" [Mike Rounds, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Rounds: "Appreciated the opportunity to sit down with EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler today to talk about a number of issues, including year-round sales of E15, my concerns w/small refinery waivers & the proposed rewrite of the Clean Power Plan. rounds.senate.gov/newsroom/press..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Rounds: "We were glad to see the CPP rule was halted by the Supreme Court after more than two dozen states called for it to be stopped. The new proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule respects the rights of individual states in setting energy policies that work best for them." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Rounds: "The previous administration's costly and burdensome Clean Power Plan was a prime example of 'government-knows-best' rule-making. Not only did it threaten job creation and economic growth, it was a recipe for sky-high electricity costs for American families and businesses." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

#### House

Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD)

Rep. Kristi Noem: "The Obama-era energy regulations threatened to increase energy prices while slashing good-paying jobs from our workforce. The EPA is now moving to replace this with a plan to ensure American leadership in energy for years to come. Glad to see it." [Twitter, @RepKristiNoem, 8/22/18]

# **TEXAS**

# Senate

#### Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Sen. Cruz: "The administration's proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule is an excellent step forward to roll back Obama's job killing Clean Power Plan. --> bit.ly/2MoHPoR" [Twitter, 8/22/18]

# John Cornyn (R-TX)

Cornyn Statement On Roll Back Of Obama-Era EPA Rule. According to John Cornyn, "'I'm glad to see President Trump remains committed to eliminating job-killing Obama regulations that for years were a wet blanket on the Texas economy. By rolling back this rule, Texas and other states will now have the freedom to determine a clean energy plan that works best for them. Pro-growth policies under this Administration continue to boost the Texas economy and benefit Americans across the country.'" [John Cornyn, 8/21/18 (-)]

# House

August 21, 2018

#### Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett: "@EPAAWheeler has replaced the #CleanPowerPlan with a #DirtyPowerScam. Trump has turned the war on coal into a war on public health to protect his coal industry allies. The cost? 1,400 lives lost EVERY YEAR. #ProtectCPP" [Twitter, @RepLloydDoggett, 8/22/18]

#### **VERMONT**

Senate

#### Pat Leahy (D-VT)

Sen. Leahy: "RT @EricLiptonNYT: SCOOP: The Trump administrations new coal pollution rules will Lead to MORE DEATHS, the Environmental Protection Agency'..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Leahy: "RT @SierraClub: There's a reason polluters are so excited about @realDonaldTrump's #DirtyPowerScam: it puts their profits above the health..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Leahy: "RT @SenJeffMerkley: Today, the Trump agenda to turn the EPA into the Polluter Protection Agency is complete. medium.com/@SenJeffMerkle..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### House

# Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT)

Rep. Peter Welch: "His decision to gut the Clean Power Plan and replace it with a plan favoring polluters is yet another example of his administration siding with corporate polluters over public health and safety." [Twitter, @PeterWelch, 8/21/18]

Rep. Peter Welch: "This dangerous proposal will increase air pollution, undermine our transition to a greener economy, and set back efforts to combat climate change. I will do everything I can to block this dangerous and destructive proposal." [Twitter, @PeterWelch, 8/21/18]

# **VIRGINIA**

#### Senate

# Tim Kaine (D-VA)

Sen. Kaine: "Scott Pruitt may be gone but Trump's EPA continues to push a dangerous agenda. Today, \*their own plan\* admits it'll lead to as many as 1,400 premature deaths a year. That's scary. Coal country needs real investments to improve modern economies, not this. nyti.ms/2PqJtEc" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

# House

August 21, 2018

#### Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA)

Rep. Don Beyer: "President Trump and Acting EPA head Andrew Wheeler just teamed up with their friends in the fossil fuel industry to release a Dirty Power Plan that would open the floodgates to more carbon pollution across the country. It is dangerous for all of us." [Twitter, @RepDonBeyer, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)

Rep. Gerry Connolly: "Trump's rollback of the Clean Power Plan is a giant step backwards and will have serious public health consequences. This does nothing to Make America Great Again and hands the 21st century clean energy economy to our global competitors." [Twitter, @GerryConnolly, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Donald McEachin (D-VA)

Rep. Donald McEachin: "@RepMcEachin #VA04 on Clean Power Plan replacement, the Affordable Clean Energy rule: 'By allowing more pollutants & dangerous emissions into the air and encouraging continued use of old, dirty coal-burning power plants, the Trump Administration is taking our country backward." [Twitter, @RepMcEachin, 8/21/18]

#### WASHINGTON

# Senate

#### Maria Cantwell (D-WA)

Cantwell Statement On Trump Administration's Repeal Of The Clean Power Plan. "Today, Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) made the following statement regarding the Trump administration's decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan: 'This action by the Trump administration reinforces what we already know: they are committed to propping up coal at the expense of American families who will have to pay more for electricity as a result.'" [U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, press release, 8/22/18]

#### Patty Murray (D-WA)

Senator Murray Slams President Trump's Plan To Prop Up Coal While Moving U.S. Backward On Efforts To Combat Climate Change. According to Patty Murray, "Once again, President Trump is putting profits for his well-connected friends ahead of the health and well-being of the millions of Americans he once vowed to fight for. This news is particularly insulting for families and fire crews in Washington state, where right now the skies are filled with smoke from yet another brutal wildfire season, just one of the many effects of climate change that our communities are experiencing in real time. 'President Trump's shortsighted, reckless plan also sends a dangerous message to the rest of the world about our country's inability under President Trump to lead or even be a good partner on combatting climate change, one of the most critical issues of our time. I stand with the many people in Washington state—especially the young people who have been sounding the alarm—who refuse to be silent as the Trump

Administration continues to wipe out common sense Obama-era policies that put our country on the right path. We cannot afford to stand down.'" [Patty Murray, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Murray: "This shortsighted, reckless plan sends a dangerous message to the rest of the world about our country's inability under President Trump to lead on combatting climate change, one of the most critical issues of our time. apnews.com/13ae7fdfa76f4c..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

Sen. Murray: "With today's move from @EPA to abandon the Clean Power Plan & return to business as usual at our nation's coal plants, President Trump has once again put profits for his well-connected friends ahead of the health & well-being of millions of Americans. nytimes.com/2018/08/21/cli..."

[Twitter, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### House

#### Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA)

Rep. Suzan DelBene: "Scrapping the Clean Power Plan is a punch to the gut by this administration – not only to our environment, but to the health of future generations." [Twitter, @RepDelBene, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Denny Heck (D-WA)

Rep. Denny Heck: "Make no mistake, the Trump Administration's effort to gut the #CleanPowerPlan is an attempt to deny us the clean air and clean energy economy we all deserve. This will have real consequences for our environment and the health of future generations." [Twitter, @RepDennyHeck, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA)

Rep. Derek Kilmer: "Gutting the Clean Power Plan is not just bad for the #environment, it's bad for our economy. It will cost us up to 560k US #jobs by 2030. Rather than doubling down on the dated, dirty ways of the past, let's lock in long-term jobs by investing in our clean-energy future. #CPP" [Twitter, @RepDerekKilmer, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)

Rep. Rick Larsen: "The #CleanPowerPlan protected WA communities from negative impacts of coal production. Proposing to repeal protections shows the administration's lack of concern about impacts of climate change on human health and the environment. It's also bad for WA jobs and local economies." [Twitter, @RepRickLarsen, 8/21/18]

Rep. Rick Larsen: "Instead of further harming local communities and environment by rolling back #CleanPowerPlan, the focus should be on investing in natural gas, wind and solar. Investing in these energy sources creates thousands of jobs in WA. The administration shouldn't put these jobs at risk." [Twitter, @RepRickLarsen, 8/21/18]

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Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)

Rep. Adam Smith: "President Trump continues to push an unrelenting assault on critical protections for our environment. Most troubling of all, he is pushing us towards being more reliant on fossil fuels. It is absolutely clear that carbon-based emissions have us on a path to destroy our planet. We need to get off our dependency on carbon, not promote it. By gutting the #CleanPowerPlan, step by step the President is pushing us in the wrong direction." [Twitter, @RepAdamSmith, 8/21/18]

Rep. Adam Smith: "We are already at the point where we have waited way too long to address the impact of #climatechange and carbon-based fuels. For the President to roll back the progress we have made is disastrous and must be confronted." Twitter, @RepAdamSmith, 8/21/18]

# **WEST VIRGINIA**

Senate

# **Shelley Moore-Capito (R-WV)**

Capito Statement On Clean Power Plan Repeal. According to Shelly Moore Capito, "'The CPP was a complete overreach by the federal government. Not only was the one-size-fits-all approach disastrous for West Virginia's coal industry, but there was also absolutely no consideration for the economic effects the plan would have on an energy-rich state like ours. I'm encouraged the EPA's newly proposed Affordable Clean Energy plan allows state input and clearly signals the War on Coal is over.'" [Shelly Moore Capito, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Capito: "RT @FoxNews: 'He Has Our Back': Coal Miner Praises @realDonaldTrump for Ending Obama's War on Coal bit.ly/2nUoDke" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Capito: "

Gives WV more control 

Rolls back federal overreach 

Support jobs My full statement on @POTUS' repeal of the Clean Power Plan: bit.ly/2w4qMhu #WarOnCoalNoMore"

[Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

# Joe Manchin (D-WV)

Manchin Backs New Trump Power Plant Regulation. According to Politico, "Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) threw his weight behind the Trump administration's revised power plant regulation that gives states much greater leeway in curbing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. 'I have spoken out against the Clean Power Plan since day one, and I am pleased that we are closer to ending this failed policy that hurt West Virginia,' Manchin said in a statement released by his Senate campaign. 'I am hopeful that this new approach from the Trump Administration will help stabilize energy jobs.' Manchin is the second Senate Democrat to back the proposed rule that would gut the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, joining Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) in offering praise. President Donald Trump is expected to further discuss the new proposal during a rally tonight in Charleston, W.Va. West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, one of the harshest critics of the Clean Power Plan and Manchin's Senate opponent, praised the new proposal in a statement. 'The EPA's proposal represents a crucial step in restoring law and order,' Morrisey said. 'Our coalition will closely examine the proposal and continue to support President

Trump's administration in implementing this important change to protect West Virginia coal miners and those who depend upon their success.'" [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### House

### Rep. David B. McKinley (R-WV)

McKinley Applauds Release of Affordable Clean Energy Rule. "Chairman of the Congressional Coal Caucus, Congressman David B. McKinley, P.E., (WV-1) issued the following statement in response to the release of the Environmental Protection Agency's Affordable Clean Energy Rule. This new rule would replace the Obama Administration's harmful Clean Power Plan, which the Trump Administration repealed in last year. 'President Trump is keeping his promise to revitalize the coal industry. One of his first actions in office was to roll back the Obama Administration's regulations on power plants that were an unconstitutional, bureaucratic and ideologically-driven assault designed to kill coal,' said McKinley. 'Under President Trump's leadership, our country is taking a different path that promotes American energy dominance and innovation that allows us to use our abundant resources cleaner than ever before. Rather than overstepping its role, the government will work with the states and give them the flexibility to set standards. And the government will no longer pick winners and losers in an attempt to set America's energy policy,' McKinley added." [Office of Rep. David B. McKinley, 8/21/18]

Rep. David McKinley: "RT @SpeakerRyan: The Obama administration's signature climate rule had devastating consequences for our nation's workers and manufacturers' it was an absolute nightmare for coal country. The Affordable Clean Energy rule offers a better path to responsible energy production. https://t.co/Mw3bKvK28y" [Twitter, @RepMcKinley, 8/21/18]

**Rep. David McKinley: "@POTUS is keeping his promise to revitalize the coal industry."** [Twitter, @RepMcKinley, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV)

Rep. Alex Mooney: "Glad @POTUS @realDonaldTrump is rolling back the disastrous so-called Clean Power Plan. This Obama era rule threatened thousands of West Virginia jobs and would have increased energy prices for consumers." [Twitter, @RepAlexMooney. 8/21/18]

#### **WISCONSIN**

#### House

# Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI)

Speaker Paul Ryan: Statement on the Affordable Clean Energy Rule." House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) today issued the following statement after the Trump administration announced a new Affordable Clean Energy rule: 'Affordable energy is so critical to our everyday lives, and it's also vital to our long-term economic growth. But for years, the Obama administration waged a war on American energy with devastating consequences for workers and manufacturers. The 'Clean Power Plan' was just an absolute nightmare for coal country. Today, the Trump administration has laid out a path to responsible energy

production that is good for jobs and household budgets. This sets us up to be competitive for years to come. Congress will continue to work with the administration to connect America's energy boom to consumers and communities." [Speaker Paul Ryan, press release, 8/21/18]

Paul Ryan: "The Obama administration's signature climate rule had devastating consequences for our nation's workers and manufacturers—it was an absolute nightmare for coal country. The Affordable Clean Energy rule offers a better path to responsible energy production." [Twitter, @SpeakerRyan, 8/21/18]

# Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)

Rep. Gwen Moore: ".@EPA's #DirtyPowerScam could cause 1,400 deaths every year. Once again the president has put corporate profits ahead of our kids' safety & our planet's future. This nonsense must be stopped. We must put #PeopleOverPolluters & protect the Clean Power Plan." [Twitter, @RepGwenMoore, 8/21/18]

#### Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)

Rep. Mark Pocan: "The Trump Admin is rolling back the #CleanPowerPlan which will increase carbon emissions & lead up to 1,400 premature deaths EACH YEAR by 2030. @realDonaldTrump is set on increasing corporate profits while ignoring the health risks & irreversible effects this plan will cause." [Twitter, @repmarkpocan, 8/21/18]

#### **WYOMING**

#### Senate

# John Barrasso (R-WY)

Sen. Barrasso: "The so-called "Clean Power Plan" would have cost Wyoming's energy workers their jobs & devastated communities. The Obama-era regulation wasn't just bad policy, it was illegal. Glad the Trump admin is focused on getting this punishing rule off the books. bit.ly/2LdfTPm" [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

#### Mike Enzi (R-WY)

New Proposal To Replace Clean Power Plan Would Provide Flexibility For Coal Industry. According to Mike Enzi, "'The Clean Power Plan clearly overstepped the EPA's legal bounds and directly attacked America's coal industry,' Enzi said. 'The Obama-era rule risked increasing energy prices and destroying thousands of high-paying jobs that support our communities. In Wyoming, we know that a one-size-fits-all mandate isn't the best option, so I am glad the Trump Administration is working to provide flexibility for states, the energy industry and the entire nation by replacing the overly burdensome Clean Power Plan. I look forward to reviewing the proposed rule and discussing its impact with folks in Wyoming.'" [Mike Enzi, 8/21/18 (-)]

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Sen. Enzi: "The Trump Administration's efforts to replace the Clean Power Plan would help provide flexibility to the coal industry in Wyoming that suffered under severe restrictions. enzi.senate.gov/public/index.c..." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

Sen. Enzi: "The Clean Power Plan clearly overstepped the EPA's legal bounds and directly attacked America's coal industry. I look forward to reviewing the proposed American Clean Energy (ACE) rule and discussing its impact with folks in Wyoming." [Twitter, 8/21/18 (-)]

House

#### Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY)

Rep. Liz Cheney: "I applaud this important step by the Trump Administration to replace the damaging Obama Clean Power Plan with a rule that will return flexibility to the states and to our coal industry." [Twitter, @RepLizCheney, 8/21/18]

# **Congressional Committees**

#### **HOUSE ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS**

Energy & Commerce Dems: "Trump's #DirtyPowerScam is just another in a long line of GOP subsidies designed to keep dirty, inefficient generators operating well past their design life. This plan will exacerbate #ClimateChange. Read RM @FrankPallone's statement: [...]" [Twitter, @EnergyCommerce, 8/21/18]

#### **HOUSE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION**

House of Reps. SEEC: "While Americans across the country battle devastating wildfires, floods, and heatwaves, the Trump Administration is releasing a power plan that does almost nothing to protect them from the climate-warming impacts of carbon pollution: https://bit.ly/2wg0FDD #DirtyPowerScam" [Twitter, @SEEC, 8/21/18]

# **Organizations**

# **NATIONAL**

#### **Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments**

On August 21, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Executive Director Katie Huffling, MS, RN, CNM stated in a press release, "The proposal announced today would recklessly place the health and safety of our communities — especially communities who are disproportionately impacted by pollution — at risk. The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments strongly opposes this proposal and will continue to oppose any plan that results in weaker climate and health protections."

# **American Lung Association**

On August 21, American Lung Assciation President and CEO Harold P. Wimmer stated in a press release, "With today's proposal, President Trump and Acting EPA Administrator Wheeler abandon much-needed public health safeguards against power plant pollution, placing the health of all Americans at

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risk, and especially those who are most vulnerable, including children, older adults, and people with asthma and heart disease."

#### **American Security Project**

On August 21, American Security Project stated in a Tweet, "Here's how the #CleanPowerPlan reduced risk and built resiliency https://t.co/S1DYBil3iK"

#### **Center for American Progress**

On August 21, Center for American Progress Senior Vice President for Energy and Environment Policy Christy Goldfuss stated in a press release, "This proposal shows that Scott Pruitt's culture of corruption still runs deep through the EPA. It was designed by Pruitt in soundproofed rooms and shows that his hand-picked replacement, Andrew Wheeler, remains in the pocket of the coal industry."

# **Earthjustice**

On August 21, Earthjustice President Trip Van Noppen stated in a press release, "Instead of gutting the Clean Power Plan, EPA should strengthen it to protect communities across the nation from the increasingly urgent impacts of climate change and polluted air."

#### **Environment America**

On August 21, Environment America Senior Director of Global Warming Solutions Andrea McGimsey stated in a press release, "With the Trump administration ceding responsibility for climate change policy to the states, responsible decisions close to home are critical. We call on all governors, other state and local leaders, and businesses to step up their efforts to reduce carbon pollution and clean up our air. We need their strong leadership on the transition to clean energy more than ever."

# **Environmental Defense Fund**

On August 21, Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp stated in a press release, "As America suffers through a summer of record-breaking wildfires and heat waves, Acting Administrator Wheeler responds with this do-nothing plan leaving American families unprotected from dangerous climate pollution. This proposal would eliminate almost all the life-saving climate and health benefits that the Clean Power Plan provides. The Trump-Wheeler plan will mean millions of tons more air pollution endangering our kids' health, lives and future."

# **Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)**

On August 21, Environmental Entrepenuers Executive Director Bob Keefe stated in a press release, "Clean energy jobs now vastly outnumber fossil fuel jobs, but this administration once again wants to put its thumb on the market scale to prop up these industries and slow the growth of American jobs."

# GreenLatinos

On August 21, GreenLatinos Founding President and CEO Mark Magaña stated in a press release, "The Latinx community is hit first and worst by climate change and we suffer disproportionate public health effects with with 40% of latinos living within 30 Miles of a power plant. The stakes are too high, with Latino children being 40 percent more likely to die from asthma than non-Latino whites...GreenLatinos rejects the efforts by the Trump Administration and Acting Administrator Wheeler in disregarding the overwhelming support for increased efforts in protecting our air quality."

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#### **Health Care Without Harm**

On August 21, Health Care Without Harm Founder and President Gary Cohen and Dr. Apartna Bole, a pediatrician and Health care Without Harm board member stated in a press release, "Instead of continuing down the costly and dangerous path of repeal and replace, the EPA can protect the health of our communities and a healthy future for our children by implementing the Clean Power Plan. Doing so would prevent up to 90,000 asthma attacks in children, 1,700 hospital admissions, 300,000 missed school and work days."

#### **Hip Hop Caucus**

On August 21, Hip Hop Caucus Senior Vice President for Climate, Environmental Justice, & Community Revitalization and former EPA Senior Associate Administrator Mustafa Santiago Ali stated in a press release, "heir new "Affordable Clean Energy Plan" is neither affordable nor clean, and nothing more than a dirty and dangerous scam. The plan's bogus basis and spinning rhetoric was written by fossil fuel industry insiders and climate deniers to fatten the pockets of a few by propping up a dying industry in the short run, while ignoring the immense health benefits and economic opportunities that come with a just transition to the clean energy solutions that exist today"

# **League of Conservation Voters**

On August 20, League of Conservation Voters Vice President for Government Affairs Sara Chieffo stated in a press release, "Coming on the heels of their proposed rollback of the Clean Car Standards, this is one of the Trump administration's most blatant attacks yet on clean air safeguards that protect our health, our communities, our climate, and our future. Everyone has a right to a safe and healthy community and this huge giveaway to polluters will cost lives."

#### **Moms Clean Air Force**

On August 21, Moms Clean Air Force Co-Founder and Senior Director Dominique Browning stated in a press release, "Millions of Americans showed support for America's Clean Power Plan. Today's proposal ignores the strong public support for reducing climate pollution and instead prioritizes the profits of coal barons over our children's health. Moms are watching. We are appalled by this scam to disregard our children's health and future."

#### **National Wildlife Federation**

On August 21, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara stated in a press release, "The Clean Power Plan served as the foundation of America's commitment to the world that our nation is serious about climate action. The proposed alternative plan will, at best, slightly reduce carbon emissions but may end up actually increasing emissions, at a time when we need aggressive action."

# **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**

On August 21, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) President Rhea Suh stated in a press release, "The world's on fire and the Trump administration wants to make it worse. This Dirty Power Plan is riddled with gimmicks and giveaways. It would mean more climate-changing pollution from power plants. That's a recipe for climate disaster, and we'll fight this dangerous retreat with every tool available."

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#### **Peoples Climate Movement**

On August 20, Peoples Climate Movement stated in a Facebook Post, "The Trump Dirty Power Plan will take lives to line the pockets of the 1%. That's why we will rise for #riseforclimate, jobs, and justice on September 8th to demand a 100% clean energy economy. Take the pledge to rise with us!"

#### **Physicians for Social Responsibility**

On August 21, Physicians for Social Responsibility Executive Director Jeff Carter stated in a press release, "The Trump administration is clearly putting the interests of corporate polluters before human health, recklessly exposing millions of Americans to more pollution, especially communities of color and vulnerable communities who are disproportionately impacted by this pollution. The Clean Power Plan would save lives. By the Trump administration's own estimates, the Clean Power Plan could prevent as many as 4,500 premature deaths each year by 2030."

#### **Sierra Club**

On August 21, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune stated in a press release, "The Wheeler-Pruitt Dirty Power Plan is one of the Trump Administration's most egregious attacks on clean air, public health, and our fragile climate. The proposed rollback of life-saving clean air safeguards is an anemic rule that subjects the EPA to the very coal industry executives who used to sign Wheeler's paychecks and want to pollute with impunity. That is why the Sierra Club and communities across the country are committed to fighting this rollback and continuing our work retiring coal plants, championing clean energy, and protecting the health of our families."

#### **Union of Concerned Scientists**

On August 21, Union of Concerned Scientists President Ken Kimmell stated in a press release, "The administration is clearly intent on swinging its wrecking ball at two of the most important national policies that address climate change. Coming on the heels of the proposed rollback of EPA's clean car standards, this shows the administration plans to sit on its hands while communities reel from heatwaves, drought, wildfires and flooding, all of which are worsened by climate change."

#### **United States Climate Alliance**

On August 21, United States Climate Alliance stated in a press release, "Collectively, U.S. Climate Alliance states have reduced power sector emissions 30 percent over the last decade while our economies grew faster than the rest of the nation. But many states will continue to require federal regulation to address climate change through meaningful reductions in carbon emissions. We are resolved to continue reducing pollution from the power sector by supporting clean energy alternatives and other proven strategies."

#### STATE AND LOCAL

# **Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)**

On August 21, PennFuture Director Rob Altenburg stated in a press release, "This may be the Trump administration's most egregious attack on our environmental protections to date. In addition, the administration is proposing to repeal motor vehicle emissions standards and take away the ability of states like Pennsylvania to opt-in to higher standards. It has released this plan to weaken standards for the dirtiest power plants."

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#### **Clean Air Council**

On August 21, Clean Air Council Executive Director and Chief Counsel Joseph Otis Minott, Esq. stated in a press release, "The Trump Administration's dangerous replacement for Obama's Clean Power Plan will increase harmful air pollution and premature deaths by propping up the nation's struggling and obsolete coal fleet well beyond its expiration date. This administration is ignoring the science and legal obligations to regulate carbon pollution and must be held accountable for this flagrant disregard for human health and lives."

#### **Conservation Colorado**

On August 21, Conservation Colorado stated in a Tweet, "The Clean Power Plan is the latest victim in the Summer of Rollbacks. The rule reversal could bring 36,000 additional deaths and 630,000 cases of respiratory ailments in children. https://cnn.it/2BF1Mmu "

#### **Environment Virginia**

On August 21, Environment Virginia stated in a Tweet, "This is a devastating step backwards when we need to move forward on tackling climate change."

#### **Florida Conservation Voters**

On August 21, Florida Conservation Voters stated in a Tweet, "Floridians know that climate change is a pressing issue. Make sure @SenBillNelson and @marcorubio are on the same page. Call: 1-844-330-9833. #DirtyPowerScam #ProtectCPP LEARN MORE: http://actonclimate.com/article/cpp-rollback/"

#### **Maine Conservation Voters**

On August 21, Maine Conservation Voters stated in a Tweet, "UNACCEPTABLE: Gutting the Clean Power Plan will cost us 560,000 American jobs. #ProtectCPP #DirtyPowerScam"

### **Moms Clean Air Force New Hampshire**

On August 21, MCAF New Hampshire stated in a Tweet, "The #CleanPowerPlan has improved air quality and public health but the Trump Admin wants to replace it w/ a plan they admit will increase emissions and premature deaths in America - by up to 1,400/year. https://www."

#### **Montana Conservation Voters**

On August 21, Montana Conservation Voters stated in a Tweet, "While millions of Americans suffer from asthma and other respiratory illnesses made worse by polluted air, @EPAAWheeler and @realDonaldTrump's #DirtyPowerScam is propping up the dirty energy industry making it worse. https://nyti.ms/2nNNm9O #ProtectCPP"

#### **National Resources Council of Maine**

On August 21, National Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) Clean Energy Director Dylan Voorhees stated in a press release, "The Trump Administration's proposal to roll back air pollution limits is bad news for everyone who breathes. The proposal is particularly bad news for Mainers, since so much of the air pollution that affects Maine people comes from upwind power plants that would be let off the hook by this scheme...Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King have been vocal supporters of the Clean Power Plan, because they recognize the threat of climate change and the need for action beyond the state level."

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#### **Ohio Environmental Council**

On August 21, Ohio Environmental Council Director of Communications David Miller stated in a press release, "Today, the Trump Administration announced its reckless plan to roll back protections for our families and environment included in the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. This short-sighted directive falls incredibly short of shifting the power sector away from coal, and toward cleaner, more efficient sources of power. President Trump and his allies in the coal industry are desperately clinging to the past, while everyone else — from major corporations to the utility sector, from individual citizens to cities and local governments, to President Trump's own Department of Defense — is moving forward in the clean energy era and not looking back."

#### **Sierra Club Virginia Chapter**

On August 21, Sierra Club Virginia stated in a Tweet, "Virginians know that climate change is a pressing issue. Make sure @MarkWarnerVA is on the same page. Call: 1-844-330-9833. #DirtyPowerScam #ProtectCPP"

#### **Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter**

On August 21, Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter Chapter Director Sandy Bahr stated in a Tweet, "Sadly, @realDonaldTrump and @EPAAWheeler's #DirtyPowerScam tries to save the coal industry at the price of our health. We need you to speak up to #ProtectCPP Senator @JeffFlake https://newrepublic.com/article/150779/trumps-staggering-impact-greenhouse-gas-emissions"

# **Virginia League of Conservation Voters**

On August 21, Virginia League of Conservation Voters Executive Director Michael Town stated in a press release, "In yet another in a series of unrelenting actions putting polluters above public health, the Trump Administration is moving to reverse the biggest step forward America has ever taken on climate action. This reckless rollback is the opposite of "Making America Great Again" – it endangers the American public and will have devastating consequences to our economy, our health, and our climate."

# **Clips Summary**

# **National**

#### **AXIOS**

**Future Stakes Of Trump's CO2 Plan.** According to Axios, "The new EPA proposal isn't actually a recipe for soaring carbon emissions. But it's nonetheless dismaying in relation to where policy should have been heading by now, at least according to climate advocates. Part of the outcry centers on the potential bankshot effect on emissions of traditional pollutants like soot. But, let's stick with the climate side... By the numbers: EPA estimates that under their plan, power sector CO2 emissions will be around 33% lower in 2030 from 2005 levels, compared to an expected 35% drop under the Obama plan. While activists say it fails to guarantee even those cuts, the bigger picture is that some experts say it's a step backward at a time when the country should be aiming for much more aggressive reductions. The kind consistent with deeply decarbonizing the economy by around mid-century so the U.S. does its part to help prevent highly dangerous levels of warming. Put another way, in the pre-Trump era, climate advocates saw Obama's Clean Power Plan and vehicle rules — which are also being jettisoned — as a baseline for wider emissions policies in the future, including curbs that extend to other industrial sectors too. Now, that's gone." [Axios, 8/22/18 (+)]

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More Takeaways From EPA's Power Plant Move. According to Axios, "Nope: Bill Wehrum, EPA's top air pollution regulator, offered another strong sign that the agency isn't keen to revisit EPA's 2009 conclusion that greenhouse gases threaten human welfare — a finding that provides the legal underpinning for regulation. 'We are not proposing to rescind to the endangerment finding. We are not proposing to find that power plants do not contribute to that endangerment,' he said on a call with reporters Tuesday. Why it matters: While EPA is proposing a modest rule, the comments signal that a push by conservative groups to unwind their underlying authority to regulate probably won't get far. Instead, Wehrum and acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler cast the plan as a move to act within the limits of their Clean Air Act authority. They argue that Obama's EPA interpreted those powers far too expansively with its 2015 rules." [Axios, 8/22/18 (+)]

The Limits Of Trump's New Coal Move. According to Axios, "Between the lines: John Larsen of the Rhodium Group consultancy is skeptical that the weaker regulation will do much to hinder the what has been a downward trend in power sector greenhouse gas emissions. His group sees a huge amount of coal coming offline over the next decade — essentially no matter what. In a recent note to clients, Rhodium forecasts 71 to 124 gigawatts worth of coal plant retirements by 2030, depending on several variables like gas costs, power demand and economic growth. In an interview, Larsen said that the Obama rule was not going to be the main driver. In fact, he said that combining the Clean Power Plan rollback with steps the Trump administration has taken to pare other regulations, the effect is still limited. 'All of it might make a marginal difference for a handful of plants,' he said. The intrigue: Per The Wall Street Journal, the administration sees the plan only slowing the decline of coal in power markets. But it arrives as the White House is weighing much more aggressive moves, via other agencies, that would use sweeping emergency powers to keep economically struggling coal and nuclear plants in operation. Larsen calls that a 'wildcard' regarding whether coal's decline will be stemmed. 'If you inject billions of dollars into the coal and nuclear fleet to keep them afloat, that's a different story,' he tells Axios. The big picture: Even if Obama's initiatives survived unscathed, the U.S would still not be on pace to meet its Paris agreement targets for economy-wide emissions cuts, a recent Rhodium analysis shows." [Axios, 8/21/18 (=)]

EPA Is About To Show Its Power Cards. According to Axios, "The Environmental Protection Agency is slated to unveil a proposal this week to replace Obama-era rules to cut carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants with a much weaker substitute, according to multiple reports. The rollout could be tied to President Trump's Tuesday trip to West Virginia, a major coal-producing state. Why it matters: EPA's 2015 Clean Power Plan was a central pillar of Obama's climate agenda, and was designed to achieve a 32% cut in nationwide CO2 emissions from power plants by 2030, relative to 2005 levels. Go deeper: This Washington Post story over the weekend has details on the replacement plan. EPA's analysis 'projects that the proposal would make only slight cuts to overall emissions of pollutants — including carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides — over the next decade,' WashPost reports. Yes, but: It's not clear if the proposal will alter the trajectory of coal's decline in power markets, which has been driven largely by cheap natural gas, as well as the rise of renewables and separate regulations." [Axios, 8/20/18 (=)]

#### **BLOOMBERG**

**Editorial: Climate Fight Can't Be Slowed, Even By The EPA.** According to Bloomberg, "The best that can be said for the Environmental Protection Agency's new plan to loosen restrictions on coal-fired power

plants is that it will probably never be put into practice. States are expected to sue, rightly, because the proposal fails to comply with the Supreme Court's 2007 demand that the EPA responsibly regulate U.S. carbon emissions. The EPA itself acknowledges that its plan would not only increase carbon emissions but also lead to up to 1,400 premature deaths annually. Unfortunately, the plan's inevitable failure to launch means the federal government's longstanding policy of doing nothing to curtail emissions from the power sector will continue. The Obama administration's Clean Power Plan meant to lower those emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, by encouraging the shuttering of coal plants. But it, too, was held up in court after 27 states charged that the plan overstepped the EPA's authority on greenhouse gases. Happily, the marketplace has taken its own action against coal. With the price of natural gas, wind and solar power falling steadily, power plant owners have closed or announced plans to close 270 coal plants nationwide — more than half the total — since 2010. (This progress been encouraged by the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, which is funded by Michael R. Bloomberg.) The country is on track to lower carbon dioxide emissions 28 percent by 2030, close to the Clean Power Plan target, with no EPA power-sector rules in force." [Bloomberg, 8/21/18 (+)]

New EPA Power Plant Proposal Relies on Science EPA Wants to Shun. According to Bloomberg, "The Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to loosen power-plant regulations relies in part on scientific studies that the agency itself is trying to exclude from rulemaking. Former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in April proposed a regulation that would break with decades of federal practice by limiting the science available to regulators. He called the initiative the 'Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science.' The proposal, which is still pending, was designed to make sure that all data from studies used by the agency should be in the public domain. Such a rule could prevent the EPA from consulting many basic studies that link air pollution and premature deaths because they rely on public health data anonymized to protect people's identities. But the EPA's proposed replacement to Obama's climate-change fighting Clean Power Plan was accompanied by a 300-page analysis that may rely in part on just such studies to estimate health impacts. For example, it cites extended follow-up articles to two landmark studies, the Harvard 'Six Cities' research on air pollution and mortality and corroborating work by the American Cancer Society. Andrew Rosenberg, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists' Center for Science and Democracy, says at least three studies in data tables in the proposal might be unusable if the science rule were in effect." [Bloomberg, 8/21/18 (=)]

Coal Plan Is Likely California's Next Battleground Versus Trump. According to Bloomberg, "California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said the state may sue the Trump administration over a plan released Tuesday to weaken carbon dioxide emission limits on power plants. Becerra said the state will provide formal comments to the regulatory proposal but acknowledged that eventually, 'it likely means we're suing,' signaling another front in the state's opposition to administration policies. California has already filed 41 legal challenges to Trump administration actions. 'We're going to to continue to do what we need to do, and that could include suing the Trump administration yet again on trying to backslide on a very important protection,' Becerra said in a meeting with reporters and editors at Bloomberg News headquarters in New York City. 'We don't believe that they've followed the law and have the facts lined up to support what they're trying to do.'" [Bloomberg, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump's Power-Plant Proposal May Increase U.S. Carbon Pollution. According to Bloomberg, "Donald Trump is poised to replace former President Barack Obama's plan to slash power plant greenhouse gas emissions with a substitute that could actually increase them. The move, combined with a rollback of automobile efficiency mandates proposed earlier this month, represents a significant retreat from the fight against climate change by a president who's already vowed to pull the U.S. out of the Paris agreement. Transportation and electric generation are the biggest sources of heat-trapping gas

emissions in the U.S., accounting for 56 percent of the total in 2016, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. 'The administration is taking aim at the two most significant climate protections that our nation has put in place to address the threat of climate change,' said Tomás Carbonell, director of regulatory policy at the Environmental Defense Fund. Where Obama envisioned sweeping changes across the nation's electric grid, Trump's replacement focuses on boosting efficiency at coal-fired power plants, according to people familiar with the proposal who asked not to be identified describing an internal document. Those efficiency gains could encourage utilities to run their power plants more often, undercutting the environmental benefits." [Bloomberg, 8/18/18 (=)]

# **BOSTON GLOBE**

Trump's New Greenhouse Gas Policy Is More Of A Stalling Tactic Than A Solution. According to Boston Globe, "The mere fact that President Trump is unveiling his new environmental policy at a rally in West Virginia tells you a lot about the nature of his plans: They're coal-friendly and minimally sensitive to the reality of climate change. Gone is the push for sweeping limits on carbon emissions, which had been central to President Obama's approach. Instead, the Trump administration is emphasizing efficiency improvements at coal plants, while conceding that such a move will do little to reduce global warming. Trump is taking action on a promise to revive the coal industry, which is still big in West Virginia, and ease regulations on energy producers. But courts have ruled that the government has an obligation to regulate greenhouse gases via the 'best system of emissions reduction.'" [Boston Globe, 8/21/18 (+)]

# **BUSINESS INSIDER**

Trump's New Pollution Rules Would Cause Hundreds More People To Die Prematurely Each Year, Compared To The Obama Plan It's Designed To Replace. According to Business Insider, "President Donald Trump's administration has released its new plan to regulate carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. The Affordable Clean Energy rule would impose looser regulations than former President Barack Obama's proposed Clean Power Plan. According to an EPA analysis, Trump's new rules could cause up to 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030." [Business Insider, 8/21/18 (=)]

### **BUZZFEED**

Trump Just Gutted Pollution Rules For Coal Plants. According to BuzzFeed, "Coal plants will be able to release more pollution into the air thanks to a new policy revealed Tuesday by the Trump administration, a highly anticipated replacement to Obama's signature climate rule. Called the Affordable Clean Energy rule, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal largely defers to states on how to curb coal plant pollution, the second-largest source of climate emissions in the US. The plan covers only coal plants, not natural gas ones, and emphasizes making such plants more efficient. It also redefines EPA's authority to regulate emissions under the Clean Air Act in a narrower way and overhauls a permit process for big facilities." [BuzzFeed, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### **CBS**

**AP | Trump To Rescind Obama-Era Coal Emissions Standards.** According to CBS, "The Trump administration has proposed a major rollback in Obama-era restrictions on climate-changing emissions from coal-fired power plants. The plan announced Tuesday gives the states more discretion in choosing

how to regulate pollution from the plants. The Environmental Protection Agency says the move 'promotes energy independence.' Environmental groups say it will harm the fight against global warming." [CBS, 8/21/18 (=)]

# CNN

# Op-Ed: If Trump And GOP Don't Understand Climate Change, They Don't Deserve Public

Office. According to an op-ed by Jill Filipovic in CNN, "The Trump administration's latest efforts to undo more of Barack Obama's efforts to slow climate change come as no surprise. Nothing gets this President more excited than trying to undo his predecessor's legacy. But his proposed new EPA rules -- tagged with the laughable misnomer the 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule -- are not just vindictive, they are dangerous. The administration wants to allow coal-burning power plants to emit more deadly carbon and to give states greater leeway to allow big-money companies to pollute. The new rules would replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, which is aimed at reducing carbon emissions. The proposal reflects a longstanding and fundamentally damaging idea in right-wing politics: That climate change is a matter of opinion, not fact, and that people who have no interest in the facts still deserve to hold political office. The deluded perspective is not confined to America's Republican Party. Conservatives in Australia have also latched on to the theory that climate change is debatable, and that efforts to fight it are a liberal conspiracy against big business." [CNN, 8/21/18 (+)]

What Killed Coal? Technology And Cheaper Alternatives. According to CNN, "The Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday an effort to prop up coal by replacing Obama-era carbon emission policies known as the Clean Power Plan. But the regulatory reversal is unlikely to spark a coal comeback. Coal's true nemeses are innovation and economics. Fracking has made natural gas abundant and cheap. Breakthroughs in windmills, solar and other renewable technologies are making them affordable alternatives. 'Coal is just failing to compete with natural gas,' said Katie Bays, an energy analyst at Height Capital Markets and a former analyst at the US Energy Information Administration. The administration's efforts to cut red tape could help coal on the margins, according to analysts. However, fierce competition from cheap natural gas is still expected to force the industry to pull the plug on even more coal-fired power plants." [CNN, 8/21/18 (+)]

Why Trump's Bid To Revive Coal Is A Long Shot. According to CNN, "Trump is set to announce this week an effort to prop up coal by the replacing Obama-era carbon emission policies known as the Clean Power Plan, according to The Washington Post and The New York Times. But the regulatory reversal is unlikely to spark a coal comeback. That's because it does nothing to wipe out coal's true nemeses: competition from dirt-cheap natural gas, and increasingly affordable renewable energy. 'This is largely a symbolic move by the Trump administration trying to deliver on a campaign promise,' said Katie Bays, an energy analyst at Height Capital Markets. 'Coal is just failing to compete with natural gas,' said Bays, also a former analyst at the US Energy Information Administration. Trump won major support from the Rust Belt during the 2016 president election, boosted in part by his promises to help coal workers who were hurt by the industry's deep decline. The administration's efforts to cut red tape could help coal on the margins, according to analysts. However, fierce competition from cheap natural gas is still expected to force the industry to pull the plug on even more coal-fired power plants." [CNN, 8/21/18 (+)]

Wall Street Journal: Acting EPA Head Signs Trump Admin Proposal That Would Release More CO2 Into The Air. According to CNN, "The Environmental Protection Agency will allow states to set their own emission standards for coal-fueled power plants, the Wall Street Journal reported Monday. Critics say

the decision will result in much more carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere. The Journal reported that acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a proposal that calls for states to regulate emissions from power plants, undoing a move from President Barack Obama that made those emissions regulated by the federal government for the first time. 'The entire Obama administration plan was centered around doing away with coal,' Wheeler told the Journal in an interview. Wheeler is expected to formally announce the decision in a news call with reporters Tuesday morning. The proposal is projected to release 12 times the amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere compared with Obama's Clean Power Plan, according to The Washington Post." [CNN, 8/20/18 (=)]

#### **E&E NEWS**

Laurence Tribe Exits Lawsuit, Says He Regrets His Rhetoric. According to E&E News, "Legal heavyweight Laurence Tribe is bowing out of the litigation over the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan. The Harvard University professor today filed paperwork notifying the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit of his withdrawal. Tribe made waves in environmental law circles for his legal critiques of the Clean Power Plan, the centerpiece of the Obama administration's plan to address climate change. A former mentor to Obama at Harvard University, Tribe represented coal company Peabody Energy Corp. in the litigation attacking the 2015 rule in the D.C. Circuit. He argued on behalf of the company, one of the world's largest coal producers, that the Obama EPA had overstepped its constitutional bounds in issuing the Clean Power Plan because it gave states no choice but to participate in the program. Tribe did not respond to a request today for the reasoning behind his withdrawal from the litigation, which is on hold in the D.C. Circuit. But in recent days, he has taken to Twitter to express concern about the Trump administration's plans for the Obama climate rule." [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Greens Bombard EPA Bid To Overhaul Permitting Program. According to E&E News, "Attorneys allied with environmental groups are slamming an EPA plan to rewrite a key tenet of its New Source Review permitting program, saying the proposal would protect older coal-fired power plants from installing modern pollution controls. Moreover, they say, the Supreme Court rejected a similar approach to the Clean Air Act program more than a decade ago. 'Under cover of an extremely weak climate rule, they're trying to do very significant changes and weakenings in permit requirements that could have really adverse effects on public health,' Sean Donahue, a lawyer representing the Environmental Defense Fund in litigation over the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, said yesterday in a conference call with reporters. Richard Revesz, a New York University law professor, called the effort 'cynical' and noted that the proposed revisions are legally 'severable' from other parts of what EPA has dubbed the 'Affordable Clean Energy' (ACE) plan. 'They want to make sure that, should this New Source Review rule not survive, it won't bring down the effort to replace the Clean Power Plan,' Revesz said on the same call." [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Climate Rule Litigation: Here We Go Again? According to E&E News, "New legal battles are already brewing over EPA's plans to replace former President Obama's landmark Clean Power Plan with a drastically scaled-back effort to cut carbon emissions from the power sector. The Trump administration's proposal, dubbed the Affordable Clean Energy rule, discards the Clean Power Plan's multifaceted approach to cleaning up the power grid and instead focuses narrowly on making coal-fired power plants more efficient. Opponents argue that the ACE rule will do little, if anything, to fight climate change because it will allow otherwise declining coal plants to survive longer and power the grid more often. Critics say acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's proposal is riddled with loopholes and faulty judgment that render it both useless and unlawful. 'Today's Trump-Wheeler proposal is an

abdication of EPA's legal and moral responsibility to protect our country, our states and our communities from the worst impacts of the climate crisis,' Sierra Club attorney Joanne Spalding told reporters yesterday. 'If EPA moves forward with this rollback, we are confident that it will be struck down in court.'" [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Conservatives Warn Endangerment Finding Fight Is 'Still Alive.' According to E&E News, "Conservatives yesterday hailed the Trump administration's Clean Power Plan replacement as a return to federalism, but some warned the fight to eviscerate the endangerment finding is still a hot topic. EPA's 2009 ruling that greenhouse gases pose a threat to public health is the legal basis for climate rules under the Clean Air Act. It's what forced the agency to issue a new proposal — the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule — yesterday rather than repeal its greenhouse gas regulations altogether, and acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler has said the issue is settled law (Greenwire, Aug. 21). 'Just to be clear, this is a regulation of greenhouse gases,' EPA air chief Bill Wehrum said of ACE yesterday. 'No doubt about it.' But while the administration would have to navigate a legal labyrinth to repeal the endangerment finding, 'the issue is still alive,' Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) said yesterday. It'll have to take more time, though, because any repeal of the finding would likely result in 'a bunch of lawsuits,' Inhofe added. 'I think we'll eventually see changes there, but that hasn't happened yet,' he said. Myron Ebell, who led President Trump's EPA transition team and is now with the Competitive Enterprise Institute, took a similar line." [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Rural Utilities, Red-State Regulators Cheer Trump Rule. According to E&E News, "Rural electric cooperatives and municipal power providers could be significant beneficiaries of EPA's proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule to address greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed rule, unveiled yesterday as a replacement to the Clean Power Plan (CPP), would set guidelines for states to curb emissions through efficiency improvements at power plants (Greenwire, Aug. 21). The ACE rule also would change a legacy EPA New Source Review permitting program, giving states the option to let power companies adopt a new benchmark to decide whether a pre-construction permit is needed for a power plant upgrade or expansion (Greenwire, Aug. 21). Right now, utilities have to forecast how those changes would affect overall annual air emissions. The draft ACE rule would use a method tied to whether a project would lead to a higher hourly emissions rate. That could allow some threatened coal-fired units to operate to the end of their useful economic lives. 'Certain coal plants are economic on a fuel/[operation and maintenance] basis. But they face a reinvest-or-close decision,' Travis Kavulla, a member of the Montana Public Service Commission, said in a tweet. 'If reinvestment is unencumbered by New Source review and you have the prospect of running the plant for 10 years (as opposed to, say, 5) then today's EPA decision is non-trivial,' he wrote yesterday." [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Dems Mull Legislative Effort To Block Trump Climate Rule. According to E&E News, "Democrats today promised to fight in Congress and in the court of public opinion against the Trump administration's proposed rollback of the Clean Power Plan. Their weapon of choice may end up being one used repeatedly by Republicans to ax Obama-era regulations. 'I intend, along with others, on using the legislative tools available to us in the Senate, including the Congressional Review Act, to undo this terrible plan,' Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) said this afternoon at a news conference with fellow Senate Democrats and environmentalists. Signed into law in 1996, the CRA requires federal agencies to submit final rules to Congress for review. Lawmakers then have 60 legislative days to overturn them with a simple majority vote. The law has drawn heavy criticism from liberal groups, some of whom want to get rid of it entirely, in part because Republicans last year used the CRA to kill 14 Obama-era regulations (E&E Daily, May 12, 2017). EPA says it plans to issue its final Clean Power Plan replacement early next year, meaning Democrats could control at least the House during the 60-day review period. Still, getting

to 51 votes in the Senate would be difficult, particularly if more moderate Democrats favor the Trump administration's approach." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

**3 Coal-State Dems In Hot Seat Again Over Clean Power Plan.** According to E&E News, "The Clean Power Plan has been a political football since the Obama administration first pitched the idea of curbing carbon pollution from power plants, and President Trump's move yesterday to weaken the 2015 EPA rule promises to inject the thorny issue into midterm races. The climate issue is expected to play a role in at least three Senate contests that feature Democratic incumbents from coal-producing states. How much it tips the balance in 2018 remains to be seen, though it's no accident that Trump announced his changes to the Clean Power Plan at a rally in West Virginia with Patrick Morrisey, an ardent opponent of the EPA rule and a Republican candidate for Senate. Here are three races that could feel turbulence from the rule. [1] West Virginia ... [2] North Dakota ... [3] Indiana" [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Trump Kills Climate Plan, Then Celebrates With Coal Miners. According to E&E News, "If there was ever a place to declare that the war on coal was over, President Trump wanted it to be here. Trump delivered a stake to the heart of former President Obama's domestic climate policy yesterday. Then he came here to give the eulogy. By nixing the Clean Power Plan — and proposing his Affordable Clean Energy plan as a replacement — the president swept away the coal industry's biggest bugaboo. He even got to endorse Republican Patrick Morrisey, the Republican state attorney general who led the legal fight against Obama's climate plan, as a Senate candidate who's challenging Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin. But to many West Virginians inside and outside the Charleston Civic Center last night, Trump is only prolonging a drawn-out battle over energy and its emissions. To them, a cease-fire seems as if it might have a better chance in the long run. Yet Trump has his fans. They packed the house last night in the Mountain State's capital. They credit him with slowing coal's terminal decline. They shouted his name, waved his placards, and wore and purchased his paraphernalia. 'We are putting our great coal miners back to work,' Trump said to thunderous applause and cheers. 'Great people, great people. Brave people — I don't know how you do that.'" [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

This Section Buried In EPA's Rule May Be The Most Important. According to E&E News, "When Joe Craft, the coal mining executive whose wife serves as President Trump's ambassador to Canada, was asked by financial analysts earlier this year what the White House could do to help the fortunes of the coal industry, he offered two ideas. One: Subsidize struggling coal units in the name of grid resilience. And two: Revise EPA's New Source Review (NSR) program, which Craft said ties 'into the need to really focus on the long term and our ability to build new coal-fired power plants.' 'So No. 1, let's protect the fleet,' the Alliance Resource Partners LP CEO continued. 'No. 2, let's look to see if we can't replace our old — older, inefficient plants with newer, efficient plants so that we can have the lower-cost energy that would still be environmentally acceptable.' The Department of Energy's initial subsidy plan was rejected by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. DOE has since revised its strategy and is now looking to aid coal and nuclear plants deemed critical to national security. And yesterday, Trump moved even closer to meeting Craft's request. Buried in the president's plan to water down the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan is an overhaul of how NSR is applied to existing power plants." [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Can States Ignore The New Climate Rule? According to E&E News, "The Trump administration's proposal to limit greenhouse gases from power plants could allow states to offer little or no carbon emissions reductions, some experts warn. EPA's planned replacement for the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan would allow states to determine the degree they intend to regulate greenhouse gases directly from power plants through efficiency-based improvements, rather than setting a national

emissions target. The proposal, which became public yesterday, does not offer any minimum requirement that states have to follow as they consider how they intend to regulate carbon emissions. That lack of specificity, along with a number of exemptions for compliance written into the proposal, means states could propose plans that do little to address carbon emissions. Caitlin McCoy, a climate, clean air and energy fellow at Harvard Law School's Environmental & Energy Law Program, said it was 'definitely possible' states could propose plans that did little to limit carbon emissions. 'The reason why I think so, looking at the proposal, there is a lot of flexibility in there for states to make determinations around the remaining life of the plant they are attempting to regulate,' McCoy said." [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

Future President Could Re-Enter Paris Pact Without Carbon Rule. According to E&E News, "Yesterday's move by the Trump administration to scrap President Obama's premier climate rule wouldn't make it harder for a future administration to rejoin the Paris Agreement. 'It is not a barrier to re-entry,' said Todd Stern, the Obama-era official who led the negotiations for the United States in Paris 3 ½ years ago. The Clean Power Plan was a cornerstone of Obama's pledge to the world when his administration joined the Paris Agreement. The plan, which is being replaced under President Trump, sought to cut emissions in the U.S. power sector 32 percent by 2030. It seems that a future administration would not be hampered by its revocation. That's due to a feature that Stern and his team spent years helping to build into the Paris deal. A nation's commitment is a political promise, not a legal contract. There are some legal obligations for members of the Paris deal, like a requirement to issue new commitments, known as nationally determined contributions, along a regular schedule. Even failure to comply with that might not be a dealbreaker in this case, said Stern, who believes other nations might lend some flexibility to the United States if an incoming president were to miss the NDC deadline in 2020. 'If, on Nov. 3, 2020, the Democrats win, I would imagine that the countries of the world would be quite happy to cut the U.S. some slack and let them put in a target in 2021,' he said." [E&E News, 8/22/18 (=)]

EPA Tucks Major Permitting Change Into Climate Proposal. According to E&E News, "The proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule would give states the option of letting power companies adopt a new yardstick for deciding whether a power plant upgrade or expansion requires a pre-construction permit under the Clean Air Act's New Source Review program. Currently, companies must forecast the potential impact on overall annual air emissions. The draft rule would substitute an approach tied to whether the project would lead to a higher hourly emissions rate. If the distinction seems arcane, both backers and foes of the proposed change view the potential consequences as far-reaching. The status quo may discourage utilities 'from investing in beneficial efficiency improvements,' EPA said in a summary today of the proposed change. That's because such improvements let a power plant produce electricity more effectively — leading to heavier use and higher annual emissions that could trigger the need for a New Source Review permit, the summary indicated. But to environmental and public health groups, who say that New Source Review is crucial to ensuring that upgraded plants have up-to-date pollution controls, the upshot would be dirtier air." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

Rule Won't Stop Mining Decline — EPA. According to E&E News, "President Trump will rally tonight for, as he wrote on Twitter, 'CLEAN COAL!!!!' but his administration's climate rule rewrite would do little to stop the steady decline of coal production. The Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) proposal would deliver a softer blow than the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. But according to EPA, the new rule would not stop a significant drop in the amount of coal mined for electricity generation — the use of more than 90 percent of all U.S. production. The agency's regulatory impact analysis predicts that even without any new restrictions on carbon emissions, coal production will still slip 33 percent by 2025, 34 percent by 2030 and 41 percent by 2035. Those percentages are nearly identical in all three differing requirements

for proposed heat rate improvement (HRI) measures examined by EPA in the draft rule. But under all three HRI scenarios, coal production is at least 7.4 percent higher than it would have been under the Obama standard." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump Kicks Off Next Big Climate Battle. According to E&E News, "The Trump administration took a decisive step today to eviscerate President Obama's signature climate change rule by releasing an industry-friendly proposal to control power plants' greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed Affordable Clean Energy, or ACE, rule would set guidelines for states to curb emissions by focusing strictly on efficiency improvements. The new rule — if finalized — would be a significant departure from the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which took a systemwide approach to cutting greenhouse gases. Today's proposal marks a major victory for critics of the Obama administration's approach, who waged an epic legal battle that kept the Clean Power Plan from taking effect. It also sets the stage for another protracted fight over a rule that President Trump's critics argue won't bolster U.S. efforts to combat climate change and will lead to more deaths and other public health problems. EPA's acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler today touted the proposal as a 're-balancing' of power between the states and the federal government." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump EPA Offers Weakened CO2 Rule Replacement. According to E&E News, "The Trump administration released a plan today to regulate carbon dioxide emissions at power plants, undercutting a much broader effort by former President Obama to slash planet-warming gases. The EPA proposal would give states wide latitude for determining how to cut greenhouse gases from the power sector, a key contributor in the U.S. to climate change. The proposed rule is far narrower than the Obama plan, which sought to cut emissions across the power sector rather than only at individual plants. On the campaign trail in 2016, President Trump promised to repeal Obama's rule, called the Clean Power Plan. His administration stopped short of that today and is instead offering a weakened alternative to avoid a potentially damaging defeat in court. The move could satisfy a number of electric utilities that urged the administration to establish relaxed climate regulations rather than jettison them altogether." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump Stops Short Of Killing Climate Rule. Here's His Pitch. According to E&E News, "'Did you see what I did to that? Boom, gone.' That's what President Trump said about former President Obama's Clean Power Plan last September at a rally in Huntsville, Ala. Almost a year later, that rule still isn't officially dead — the proposal to repeal it hasn't been finalized. And the administration is expected to roll out its own version today, putting Trump in position to become the first president to enact greenhouse gas limits for power plants after Obama's rule was stalled in court. Trump is likely to tout his approach tonight at a rally in Charleston, W.Va. So how will a president who has called climate change a hoax brag to his base about likely becoming the first commander in chief to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants? His likely pitch: It's better than Obama's rule. Trump's staff will provide him with 'smart language that will say, 'Look, the new rule vitiates the old rule,' said a former administration official. He'll 'talk about unleashing our potential and what this new rule means for our energy sector.' Draft administration talking points call the Clean Power Plan a 'punitive climate plan' and an 'overreach of EPA's authority.' The talking points say Trump's move to repeal Obama's rule signals that 'the war on coal is over, and a new era of energy dominance is underway.'" [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

'Affordable Clean Energy' Plan Won't Save Coal — Analysts. According to E&E News, "President Trump's diluted Clean Power Plan is unlikely to save the coal industry, but it represents a setback for U.S. efforts to address climate change, analysts say. In removing a government cap on power plant emissions, Trump leaves American climate policy to the whims of the power market, one of the few

areas of the economy to post steep emissions reductions in recent years. The combination of cheap natural gas, stagnating power demand and advancements in wind and solar has prompted a wave of coal plant closures and slashed power-sector emissions. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that U.S. power-sector emissions decreased 24 percent between 2005 and 2016. The question is whether that will continue in the absence of a government-mandated cap on power plant emissions. 'The world has shifted dramatically in the last few years to the point where we are going to get pretty close to the targets in the Clean Power Plan even without it, so the effect of weakening it is much smaller,' said Jason Bordoff, director of Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump EPA Poised To Give States Authority Over CO2. According to E&E News, "EPA is set to replace its signature climate rule with a proposal that gives states broad authority in determining how to cut carbon emissions from power plants. Multiple sources who said they've reviewed outlines of the agency's proposed rule to replace the Clean Power Plan said EPA would require states to submit plans for regulating the plants three years after the rule is finalized. That's expected to occur next year. EPA would then have one year to determine whether those state blueprints are adequate. The agency would seek to cut carbon dioxide emissions primarily by improving coal plant efficiency, those sources said. This approach, often referred to as 'inside the fence line,' has been favored by opponents of the Clean Power Plan. Generators would have a number of options for addressing efficiency. The plan would also allow states to make many of those upgrades without triggering New Source Review, a round of permitting that requires power plants to add pollution control technology when renovations to existing facilities could result in a significant uptick of emissions. Initial details of the proposal's focus on state control were first reported by Politico last week. The Washington Post reported over the weekend that reductions in greenhouse gas emissions would be significantly weakened under the new plan by EPA. Other harmful pollutants, like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, would also be released at higher rates compared with the Clean Power Plan." [E&E News, 8/20/18 (=)]

Dems Prepare Game Plan Ahead Of Trump EPA's Revamp. According to E&E News, "EPA is set to roll out its Clean Power Plan replacement this morning, and Senate Democrats have been plotting their opposition. EPA's proposal would give states three years to devise plans to reduce carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, primarily through efficiency improvements, according to internal documents (Greenwire, Aug. 20). Democrats, though, deem the proposal a handout to fossil fuel interests, particularly the coal industry. ... 'Looks like it got drafted by the fossil fuel industry,' said Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.). The proposal appears to avoid altering the endangerment finding — EPA's 2009 determination that greenhouse gases pose a threat to human health — thus steering clear of at least one potential point of controversy. But Democrats say it would vastly reduce the emissions cuts expected under the CPP and effectively allow states to opt out of regulating emissions. 'This is a huge step backwards in our efforts to address the huge colossus of climate change, which is a clear and present danger,' said Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.). 'So this is just another example of Republicans and President Trump putting their heads deeply in the sand.' A group of Senate Democrats will hold a press conference with League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski early this afternoon to issue a rebuttal of EPA's proposal." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

**Trump Draft Creates 'Huge Loophole'** — **Gina McCarthy.** According to E&E News, "She said the law requires EPA to set federal targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The Trump administration's approach would 'give the states the option to do just a little or absolutely nothing to reduce carbon pollution,' she said. 'They are continuing to play to their base, and they are following industry's playbook step by step,' she said. The Trump administration's proposal will almost certainly wind up in the courts,

where a key issue will likely be the proper interpretation of the Clean Air Act phrase 'best system of emission reduction.' Opponents of the Clean Power Plan had argued that the Obama administration's approach was outside of its authority under the law. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard arguments over the Clean Power Plan in September 2016, including on whether the 'best system of emission reduction' encompasses efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions outside the fence line, but never reached any legal conclusions. The court instead halted the litigation to give the Trump administration time to review the rule. 'It's going to be interesting to see how patient the D.C. Circuit is with EPA on these issues,' McCarthy said. 'They clearly have wanted the agency to act more quickly to follow the law and the process and to meet its legal responsibilities. I think this proposal falls short, from what I understand.'" [E&E News, 8/20/18 (=)]

**Utilities Are Decarbonizing. Will Trump Rule Change That?** According to E&E News, "When the Trump administration formally makes public its replacement for the Clean Power Plan today, it will be unclear what effect, if any, the plan will have on the trend away from coal-fired power plants. The lure of cheaper and cleaner power sources such as natural gas and renewables set electric utilities on a serendipitous path several years ago to slash carbon dioxide emissions while also responding to demands from institutional investors, shareholders and customers. Utilities such as American Electric Power Co., Southern Co., DTE Energy Co., Consumers Energy and Duke Energy Corp. have announced plans to decarbonize and in some cases be coal-free by 2040. The CPP replacement — which the Trump administration is calling the Affordable Clean Energy, or ACE, rule — gives states three years to come up with plans to reduce CO2 pollution from coal-fired power plants, primarily through efficiency improvements. It will have no effect in slowing efforts by groups such as the Sierra Club with its Beyond Coal campaign in pushing to close coal plants one at a time, said Liz Perera, the Sierra Club's climate policy director." [E&E News, 8/21/18 (=)]

**Document Details Trump's Plan To Scale Back Obama Rule.** According to E&E News, "The Trump administration plans to return to states the responsibility to curb greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. The administration's draft plan — expected to be unveiled tomorrow — would replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. It would give states three years from the date the rule is finalized to come up with their own plans to cut emissions, according to talking points on the proposal obtained by E&E News. President Trump is slated to speak tomorrow night at a rally in Charleston, W.Va., according to White House spokeswoman Caroline Sunshine. He's expected to tout his plans to overhaul the rule at that event. Trump's proposal would delay for years the certainty that operators of coal-fired plants had sought and began acting on during the last year of the Obama administration. Expected litigation could further throw into doubt the willingness of plant owners to postpone already announced plans to shutter coal plants that are struggling to compete in many parts of the United States by less expensive natural gas and renewable generation. Notably, the proposed replacement for the CPP doesn't appear to take a stance on the endangerment finding, whereby in 2009, EPA determined that greenhouse gas emissions endanger public health." [E&E News, 8/20/18 (=)]

#### **EARTHER**

This Is What Happens When Bad Policies Meet. According to Earther, "Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule that would, by its own admission, result in more Americans getting sick and dying. And the whole reason we know that is because of landmark public health studies the Trump administration is trying to limit access to. Buried deep down on page 172, Table 4-8 in the regulatory impact analysis, an EPA shows how the so-called Affordable Clean Energy rule could lead to

1,400 more premature deaths annually by 2030 than the Obama-era Clean Power Plan it would replace. Dig into some of the other tables, and you'll see similarly uncomfortable numbers about a plan ostensibly designed to curtail coal-fired power plant pollution. There could be up to 96,000 more cases of asthma, 140,000 more missed days of school, and another 48,000 missed work days under just one of the scenarios analyzed." [Earther, 8/21/18 (+)]

# **HUFFINGTON POST**

# EPA Proposal To Gut Obama-Era Coal Plant Rule Could Cause 1,400 Premature Deaths Per

**Year.** According to HuffPost, "The Trump administration proposed its plan Tuesday to gut a controversial Obama-era rule to cut carbon pollution from power plants, dealing a death blow to an ambitious regulation designed to be the backbone of the United States' strategy to stave off climate catastrophe. The new regulation, which Acting Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed Monday, is called the Affordable Clean Energy rule. It gives states leeway to set their own, drastically lower greenhouse gas emissions targets and restrict what states can do to force coal plants to improve efficiency. The rule marks one of the most significant rollbacks yet to Barack Obama's climate legacy, and — despite the Trump administration's oft-repeated calls for 'regulatory certainty' — is expected to ignite a yearslong legal battle." [HuffPost, 8/21/18 (+)]

# **INSIDE EPA**

EPA Details ACE Rule's Emissions, Cost Increases, Bolstering Critics. According to Inside EPA, "Critics of EPA's newly proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule to cut power sector greenhouse gases, offered as a narrower replacement to the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP), are citing the agency's own analyses showing increased emissions and costs to highlight what they say are deep flaws that will make the rule vulnerable in court. Specifically, environmentalist and other opponents of the Trump EPA measure cite agency analysis that the plan could cause as many as 1,400 additional premature deaths annually beginning in 2030 compared to the CPP, that it would vastly reduce overall benefits compared to the CPP, that it could boost both GHGs and criteria pollutants, and that it will have only a marginal impact, at best, on lowering electricity prices. These observers are especially critical of the proposal's provision to offer relief from the Clean Air Act's new source review (NSR) permitting requirements to install modern pollution controls if coal plants boost efficiency to lower GHGs, and suggest that even EPA knows how legally vulnerable that portion is, since the agency says that measure is severable from the rest of the rule." [Inside EPA, 8/21/18 (=)]

EPA's 'Affordable Clean Energy' Rule Gives States Broad Discretion On GHGs. According to Inside EPA, "The Trump EPA's long-awaited proposal to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP), the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, does not set an overall greenhouse gas reduction limit or emissions rate for power plants, instead granting broad discretion to states to set GHG limits at individual plants based on an assessment of what can be achieved at each facility. The Aug. 21 proposed rule also includes relief from new source review (NSR) requirements to install modern pollution controls at an existing facility that undertakes projects to boost efficiency and lower GHGs, suggesting that older plants could stay online longer. The rule text also indicates the NSR exemption could apply to the 'reactivation of a very clean coal-fired [electric generating unit (EGU)],' which suggests that recently retired coal plants could come back online. Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and air chief William Wehrum outlined the proposal for reporters on an Aug. 21 call, where Wheeler called the CPP replacement 'a better plan' than the CPP it seeks to replace, one that 'respects the rule of law' and 'operates in the four

corners of the Clean Air Act.' 'The era of top-down federal mandates is over,' he said. 'The ACE rule will continue emission cuts into the future, legally, and with proper respect for the states.'" [Inside EPA, 8/21/18 (=)]

Leaked Talking Points On CPP Replacement Stress GHG Cuts, NSR Relief. According to Inside EPA, "A leaked copy of White House talking points to support EPA's proposal to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP) shows that the administration intends to stress that greenhouse gases will continue to fall under the new rule and that the agency is giving permitting relief to plants that make efficiency upgrades to cut GHGs. But the rule's exemptions from strict new source review (NSR) permitting requirements to install state-of-the-art conventional pollution controls could ultimately lead to increases in conventional air pollutants, critics charge. This issue, as well as the small GHG reductions that would stem from the rule, is the subject of early legal critiques from opponents of the Trump EPA's rollback, which is slated for release Aug. 21. A leaked copy of the draft talking points obtained by Inside EPA notes that the plan's regulatory impact analysis includes three replacement scenarios and one repeal-only scenario, with all four finding power sector carbon dioxide would continue to be reduced from current levels. Replacing the CPP could provide \$400 million in net benefits and cost \$500 million less than the CPP, the document says." [Inside EPA, 8/20/18 (=)]

Critics See Legal Vulnerabilities In EPA's Looming CPP Replacement Plan. According to Inside EPA, "EPA's upcoming proposal to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP) is expected to be riddled with legal vulnerabilities, critics say, including that it may be viewed as 'arbitrary and capricious' because officials likely will not be able to demonstrate actual emissions cuts, and the rule could increase greenhouse gases and conventional pollutants. President Donald Trump is expected to announce the plan Aug. 21 during a planned visit to coal-heavy West Virginia. The long-awaited proposal, issued under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, is expected to drive between a 0.7-1.5 percent cut in GHGs from 2005 levels by 2030. However, leaked White House talking points note the sector's ongoing emissions reduction trajectory will lead to overall GHG cuts of about 34 percent, which is slightly more than the 32 percent cut the CPP was expected to achieve. One environmentalist says the 'central feature of the rule' is that it will be 'mind-blowingly unambitious and weak, almost comically so. . . . This looks like a donothing rule that is, at best to put it charitably, for companies to say they are doing something, a fig leaf.' The proposal also will 'infect [development of] more technology and legal disputes' when the focus should be on accelerating GHG cuts, the source says." [Inside EPA, 8/20/18 (=)]

# **LOS ANGELES TIMES**

Editorial: Not Surprisingly, Trump's New Affordable Clean Energy Plan Is Anything But. According to Los Angeles Times, "President Trump needs a new slogan for those red hats the White House sells, one that more closely reflects the true impact of his policies. Here's a suggestion: MASA, for Make Air Sooty Again. That's what will happen if the president gets his way and manages to increase the amount of coal that U.S. power plants burn to make electricity. The administration's announcement Tuesday that it intends to replace President Obama's Clean Power Plan with a new Affordable Clean Energy rule — quite the Orwellian appellation, given that coal is the dirtiest of energy sources — is another step down the road to air more laden with carbon, particulates and smog-breeding pollutants after decades of progress. The only silver lining in this particularly sooty cloud is that burning coal also is among the more expensive ways of generating power, and market forces independently are leading power companies to phase out existing coal-fired plants or drop plans for new ones in favor of sources powered by natural gas or renewables such as wind and solar." [Los Angeles Times, 8/21/18 (+)]

August 21, 2018

Trump Administration's Rewrite Of Clean Power Plan Will Be A Boon To The Coal Industry. According to Los Angeles Times, "The Trump administration is poised Tuesday to unveil a sweeping rewrite of emissions rules for power plants that would be a boon to the coal industry, laying the groundwork for a revival of the most polluting facilities and abandoning Obama-era mandates for reorienting the electricity sector toward clean energy. The draft replacement for the federal Clean Power Plan, according to several people who have been briefed on it, reflects a dramatic about-face on national climate action. It is President Trump's second major move in less than a month reflecting a retreat in the fight against global warming, following the administration's plan to freeze fuel-economy standards for cars and trucks. The new power plan would relieve the electricity industry — the second-largest producer of potent greenhouse gases nationwide — from aggressive goals for reducing its carbon footprint. Heavily polluting coal plants that would have been forced into retirement under the Obamaera guidelines get a new lease on life under the Trump blueprint, which allows them to continue operating with modest modification." [Los Angeles Times, 8/20/18 (=)]

# **NATURE**

Trump Unveils Plan To Weaken Greenhouse-Gas Limits On Power Plants. According to Nature, "The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has revealed its long-promised plan to relax federal limits on greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants. The proposal, announced on 21 August, takes direct aim at former president Barack Obama's flagship climate regulation, the Clean Power Plan. But the new EPA plan faces stiff opposition from scientists, environmentalists and many progressive states. The EPA proposal would give states leeway to set their own emissions-reduction goals. It emphasizes the use of energy-efficiency technologies that can be applied at the scale of individual power plants. By contrast, the Obama rules, released in 2015, sought to reduce CO2 emissions from the power sector to 32% below 2005 levels by 2030. The plan would have required states and utility companies to collectively reduce emissions by promoting energy efficiency, renewables and other low-carbon energy technologies." [Nature, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### **NBC**

**Trump Administration To Replace Obama's Clean Power Plan With Weaker Greenhouse Gas Rules For Power Plants.** According to CNBC, "The Trump administration is expected to announce its plan to replace an Obama-era rule to regulate planet-warming emissions from power plants. The new plan will reportedly hand authority to states to create narrower rules to limit greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired plants. The Trump EPA's plan is projected to result in the release of far more of the gases than the Obama rule would have allowed." [CNBC, 8/20/18 (=)]

Environmentalists Decry Trump 'Dirty Power' Plan: 'A Recipe For Climate Disaster.' According to NBC, "'The world's on fire and the Trump administration wants to make it worse. This Dirty Power Plan is riddled with gimmicks and giveaways,' Rhea Suh, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, said in a statement. 'It would mean more climate-changing pollution from power plants,' Suh added. 'That's a recipe for climate disaster, and we'll fight this dangerous retreat with every tool available.' California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrats, said Trump had issued a 'declaration of war against America and all of humanity.' ... 'We expect the EPA to give the states lots of time to come up with their plans,' said Liz Perera, the Sierra Club's climate policy director. 'So it will be delay on top of a throwaway donothing policy that doesn't set specific limits on the companies.' Conrad Schneider, advocacy director

for the Clean Air Task Force, agreed that the changes that will be allowed under Trump's new rules will amount to 'essentially replacing worn out equipment, which will allow these plants to run longer and harder and to create more pollution.' ... 'The Clean Power Plan looked at displacing coal with renewables and natural gas and to issues outside the actual power sources,' said Michelle Bloodworth, president of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, an industry group. 'We feel like the EPA proposal now is based on a correct reading of the Clean Air Act.'" [NBC, 8/21/18 (=)]

# **NEWSWEEK**

Donald Trump Says Windmills Are Bird Killers As He Tries To Revive Coal Industry. According to Newsweek, "President Donald Trump criticized windmills as a source of energy at a New York fundraiser last week, saying they 'kill so many birds,' amid escalating efforts by the Trump administration to revive the fading coal industry. On Monday, Trump boasted that coal was an 'indestructible' form of energy and ridiculed windmills at a private fundraising event in Utica. 'Coal is indestructible. You can blow up a pipeline, you can blow up the windmills. 'They kill so many birds. You look underneath some of those windmills, it's like a killing field. I said, 'What happens when the wind doesn't blow?' 'Well, then we have a problem.' Trump's remarks came amid new plans to replace Obama-era climate policies with new regulations devised to ensure coal-burning plants run harder and operate for longer, leading to more harmful emissions." [Newsweek, 8/20/18 (+)]

# **NPR**

Trump Moves To Let States Regulate Coal Plant Emissions. According to NPR, "The Trump administration has moved to formally replace the Clean Power Plan, an environmental regulation that former President Barack Obama once lauded as the single-most important step America has ever taken to fight climate change. The long-anticipated proposal, called the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, would give individual states more authority to make their own plans for regulating greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. That's a marked difference from Obama's plan, which aimed to curb climate change by moving the power sector away from coal and towards renewable energy sources, cutting carbon emissions from the nation's power plants by about one-third by 2030. 'Were ending the intrusive EPA regulations that kill jobs,' Trump said in a White House statement. He also said that Obama's regulation would have raised the price of energy." [NPR, 8/21/18 (=)]

# **POLITICO**

Mail Call! ACE In The Hole Edition. According to Politico, "Energy and environmental agencies across 14 states — which combined 'comprise over 43 percent of the U.S. economy' — signed onto a letter Tuesday to Wheeler opposing the Clean Power Plan replacement proposal. Signatures on the letter include California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols; Catherine McCabe, who served as acting EPA administrator before Pruitt was confirmed; and Shawn Garvin, Region 3 administrator under former President Barack Obama." [Politico, 8/22/18 (=)]

On The Other Side. According to Politico, "Unsurprisingly, Democrats overwhelmingly panned the proposal, with a host of Democratic senators laying out their distaste during a press conference Tuesday. Senators said they'd begin weighing their options, including the potential use of the Congressional Review Act, while Democratic attorneys general said they stand ready to bring the proposal to court if adopted." [Politico, 8/22/18 (=)]

August 21, 2018

What Trump Said. According to Politico, "President Donald Trump skipped the nuanced policy issues at a rally before supporters in West Virginia Tuesday night — just hours after his administration unveiled a plan to rewrite the Obama's administration's most sweeping climate regulation. Instead, the president touted his love for 'clean, beautiful, West Virginia coal,' calling it 'indestructible stuff' — an applause line he echoed last week, even if it's not entirely true. (Coal can, of course, be burned.) 'In times of war, in times of conflict, you can blow up those windmills, they fall down real quick,' Trump said Tuesday from Charleston, W.Va. 'You can blow up those pipelines. They go like this and you're not going to fix them too fast. You can do a lot of things to those solar panels, but you know what you can't hurt? Coal. You can do whatever you want to coal.' Trump's coal remarks followed EPA's long-awaited rollout of its proposed carbon rule for coal plants that ratchets back the scope and emissions reductions of the Obama administration's original rule. 'We announced our new Affordable Clean Energy proposal that will help our coal-fired power plants and save consumers — you, me, everybody — billions and billions of dollars,' Trump said. The coal industry and conservatives had long complained the Obama EPA had overstepped its authority with the 2015 regulation, and the new rule would instead give states far more leeway to meet more modest climate goals." [Politico, 8/22/18 (=)]

One Thing To Watch. According to Politico, "The new ACE rule makes changes to a fundamental EPA permitting program known as the New Source Review that is designed to protect improvements in local air quality — a win for Republicans and industry groups who have criticized the program. Under NSR, power plants owners cannot build a new facility or renovate an existing one until they calculate whether the change will lead to an increase in annual emissions — a process that takes time and money, as Pro's Alex Guillén reports. EPA has instead proposed two alternative tests that measure emissions increases on an hourly basis under which plants can more easily show efficiency gains as opposed to annualized accounting. That change would mean that 'fewer sources will trigger major NSR [requirements] under an hourly emissions increase,' EPA says in its proposal. 'The NSR connection is huge,' Miles Keogh, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, said in an email. 'It makes it hard for state utility commissions to deny pollution-increasing investments because they generally approve spending money (and earning a return) on federal requirements like environmental rules.'" [Politico, 8/22/18 (=)]

Costs Could Outweigh Benefits Of Replacement Climate Rule, EPA Projects. According to Politico, "Increased costs from pollution-related problems such as lung and heart disease would outweigh any economic benefits from easing rules on coal-fired power plants, according to the Trump administration's analysis of today's proposal. EPA's Regulatory Impact Analysis considers costs and benefits of the proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule under three different compliance scenarios based on efficiency gains and costs. The rule would replace the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which sought to replace coal-fired generation with cleaner sources. When accounting for 'ancillary health co-benefits' that the CPP would have produced via concurrent reductions in soot and ozone pollution, the ACE replacement does not produce benefits under any scenario the agency modeled. Instead the projected net costs could range as low as \$12.8 billion to as high as \$72 billion through 2037. The agency also estimates an additional 1,400 premature deaths per year could result from the rule, a figure first reported by the New York Times. In a separate analysis that did not include those co-benefits, the Trump administration found its proposal still may be more costly. EPA limited the climate benefits to domestic impacts only, a move critics say cuts off much of the global gains of carbon pollution reduction. Two of the three scenarios show more costs than benefits through 2037, potentially as high as \$5.4 billion compared to a scenario in which the Clean Power Plan was implemented. One 'middle ground' scenario projects net economic benefits of more than \$3 billion." [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

August 21, 2018

Trump Rule Questions EPA's Power To Combat Climate Change. According to Politico, "The proposal from the EPA goes to the core of the criticisms that the coal industry and conservatives lodged against Obama's 2015 regulation, which used a novel reading of the Clean Air Act to require states to cut greenhouse gas pollution from the power sector. The replacement from President Donald Trump's EPA would give states far more leeway to meet more modest climate goals — or even to opt of the program entirely. But the new rule's biggest impact could come from the inevitable lawsuits that environmental groups and Democratic-leaning states will file against Trump's proposal. If they lose, the result could be a court decision enshrining the Trump administration's hobbled approach to climate regulation as the only reasonable approach under the law — slamming the door shut on any later attempts to recreate Obama's handiwork. At the very least, experts say, the proposal from Trump's regulators would mean years of delay in curbing one of the world's most dire problems — the greenhouse gas pollution that causes climate change. 'They're trying to put in place approaches that would undermine in the long term EPA's ability to do what many of us think is its responsibility under environmental laws to protect the public health,' said Janet McCabe, the EPA air chief under Obama who oversaw the 2015 rule's development." [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

7 Takeaways From EPA's Proposed Coal Pollution Rule. According to Politico, "The Trump administration's proposed carbon rule for coal plants ratchets back the scope and emissions reductions of the Obama administration's original rule while questioning EPA's ability to take more stringent action on climate change. The energy policy world will be reading the proposal's fine print and checking EPA's math for months. Here are key policy points to know while delving into the details of EPA's proposal. [1] Changes to NSR permitting ... [2] Up to 1,400 premature deaths by 2030 ... [3] Where are the jobs? ... [4] No minimum requirements, but states can't totally opt out ... [5] EPA likes trading, unsure it's allowed ... [6] Trend away from coal will continue ... [7] The tech menu" [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

Senate Democrats Condemn Effort To Gut Climate Plan. According to Politico, "Senate Democrats today slammed the Trump administration's bid to rollback the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, warning the proposed rule unveiled today would result in thousands more deaths and significantly increase the carbon dioxide emissions that are fueling climate change. Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) called the proposal 'king coal corporate welfare' and vowed to fight it once finalized. 'The Trump administration with the help of former coal lobbyist and new EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler wants to give a free pass to the power sector and to the coal industry fueling it,' he said at a press conference. 'I intend, along with others, to use the legislative tools available to us in the Senate, including the Congressional Review Act.' Lawmakers predicted the regulation would be struck down in court like several similar efforts in recent weeks. 'It is a hazard to our health, it is a hazard to our future and it is a particular hazard to our economy,' Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) said. 'It is a shame that the United States government would be associated with such a rule.' Democrats cited EPA's own analysis that found the proposal would result in up to 1,400 premature deaths in 2030 as a factor that was sufficient enough on its own to reject the proposal. 'If that isn't enough of reason to say 'no thank you,' I'm not sure what is,' said Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee." [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

Heitkamp 'Encouraged' By EPA's New Power Plant Proposal. According to Politico, "Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) became the first Senate Democrat to voice support for the Trump administration's proposal granting states much wider latitude in cutting greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector. 'I'm encouraged by what I have seen so far of the draft rule, and I will work with North Dakotans to make sure the final rule recognizes our all-of-the-above energy policy that has been successful for our

state,' she said in a statement. 'It is encouraging to see that the EPA has decided to focus the rule 'inside the fence-line' so that the rule is applied to reducing emissions at plants on an individual basis — and that they account for the useful life of power plants so that co-ops and utilities in North Dakota aren't stuck with stranded assets.' Heitkamp pledged to discuss the proposal with electric co-ops, utilities, regulators and others in the coming weeks. She co-sponsored a Congressional Review Act challenge in 2015 to overturn the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, S.J. Res. 24 (114). Her opponent this fall, Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), issued his own statement praising the proposed rule. 'The Clean Power Plan was a clear overstep of authority by EPA, and I am pleased President Trump took action against this rule,' he said in a statement. 'No doubt environmentalists will file litigation against this rule which is another instance to demonstrate the importance of confirming President Trump's Supreme Court nominees, including Brett Kavanaugh.'" [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

What's The Plan For The Clean Power Plan? According to Politico, "The Trump administration is widely expected to formally unveil its plan to rewrite the Obama administration's cornerstone climate rule for power plants this week, and it's likely to land sooner rather than later. President Donald Trump will travel to coal country — Charleston, W.Va. — Tuesday for a rally alongside supporters, and the administration will likely drop its proposed rewrite of the Clean Power Plan the same day. The proposal is expected to be touted by the president's supporters in the lead-up to the November midterm elections as another way the White House has reversed the previous administration's so-called war on coal. So, what's inside? POLITICO reported last week on details within the White House's draft proposal to rewrite the Obama-era climate plan. It would give states leeway to write their own modest regulations for coal plants, or even allow them to seek permission to opt out entirely — a sharp contrast to the aims of former President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan, which would have sped the shift away from coal use and toward less-polluting sources. Instead, the Trump administration replacement would do far less to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet." [Politico, 8/20/18 (=)]

**Democrats Chime In.** According to Politico, "Democratic Sens. Ed Markey, Tom Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ben Cardin, Martin Heinrich and Tina Smith will host a press conference this afternoon with climate and public health advocates to outline their reactions to the proposal. If you go: The press conference begins at 12:30 p.m. in S115." [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

Will 'ACE' Pass The Test? According to Politico, "EPA's proposed replacement for Obama-era carbon rules for power plants, aka the Clean Power Plan, will be unveiled today ahead of President Donald Trump's rally in coal country, where he'll likely tout his administration's moves to bring back coal jobs. Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler will reveal the regulation EPA has dubbed its Affordable Clean Energy 'ACE' rule this morning, with an 'inside the fence line' strategy that will let states identify the technologies to make coal-fired power plants more efficient. But while we wait for the official rollout of the proposal, more and more details of what's inside are emerging. For one, the Trump administration's proposal will give states a list of 'candidate technologies' to upgrade their coal-fired power plants, according to a draft list of talking points obtained by POLITICO. That allows states to 'design a plan that works for their citizens' environmental and energy needs,' the draft document adds. And the plan will let states consider factors like a plant's 'remaining useful life,' Pro's Alex Guillén reports. 'The replacement rule respects the infrastructure and economic realities that are unique to each state, allowing for state-driven solutions, as intended by the Clean Air Act, rather than top down mandates,' Hal Quinn, president and CEO of the National Mining Association, said in a statement. The draft list also estimates the proposal would curb carbon pollution between 0.7 percent and 1.5 percent below

expected 2030 levels absent the regulation, and similar reductions of pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury." [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

Former EPA Officials Who Helped Craft The Obama Administration's Original Plan Laid Out Monday What They'll Be Watching For In What They've Called The 'Dirty Power Plan.' According to Politico, "Meanwhile, former EPA officials who helped craft the Obama administration's original plan laid out Monday what they'll be watching for in what they've called the 'Dirty Power Plan.' On a call with reporters, former acting Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation Janet McCabe said she'd be watching for how much of the Trump plan will focus on CO2 reductions, as well as how much will be devoted to power plants' heat-rate improvements — which were 'really only a small part of the Clean Power Plan's reduction goals,' she said. McCabe added that how it deals with remaining useful life will also be crucial, noting 'remaining useful life was built into the [initial] targets in a highly integrated way.' According to The Wall Street Journal, Wheeler had already signed the proposal Monday. 'The entire Obama administration plan was centered around doing away with coal,' he told the WSJ. Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said she expects the proposal will now do the reverse. 'They are continuing to play to their base, and they are following industry's playbook step-by-step,' McCarthy told reporters. 'This is all about about coal, at all costs.'" [Politico, 8/21/18 (=)]

EPA Climate Proposal To Give States Menu Of Technologies To Choose From. According to Politico, "EPA's proposed replacement for the Clean Power Plan will give states a list of 'candidate technologies' to upgrade their coal-fired power plants, according to a draft list of talking points obtained by POLITICO. 'The states will determine which of the 'candidate technologies' can be applied to their sources, and determine what emission reductions will result,' according to the document. States can then 'design a plan that works for their citizens' environmental and energy needs,' it adds. The plan would let states consider factors like a plant's remaining useful life. That's significantly more restricted than the Obama Clean Power Plan, which called for carbon pollution reductions by shifting away from coal and toward renewables and natural gas. Restricting states to a specific list of technologies could prevent them from enforcing a more expansive fuel switching program. As POLITICO first reported last week, the proposal will also include changes to the New Source Review program. The draft estimates the proposal would curb carbon pollution between 0.7 percent and 1.5 percent below expected 2030 levels absent the regulation, and similar reductions of pollutants like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury. The talking point memo also says that although the rule does not address the endangerment finding that determined carbon dioxide emissions posed a threat to human health, it said that EPA has received six pending petitions seeking to revisit or revoke the 2009 finding. 'We are evaluating the best path forward,' it says." [Politico, 8/20/18 (=)]

# **POPULAR SCIENCE**

Trump's EPA Just Released Its Version Of The Clean Power Plan—And It's Not Very Clean. According to Popular Science, "In 2015, the Obama administration's Environmental Protection Agency finalized plans for a program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions—which contribute to climate change and endanger public health—from power plants. But on Tuesday, the Trump administration revealed a new version that's significantly more coal-friendly. The proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule, or ACE, would 'respect the rule of law,' bring down electricity costs, and give state regulators and the energy sector 'regulatory certainty,' said acting Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler in a press conference Tuesday. It's questionable, however, how affordable or clean a plan that props up the declining coal industry can be. Coal, the hardened remains of ancient plant matter, is composed

primarily of carbon, hydrogen and some oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen. When burned, the bonds holding these atoms together break to release energy and rearrange to form mainly carbon dioxide and water, but also oxides of sulfur and nitrogen and toxic combustion byproducts including mercury and trace heavy metals." [Popular Science, 8/21/18 (=)]

# **REUTERS**

Trump Administration Proposes Rolling Back Obama's Clean Power Plan. According to Reuters, "The Trump administration on Tuesday proposed replacing the Clean Power Plan, the centerpiece of former President Barack Obama's regulatory efforts to combat climate change. The proposal released by the Environmental Protection Agency is now open for a public comment period. A final EPA rule is expected later this year. The effort to re-write the plan is the latest move by the EPA under President Donald Trump, a Republican, to roll back environmental protections put in place by Obama, Trump's Democratic predecessor. EPA's proposal would grant states the ability to write their own weaker regulations for the plants and give them the ability to seek permission to opt out of regulations on power plant emissions. Trump, who is scheduled to hold a rally on Tuesday in West Virginia, a top coal-producing state, has vowed to end what he has called 'the war on coal' and boost domestic fossil fuels production." [Reuters, 8/21/18 (=)]

Reuters | Trump Administration Proposes Rolling Back Obama's Clean Power Plan. According to Raw Story, "The Trump administration on Tuesday proposed replacing the Clean Power Plan, the centerpiece of former President Barack Obama's regulatory efforts to combat climate change. The proposal from the Environment Protection Agency, which was published in the Federal Register, is now open for a public comment period. A final EPA rule is expected later this year." [Raw Story, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### **ROLLING STONE**

Trump's Love Of Coal Will Never Not Be Absurd. According to Rolling Stone, "Hours after his former confidants Michael Cohen and Paul Manafort were cut down by the strong arm of the law, President Trump took the stage in front of a group of supporters in Charleston, West Virginia. Trump spoke for well over an hour, although he didn't spend as much time addressing the Russia investigation as is custom at these rallies. He didn't mention Cohen or Manafort, either. Instead, he retreated from the afternoon's twin bombshell developments and focused on what he does best: lying about a great many topics, most notably what he's done for the people of West Virginia. From the president's perspective, there is a single, indestructible, carbon-rich core around which the welfare of West Virginians revolves. It's called coal, or, as Trump put it Tuesday morning, 'CLEAN COAL!!!!' It was no coincidence that before all hell broke loose Tuesday afternoon, the White House released a plan aimed at reviving the terminally ill coal industry. To herald the news, Trump praised coal's resilience relative to clean energy sources in the face of military aggression, a bizarre hypothetical that mirrored comments he made while speaking at a fundraiser last week. 'We love clean, beautiful West Virginia coal,' he said Tuesday. 'And you know, that's indestructible stuff. In times of war, in times of conflict, you can blow up those windmills, they fall down real quick. You can blow up pipelines, they go like this. You can do a lot of things to those solar panels, but you know what you can't hurt? Coal. You can do whatever you want to coal. Very important." [Rolling Stone, 8/22/18 (+)]

# **ROLL CALL**

August 21, 2018

**Democrats Pledge CRA To Kill EPA's Clean Power Plan Replacement.** According to Roll Call, "Democrats are already promising a Congressional Review Act challenge to the Trump administration's proposal Tuesday to replace an Obama-era regulation curbing climate-warming carbon emissions from the electric power sector. For President Donald Trump and Capitol Hill Republicans, the draft proposal marks the culmination of a three-year battle to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a rulemaking finalized in 2015 that required states to devise plans to cut carbon emissions from existing coal-powered electricity plants and other high carbon-emitting energy sources. Republicans lawmakers cheered the proposal's cost savings and shifting of authority to states, and Democrats complained that the new plan would be an inadequate response to climate change and might lead to as many as 1,400 premature deaths." [Roll Call, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### **SALON**

Op-Ed: Trump's Atrocious Coal Plan: A Rear-View Mirror Vision, Unconnected To Reality. According to an op-ed by Carl Pope in Salon, "President Trump went to West Virginia on Tuesday to announce that he intends to replace President Obama's Clean Power Plan with a version which, by respecting states' rights, will also increase pollution, deaths and illnesses and climate risk, and thus, purportedly, bring back the coal industry. This aspect of the news was nearly overwhelmed by the guilty pleas of Michael Cohen and the conviction of Paul Manafort, but it's significant. Like many Trump proposals, the new EPA draft combines a relentless rear-view mirror vision of America's future with a tepid, at best, connection to reality. The Obama rule, which set pollution reduction objectives from coal-fired power plants for 2030, never took effect. It would have allowed a lot of state flexibility, so while the Obama administration touted it as delivering a 32 percent reduction in carbon pollution from U.S. power plants, it might have required as little as 19 percent. The Trump administration says its substitute will cut carbon emissions no more than 1.5 percent. Using the 19-percent benchmark, it also concedes that this rollback will cause up to an additional 1,400 deaths." [Salon, 8/22/18 (+)]

Is Trump's Coal Plan Really An Attempt To Rescue A Dying Vision Of American Masculinity? According to Salon, "On Tuesday, the Trump administration unveiled a disconcerting new plan -- at least according to environmentalists -- that comes with an innocuous title. It's called the Affordable Clean Energy rule, and it would rewrite the 2015 Clean Power Plan, which was proposed by the Obama administration and aimed to reduce the carbon footprint generated by the energy sector. This proposal — if approved would let states roll back federal pollution rules, specifically on power plants in need of improvement. This would inevitably lead to an increase in CO2 emissions generated by coal-burning plants. President Donald Trump has long vowed to put struggling coal miners of Appalachia and other regions back to work, and the timing of this announcement is fortuitous. In May 2016, he visited Charleston, West Virginia — where coal mining is deeply embedded in its culture — and promised mine workers at the rally that they would 'be working your asses off' under his presidency He is speaking in West Virginia on Tuesday evening, for his first visit since then. There is no question that efforts to change the course of climate change have impacted the coal industry, but the truth is that the industry faced many challenges prior to these green initiatives. As the Brookings Institution reported, by the year 2000, employment in the coal industry had already decreased by 102,000. By 2015, 59 percent of the industry's work force had already been discarded, compared to employment in 1980." [Salon, 8/22/18 (=)]

# THE DAILY BEAST

# Trump EPA Says Its Coal Plan May Cause 1,400 More Deaths Each Year, But Backs It Anyway.

According to The Daily Beast, "The Trump administration's plan for regulating coal plants acknowledges that its reduced standards on emissions could lead to as many as 1,400 additional premature deaths each year, The New York Times reports. The Affordable Clean Energy Rule, proposed Tuesday, would replace the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which was an aggressive attempt to reduce carbon emissions and shutter coal power plants and was predicted to avoid 1,500 to 3,600 premature deaths annually by 2030. But President Trump reportedly criticized that plan for placing too many restrictions on coal companies; his proposal would relax many Obama-era standards—and, according to the Times, includes fine print that states it is projected to increase premature deaths by 470 to 1,400 annually by 2030, by increasing the concentration of pollutants known as PM 2.5, which are linked to asthma, bronchitis, and heart and lung disease. 'Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance,' said Andrew Wheeler, the acting director of the EPA in a Tuesday statement." [The Daily Beast, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump's New Climate Plan Will Kill People, According to the Trump Administration. According to The Daily Beast, "Another week, another tragic juxtaposition in our nation's decades-long history of failure to address global climate disruption. At the same time as a vast field of ice north of Greenland has just broken apart, for the first time in recorded history, the Trump administration announced new, lax rules for coal-powered plants that they themselves admit will kill over a thousand people each year. And for what? The cost-benefit analysis of that new rule is pretty depressing. On the benefit side, there is more profit for coal companies, and short-term jobs for coal miners. Those jobs will all be gone within a few decades, of course, because technology will render them obsolete. But in the short term, they help Trump stay in power and help some people feel important. On the cost side, 1,400 estimated deaths per year from all that extra coal-powered pollution. That's not some figure put out by e" [The Daily Beast, 8/21/18 (+)]

# THE ECONOMIST

Editorial: The Trump Administration's Latest Plan To Prop Up Coal. According to The Economist, "ONCE upon a time, back when America was great, coal was king. Then came Barack Obama. He laid the oncemighty industry low through onerous regulation, especially the hated Clean Power Plan (CPP). On August 21st, President Donald Trump, before an appreciative crowd in Charleston, West Virginia, personally slew the offending policy. So the legend will go. In fact the CPP, a sweeping regulation issued by the Obama administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has been bogged down in legal challenges and has never actually gone into effect. The woes of coal are due less to government interference in markets than the markets themselves. Natural gas is a cheaper and cleaner fuel, made abundantly available by the fracking boom. Renewables, such as wind and solar energy, are now economically viable alternatives. Mining itself has become more automated. Today's miners are three times as productive as those of 1980—meaning fewer of them are needed." [The Economist, 8/21/18 (+)]

The Trump Administration's Latest Plan To Prop Up Coal. According to The Economist, "ONCE upon a time, back when America was great, coal was king. Then came Barack Obama. He laid the once-mighty industry low through onerous regulation, especially the hated Clean Power Plan (CPP). On August 21st, President Donald Trump, before an appreciative crowd in Charleston, West Virginia, personally slew the offending policy. So the legend will go. In fact the CPP, a sweeping regulation issued by the Obama

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# **THE GUARDIAN**

How The Trump Administration Is Rolling Back Plans For Clean Power. According to The Guardian, "What has the Trump administration done? 'Did you see what I did to that? Boom, gone,' Donald Trump said about the clean power plan last year. Trump has long targeted the plan – the cornerstone of Barack Obama's climate change agenda – by portraying it as disastrous for coal-producing regions in particular and the US economy in general. Trump wasn't correct in saying it has gone away, though. The plan was halted by the US supreme court in 2016 and has never come into force. But it remains on the books as part of the EPA's legally mandated role in curbing greenhouse gas emissions. So it has to be replaced with something. This – the plan published on Tuesday – is that something." [The Guardian, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump Set To Roll Back Obama-Era Regulation On Coal Emissions. According to The Guardian, "The Trump administration is set to unveil a proposed replacement for Obama-era climate change rules that will impose looser, state-based regulations on coal-fired power plants rather than pushing them towards closure. The new plan is likely to escalate greenhouse gas emissions, compared with its predecessor, at a time when scientists have warned drastic cuts are required to avoid dangerous runaway climate change that would ravage the lives of Americans and people around the world." [The Guardian, 8/20/18 (+)]

#### THE HILL

Calif. Governor: Trump's Plan To Roll Back Clean Power Rules Is A 'Declaration Of War Against America'. According to The Hill, "California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) on Tuesday slammed President Trump's plan to roll back Obama-era regulations for coal power plants, suggesting the administration's proposal is unlikely to take hold. 'This is a declaration of war against America and all of humanity — it will not stand,' Brown said in a statement, according to The Sacramento Bee. 'Truth and common sense will triumph over Trump's insanity.' Brown's comments were made on the same day that the Trump administration introduced a proposal, known as the Affordable Clean Energy rule, that would give states more authority when determining regulations and compliance for coal plants." [The Hill, 8/21/18 (=)]

Five Things To Know About Trump's New Coal Power Plan. According to The Hill, "The Trump administration is expected on Tuesday to roll out its alternative to a capstone Obama-era coal pollution rule, which critics fear will significantly weaken efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions. The new rule would give coal-burning plants and states more leeway in determining pollution controls. In some instances, coal plants wouldn't even need to meet the forthcoming standards. President Trump has promised since the campaign trail to roll back the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan (CPP). The drafts leaked last week offered the first glimpse of his plan to revise President Obama's ambitious climate regulation that, coupled with the Paris Climate Accord, was meant to make the U.S. a global leader in the fight against carbon emissions. Trump announced in June 2017 that he would pull the U.S. out of the Paris agreement. Here are five things to know about the anticipated new rule and its potential effects on U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. [1] Trump is expected to announce his plan in coal country ...

[2] Coal companies could stay in business longer ... [3] States would get more control ... [4] Climate change is de-emphasized ... [5] Courts will likely have the final say" [The Hill, 8/20/18 (=)]

**EPA Head Approves Proposal Reversing Obama-Era Clean Power Plan.** According to The Hill, "Acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed off on a proposal Monday to reverse a landmark Obama-era measure that placed restrictions on the coal industry in an effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions, The Wall Street Journal reported. The news outlet reviewed a copy of the long-expected proposal, which would do away with restrictions on coal plants and leave regulation of the industry up to the states. The Trump administration's plan would also curb mandates requiring coal plants to overhaul technology, and would allow the plants to produce energy with less fuel." [The Hill, 8/20/18 (=)]

Trump Seeks To Overhaul Signature Obama Climate Policy: Report. According to The Hill, "President Trump is planning to introduce a proposal that would allow states to establish emissions standards for coal-fired power plants rather than expediting their elimination. The move, which marks a significant reversal of a key Obama-era policy, is expected to result in the release of at least 12 times the amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over the next 10 years, compared to the amount projected under former President Obama's Clean Power Plan in the same time, The Washington Post reported. The move comes amid multiple warnings from scientists that failing to reduce carbon emissions will have dire consequences for the climate. Two administration officials told the Post that Trump could announce the policy change as soon as Tuesday during a visit to West Virginia, where the president has vowed to bring back coal-dependent jobs. 'America is blessed with extraordinary energy abundance, including more than 250 years worth of beautiful clean coal. We have ended the war on coal, and will continue to work to promote American energy dominance!' Trump tweeted in May." [The Hill, 8/18/18 (=)]

# THE NEW REPUBLIC

Trump's Staggering Impact On Greenhouse Gas Emissions. According to The New Republic, "The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Monday released yet another dismal monthly report on the state of the global climate, concluding that last month was the fourth-hottest July ever recorded globally and that 2018 is shaping up to be the fourth-hottest year on record. The federal agency also found that sea ice levels in the Arctic and Antarctic were well below average. Nowhere in the world saw a single record cold temperature. President Donald Trump is expected to unveil a plan that, if implemented, would warm the planet even further. Trump reportedly will travel to West Virginia on Tuesday to announce new greenhouse gas regulations for coal-fired power plants—effectively a proposed replacement of the Clean Power Plan, President Barack Obama's signature policy to fight global warming. Trump's plan 'would allow individual states to decide how, or even whether, to curb carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants,' The New York Times reported. 'The plan would also relax pollution rules for power plants that need upgrades. That, combined with allowing states to set their own rules, creates a serious risk that emissions, which had been falling, could start to rise again, according to environmentalists." [The New Republic, 8/20/18 (+)]

# THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Trump's New Pollution Rules Still Won't Save The Coal Industry.** According to The New York Times, "America's ailing coal industry was buoyed on Tuesday when the Environmental Protection Agency unveiled a proposal to relax pollution regulations on coal-fired power plants. President Trump traveled

to West Virginia to tout the planned measure, telling supporters, 'We're putting our great coal miners back to work.' Yet the reality on the ground for the nation's coal industry remains bleak. Even the Trump administration's own numbers suggest that its latest proposal won't reverse the sharp decline of coal power, which has been crushed by competition from cheaper natural gas and renewable energy over the past decade. More than 200 coal plants have shut down since 2010, and another 40 plants have announced they will close in the years ahead, with virtually no new coal plants being built today. At best, if finalized, the E.P.A.'s newest rollback could help a small number of those endangered coal plants stave off retirement for a bit longer, albeit at the expense of increased air pollution. But even in that scenario, the agency's own analysis showed, coal power would still decline by 20 percent between now and 2030 and coal mining would drop by one-third." [The New York Times, 8/22/18 (+)]

Trump's False Claims About Coal, The Environment And West Virginia. According to The New York Times, "President Trump claimed that coal was 'indestructible,' that West Virginia had one of the strongest state economies and that the U.S. was the 'cleanest country in the planet.' None of that was true." [The New York Times, 8/22/18 (+)]

E.P.A.'S New Coal Pollution Rules Will Lead To More Deaths, Agency's Numbers Show. According to The New York Times, "The Trump administration on Tuesday made public the details of its new pollution rules governing coal-burning power plants, and the fine print includes an acknowledgment that the plan would increase carbon emissions and lead to up to 1,400 premature deaths annually. ... The proposal lays out several possible pathways that individual states might use for regulating coal-fired power plants, and what the consequences would be for pollution and human health in each case. In the scenario the E.P.A. has pegged as the most likely to occur, the health effects would be significant. In that scenario, the Trump E.P.A. predicts its plan will see between 470 and 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030 because of increased rates of microscopic airborne particulates known as PM 2.5, which are dangerous because of their link to heart and lung disease as well as their ability to trigger chronic problems like asthma and bronchitis. By contrast, the Obama administration's central argument for its Clean Power Plan was that the measure protected human health as well as the climate. Specifically, it said, the plan would help avoid between 1,500 and 3,600 premature deaths annually by 2030." [The New York Times, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump's Plan For Coal Emissions: Let Coal States Regulate Them. According to The New York Times, "The Trump administration next week plans to formally propose a vast overhaul of climate change regulations that would allow individual states to decide how, or even whether, to curb carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants, according to a summary of the plan and details provided by three people who have seen the full proposal. The plan would also relax pollution rules for power plants that need upgrades. That, combined with allowing states to set their own rules, creates a serious risk that emissions, which had been falling, could start to rise again, according to environmentalists. The proposal, which President Trump is expected to highlight Tuesday at a rally in West Virginia, amounts to the administration's strongest and broadest effort yet to address what the president has long described as a regulatory 'war on coal.' It would considerably weaken what is known as the Clean Power Plan, former President Barack Obama's signature regulation for cutting planet-warming emissions at coalfired plants. That rule, crafted as the United States prepared to enter into the 2015 Paris Agreement on global warming, was the first federal carbon-pollution restriction for power plants. In 2016, the Supreme Court temporarily blocked the regulation from taking effect while a federal court heard arguments from a coalition of coal states that sued to block the rule. It remains suspended." [The New York Times, 8/17/18 (+)]

As Trump Dismantles Clean Air Rules, An Industry Lawyer Delivers For Ex-Clients. According to The New York Times, "As a corporate lawyer, William L. Wehrum worked for the better part of a decade to weaken air pollution rules by fighting the Environmental Protection Agency in court on behalf of chemical manufacturers, refineries, oil drillers and coal-burning power plants. Now, Mr. Wehrum is about to deliver one of the biggest victories yet for his industry clients — this time from inside the Trump administration as the government's top air pollution official. ... Mr. Wehrum has been able to push his deregulatory agenda without running into ethics troubles because of a quirk in federal ethics rules. The rules limit the activities of officials who join the government from industry — but they are less restrictive for lawyers than for officials who had worked as registered lobbyists. The end result is that the ethics rules generally allow Mr. Wehrum to help oversee the drafting of policies that broadly benefit the industries or clients he represented in recent years. 'It is a failing in the rule,' said Norman Eisen, a former Obama administration lawyer who wrote the White House ethics code that creates the division between how ex-lawyers and ex-lobbyists are treated. 'One is subject to the tougher lobbying restriction, and the other skates through.'" [The New York Times, 8/19/18 (+)]

New E.P.A. Rollback Of Coal Pollution Regulations Takes A Major Step Forward. According to The New York Times, "Indeed, experts said it was unlikely that the new rule would reverse the decline of America's coal industry. More than 200 coal plants have retired since 2010, mainly because of competition from cheaper natural gas and renewable energy. And dozens of additional retirements have already been announced for the coming years. At the same time, the new rule is expected to have significant implications for aging coal-fired plants across the country, offering incentives to keep them running longer or enabling them to avoid installing modern pollution controls. The end result, critics of the Trump plan said, would be a rise in not just the heat-trapping gases that are warming the planet but a potential rise in soot and other particulate matter that contribute to health problems such as asthma or pulmonary disease. 'This egregious climate-denial plan fails to protect the American people from the serious risks of climate change,' said Senator Tom Carper of Delaware, the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and 'could send clean energy jobs to China.' The plan, he added, 'goes even further and allows polluters to increase the amount of smog and soot they emit into the air our children breathe.' The agency said that the reductions under its proposal would be 'comparable' to the Obama rule but 'achieved in a legal and reasonable manner.' While the Clean Power Plan aimed to cut carbon emissions 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, the Trump plan sets no national benchmark." [The New York Times, 8/20/18 (=)]

### THE WASHINGTON POST

This Is The Day That The Climate Change Fight Was Obviously Lost. According to The Washington Post, "A particular challenge of the fight over climate change, if not a unique one, is that the shifts accrue subtly. The climate has changed stunningly quickly in global terms but slowly in human terms, allowing us to rationalize, wave away and downplay. It's that slowness, the ability to adjust to slight changes, that has led to the political fight over how to address climate change. The effects of the warming planet are only intermittently tangible, and there are still winters, and there's a robust vested interest by major corporations that sell coal and natural gas and oil in continuing to sell coal and natural gas and oil. The issue of climate change rose to the national consciousness as polarization in U.S. politics spiked. That national attention was spurred in part by Al Gore's 2006 film 'An Inconvenient Truth,' meaning that Gore and his politics became part of the association many Americans made with the issue. Climate change is now one of the most politically polarizing issues in the country. Gallup polling shows that there's a nearly 50-point gap between the parties in belief in the effects of a warming planet having already

begun. More than 8 in 10 Democrats think global warming has been demonstrated; only a third of Republicans agree." [The Washington Post, 8/21/18 (+)]

Donald Trump To End 'War On Coal' With Rule Replacing Obama-Era Clean Power Plan. According to The Washington Post, "The Environmental Protection Agency moved Tuesday to upend the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan with a proposed rule that would shift authority over greenhouse gas emissions from power plants to the states. The Affordable Clean Energy Rule as proposed sets guidelines on emissions from coal-fired plants for states and replaces the Clean Power Plan, the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's so-called 'war on coal,' which was frozen by the Supreme Court in 2016 and has never been implemented. The EPA said the proposed rule 'empowers states, promotes energy independence, and facilitates economic growth and job creation.' 'The ACE Rule would restore the rule of law and empower states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans,' said EPA acting administrator Andrew Wheeler. 'Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance.'" [The Washington Post, 8/21/18 (-)]

### New Trump Power Plant Plan Would Release Hundreds Of Millions Of Tons Of CO2 Into The

Air. According to The Washington Post, "President Trump plans this week to unveil a proposal that would empower states to establish emission standards for coal-fired power plants rather than speeding their retirement — a major overhaul of the Obama administration's signature climate policy. The plan, which is projected to release at least 12 times the amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere compared with the Obama rule over the next decade, comes as scientists have warned that the world will experience increasingly dire climate effects absent a major cut in carbon emissions. Trump plans to announce the measure as soon as Tuesday during a visit to West Virginia, according to two administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the White House was still finalizing details Friday. The Environmental Protection Agency's own impact analysis, which runs nearly 300 pages, projects that the proposal would make only slight cuts to overall emissions of pollutants including carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides — over the next decade. The Obama rule, by contrast, dwarfs those cuts by a factor of more than 12. The new proposal, which will be subject to a 60-day comment period, could have enormous implications for dozens of aging coal-fired power plants across the country. The EPA estimates that the measure will affect more than 300 U.S. plants, providing companies with an incentive to keep coal plants in operation rather than replacing them with cleaner natural gas or renewable energy projects." [The Washington Post, 8/18/18 (=)]

Allow Us To Translate Trump's Odd Comments On Coal And Energy. According to The Washington Post, "'We have — clean coal exports have increased, 60 percent last year — clean coal, which is one of our big assets that we weren't allowed to use for our miners.' In 2017, the United States exported 97 million short tons of coal. In 2016, it exported 60 million short tons, an increase of about 61 percent. But there are two important caveats. The first is that this was partly a function of how coal exports had dropped in 2016. In 2014, for example, the United States exported slightly more coal than in 2017. In 2012, it exported 126 million short tons — about 30 percent more than in 2017. One reason the 2016 figure was so low was a slump in global coal prices. The bigger issue is that this is in no way 'clean' coal. 'Clean coal' is a descriptor used to refer to a process in which burning coal produces less or no greenhouse gas and other pollutants. There's no coal that doesn't release carbon dioxide when burned; the idea behind clean coal was often to capture those emissions instead of releasing them into the atmosphere, where they contribute to global warming. Saying that the United States exported clean coal is like saying that the United States is shipping bathrobes overseas each time a shipping container full of cotton leaves an

American port. Maybe it will be a bathrobe, but that's not what we're sending." [The Washington Post, 8/20/18 (+)]

#### **THINK PROGRESS**

The Cruelty Behind Trump's Absurd Lies About Coal To West Virginians. According to Think Progress, "Few things are crueler than offering people false hope. But that's just what President Trump did when he came to Charleston, West Virginia Tuesday night after releasing his climate plan. In a speech filled with absurdities — 'You know what you can't hurt? Coal. You can do whatever you want to coal. Very important' — Trump's key message was the biggest lie of all: 'We are back. The coal industry is back.' In fact, coal has been on an irreversible decline for years because alternatives like wind, solar, and natural gas are cleaner and cheaper. Building and running new wind and solar farms is now cheaper than just running existing coal plants in many places. Indeed, the Trump administration's own Energy Information Administration just reported that over the past 12 months, U.S. coal production has dropped by 4.2 percent compared to the previous 12 months. Under Trump, coal's rate of collapse to be 'more than twice' what analysts previously projected Trump's newly announced climate plan for coal-fired power plants will neither reverse nor even slow coal's steady decline. In fact, since the plan is built around pushing coal plants to use coal more efficiently, it will slightly speed up the decline — according to EPA's own analysis." [Think Progress, 8/22/18 (+)]

Trump Reveals How Little He Knows About His Coal And Nuclear Bailout Plan. According to Think Progress, "Opponents of President Donald Trump's proposed bailout of coal and nuclear plants are making strong cases against the plan. Trump, on the other hand, is having trouble retaining a hold on the realities of the energy industry, let alone putting together a coherent argument in favor of his plan. As the Trump administration crafts a \$30 billion bailout plan for coal and nuclear plants, the president used a political campaign event in New York last week to stage a failed attack on the wind energy industry. 'You need subsidy for windmills. You need subsidy,' Trump said in his remarks. 'Who wants to have energy where you need a subsidy? So, uh, the coal is doing great.' Although it's not entirely clear, Trump's use of the term 'subsidy' was most likely a reference to production tax credits for the wind energy industry. These tax credits have helped to drive tens of billions of dollars of investment into areas of the country with strong wind potential, bringing thousands of jobs with them. But they are now being phased out, with the support of the wind energy industry, ending after 2019. Trump's comments — made last Monday while in Utica, New York, stumping for Rep. Claudia Tenney (R) — attracted a wider audience after Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale tweeted a transcript on Sunday." [Think Progress, 8/20/18 (+)]

#### TIME

The Trump Administration Released A Plan To Fight Climate Change. It Could Actually Make Things Worse. According to Time, "The Trump Administration released a new plan Tuesday to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and address climate change. But the proposed regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency, which would replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, has a serious flaw: it could make climate change worse. The plan requires states to come up with their own rules to make coal-fired power plants more efficient. Because more efficient coal plants would make that energy source more competitive compared to less carbon-intensive alternatives, some analysts argue that the measure could lead to increased carbon emissions. 'EPA is not denying that climate change is happening or EPA's obligation to address the harmful health impacts of carbon pollution that's fueling climate

change,' says Gina McCarthy, head of the EPA under President Obama. But the plan is 'an opportunity not just to keep carbon pollution neutral but increase it.'" [Time, 8/21/18 (+)]

### **USA TODAY**

Coal Comeback? EPA Plan Would Prolong Life For Power Plants Seen As Climate Change Culprit.

According to USA Today, "Aging coal-fired power plants could get a new lease on life under an industry-friendly proposal by the Trump administration that would replace the Clean Power Plan, Barack

Obama's signature plan to confront climate change. Unveiled Tuesday, the Affordable Clean Energy

(ACE) Rule would give states broad latitude to in how they would regulate power plant's greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming as well as other pollutants, such as smog, soot and mercury. 'Today we are fulfilling the president's agenda. We are proposing a (plan) that promotes, affordable clean and reliable energy for all Americans,' Wheeler told reporters Tuesday, adding that the Clean Power Plan 'exceeded the agency's legal authority.' But by EPA's own admission, the proposal could lead to more than 1,000 premature deaths a year, a statistic opponents pounced on." [USA Today, 8/21/18 (=)]

Editorial: Trump Fired Up To Save Big Coal Instead Of Earth. According to USA Today, "The Trump administration is committed to saving coal, when what it really needs to do is save the planet. On Tuesday, the Environmental Protection Agency took another great leap backward, proposing new rules that are supposed to control heat-trapping greenhouse gas pollution but are really aimed at furthering the production and burning of coal. Power plants generate more than a quarter of the 6 billion tons of carbon dioxide America pumps into the atmosphere each year. And this summer, scorching California wildfires from tinder-dry conditions, along with record-breaking heat waves and flooding around the world, have been vivid testament to the extreme weather that global warming makes more likely. With the new rules proposed Tuesday, EPA would junk the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which aimed to cut power sector emissions 30% from 2005 levels by 2030, giving states flexibility to meet mandatory goals. A better idea would be a market-based carbon tax, with revenue rebated to consumers. But the Clean Power Plan was a next-best alternative." [USA Today, 8/21/18 (+)]

### **VANITY FAIR**

Trump Administration Casually Admits Coal Plan Will Kill 1,400 Americans A Year. According to Vanity Fair, "Last week, we learned that Donald Trump's coal-loving administration was set to release a proposal that would allow coal-burning plants to flood the planet with greenhouse gas emissions, raising a giant middle finger to the killjoy tree-huggers who insist on protecting the environment and human health through silly little things like government regulations. Whereas Barack Obama's 2015 Clean Power Plan would have caused a shift toward less-dirty energy sources like wind, natural gas, and solar, the White House's plan would prop up coal plants by giving states free rein to come up with their own rules, or letting them petition to opt out of regulations altogether. On Tuesday, the administration officially unveiled the proposal, and as it turns out, it's not as bad as everyone feared—it's much, much worse, if one considers the deaths of 1,400 Americans and the hastened demise of the planet to be 'worse.'" [Vanity Fair, 8/21/18 (+)]

### VICE

The Trump Administration Admits It's OK Letting People Die From Dirty Air. According to Vice, "On Tuesday, Donald Trump's EPA rolled out a new proposal for governing power plants called the Affordable Clean Energy rule that would continue the administration's mutual love affair with the coal industry. It would also result in dirtier air, more illness, and ultimately more deaths than the Obama administration's old regulatory plan. That's not naked partisanship talking—the Trump administration's analysis of its own proposed rule admits as much, as the New York Times and others have noted. Compared to Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan (CPP), that analysis says, 'implementing the proposed rule is expected to increase emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) and increase the level of emissions of certain pollutants in the atmosphere that adversely affect human health.' Here's how the Times describes the health outcomes that would likely occur should the Affordable Clean Energy rule be implemented: 'The Trump E.P.A. predicts its plan will see between 470 and 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030 because of increased rates of microscopic airborne particulates known as PM 2.5, which are dangerous because of their link to heart and lung disease as well as their ability to trigger chronic problems like asthma and bronchitis.'" [Vice, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### VOX

EPA Analysis Of Its Own New Climate Proposal: Thousands Of People Will Die. According to Vox, "The Environmental Protection Agency has released the details of its plan to replace President Obama's signature climate change policy, the Clean Power Plan, and it's pretty much what we expected: a tepid pledge to fight climate change that's actually a coal bailout. The 2015 Obama-era rule aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, now the second-largest source of greenhouse gases in the United States. The CPP gave 47 states unique emissions targets while leaving it up to them how to get there. The EPA invoked health provisions of the Clean Air Act to make this rule, arguing that cutting greenhouse gas emissions would also limit other pollutants. That, in turn, would avert 3,600 premature deaths, 90,000 asthma attacks in children, and 1,700 heart attacks each year. However, 24 states sued to block the rule, arguing that the EPA overstepped its legal bounds. And in 2016, the Supreme Court put a stay on the CPP to allow the lawsuits to proceed." [Vox, 8/21/18 (+)]

### WALL STREET JOURNAL

**EPA Head Signs Proposal To Undo Restrictions On Coal Plants.** According to The Wall Street Journal, "The Trump Administration moved to overturn Obama-era environmental rules on power-plant emissions, a long-telegraphed action designed to help coal-burning plants compete with natural gas and other alternatives as a national energy source. Andrew Wheeler, President Trump's acting administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, on Monday signed a proposal to scrap environmental restrictions on power plants and leave much of the regulation of the industry to states." [The Wall Street Journal, 8/20/18 (=)]

Editorial: Not The Climate Apocalypse. According to The Wall Street Journal, "Of the Obama Administration's many power grabs, none was more audacious than its bid to regulate coal-fired electric power out of business. The Trump Administration is now proposing to rewrite the rule in a way that honors the law and still reduces carbon emissions, yet it is being portrayed as radical. The disparate treatment reflects the double standard toward climate-change policy in the media. Anything that enhances government control of the energy economy and punishes fossil fuels is seen as virtuous, while solutions that defer to the states and don't punish carbon fuels are a sellout to business. How about looking at the legal and energy merits? The most notable fact about the draft Environmental Protection

Agency rule introduced on Tuesday is its modesty. Rather than dictating from Washington, the rule restores the cooperative federalism of the Clean Air Act by giving states much-needed flexibility to balance their energy needs while cutting CO2 emissions. The Clean Air Act directs the EPA to implement the 'best system of emission reduction' for pollutants, which the agency has long applied to individual power plants. The Obama anti-carbon crusaders soared over that language to compel states to reorganize their electric grids to favor renewable fuels." [The Wall Street Journal, 8/21/18 (-)]

### **OTHER NOTABLE OUTLETS**

Trump Seeks To Roll Back Obama-Era Coal Emissions Standards. According to Aljazeera, "The administration of US President Donald Trump has proposed new rules that would scale back limits on coal-fired power plants, a move critics said would have dire environmental and health consequences. The proposal, announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Tuesday, would broadly increase the leeway given to states to decide how much to regulate coal power plants. The EPA said it 'empowers states, promotes energy independence, and facilitates economic growth and job creation.'" [Aljazeera, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump Coal Plan Will Kill 5-10,000 People Over Next Decade. According to Mother Jones, "The Trump administration unveiled its shiny new coal plan today, and the New York Times dug into the technical appendices to see just how much damage it would do. Naturally I decided to make it into a chart: Depending on whose estimate you trust and how far out you're willing to look, the Trump plan will kill somewhere between 200-1,400 extra people per year compared to the Obama Clean Power Plan, with the averages shown in the chart above. Of course, there's good news and bad news in all this. Out West, where we don't use much coal, the effect will be negligible. On the other hand, if you live in Missouri, Arkansas, West Virginia, or western Pennsylvania, things don't look so rosy. In those places, EPA estimates an extra 10-20 deaths per million people each year: All this for a power source that's not competitive anymore and employs hardly anyone. Trump is planning to kill, oh, about 5-10,000 people over the next decade to support an industry that employs fewer than 200,000 people total in mining, transportation, and power generation. That's right: 200,000. The coal industry is smaller than the marijuana industry—which is at least growing and basically harmless. But Trump is happy to kill off Americans by the thousands just so he can say he overturned an Obama coal plan and replaced it with his own. I hope Don Jr. opens up a coffin business especially for all the people who die because of this. It's one time when I think that splashing a big gold TRUMP on his products would be totally appropriate." [Mother Jones, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump's Power Plan Proposal Is "About Coal At All Costs". According to Grist, "When President Obama unveiled the Clean Power Plan in the East Room of the White House three years ago, he called it 'the single most important step America has ever taken in the fight against global climate change.' Today, that plan, which would have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 19 percent in 2030 relative to 2005 levels, will be replaced by the Trump administration's 'Affordable Clean Energy' proposal, which will give states more authority to craft regulations for coal-burning power plants and replaces the 'overly prescriptive and burdensome' requirements in the CPP with what they describe as 'on-site, heat-rate efficiency improvements.' These regulations are expected to only decrease CO2 levels by a fraction of the amount that were anticipated under Obama's plan. The Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged this will lead to hundreds of more deaths each year, along with sharp increases in the number of hospital admissions, lost work days, and school absences because of the health impacts of

dirtier air. Not to mention the fact that increased emissions of carbon dioxide will further accelerate global warming." [Grist, 8/21/18 (+)]

Why Trump's EPA Wants To Kill The Nation's Most Ambitious Climate Change Plan. According to Mashable, "After President Donald Trump called coal 'indestructible' last week while also expressing concern for the number of birds killed by wind turbines, it was all the more evident that the Clean Power Plan — the Obama-era strategy intended to dramatically slash America's reliance on coal-generated electricity — was in hot water. Tuesday morning, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist, announced a strategy dubbed the 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule, or ACE, to completely replace the Clean Power Plan. The ACE rule is specifically designed to keep the American coal industry, which has been in significant decline for over a decade, afloat." [Mashable, 8/21/18 (+)]

5 Ways Trump's Clean Power Rollback Strips Away Health, Climate Protections. According to Inside Climate News, "The Trump administration has proposed to replace the nation's landmark climate regulations with a watered-down version that would do next to nothing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and wouldn't even set a specific national goal. If the new plan survives legal challenges, it would fulfill a campaign pledge to abort the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. And in combination with the freezing of automotive emissions standards announced a few weeks ago, it would gut any attempt to achieve through federal regulations the goals of the Paris climate agreement, which the Trump administration has also renounced. Given that the new rule does not challenge the finding that greenhouse gas pollution from coal-fired power plants causes global warming and endangers people and the planet, nor court rulings that the Clean Air Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency to bring it under control, the proposal is breathtaking in its embrace of apathy." [Inside Climate News, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump's New Power Plan Comes With A Deadly Price. According to Wired, "WEST VIRGINIA IS second only to Wyoming in both coal production and President Trump's winning vote percentage in the 2016 general election. So it was no surprise that Trump flew to the Mountain State Tuesday to stump for his new plan to boost coal-fired power plants by cutting regulations on planet-warming carbon emissions. 'We love clean, beautiful West Virginia coal,' Trump told supporters at the Charleston Civic Center, while mocking renewable energy and natural gas, which have displaced coal in electric utilities across the US. 'We love [coal],' he said. 'You know, it's indestructible stuff. In times of war, in times of conflict, you can blow up those windmills. They fall down real quick. You can blow up those pipelines real quick. You can do a lot of things to those solar panels, but you know what you can't hurt, coal. You can do whatever you want to coal.' Trump's new power plant proposal—released by the EPA on Tuesday—would give states more leeway in regulating carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, and allow older coal plants to keep running. Administration officials say the new plan will result in both more carbon dioxide emissions and more air pollution. It would also hit West Virginians the hardest when it comes to the effects of toxic air pollution from those very same coal plants. That's according to a risk analysis by Trump's own EPA released Tuesday." [Wired, 8/22/18 (+)]

**How EPA's ACE Rule Could Boost Coal Power And Carbon Pollution.** According to Utility Dive, "Taken together, critics say the new emissions limits and loosened NSR program could allow coal operators to upgrade their facilities and run them longer, even if that means higher emissions than retiring the plants and shifting to less polluting sources, like natural gas or renewables. 'That's why NSR exists — to address the almost inevitable increase in emissions that results from investments in power plants,' said Joe Goffman, a former Obama EPA official who helped craft that administration's carbon rule, the Clean

Power Plan. 'So there's an internal contradiction embedded in this proposal.' The NSR review is one place the ACE plan could be vulnerable to legal challenges, as EPA has seen similar efforts overturned in the past. Even if it survives, analysts and utility executives alike say it remains unclear how many coal owners will opt to keep their coal plants open, rather than investing in less polluting resources. 'The forward curve for natural gas looks exceedingly attractive,' said Tom Fanning, CEO of Southern Co., a major coal plant operator. 'So the dynamic of adding cost to coal while gas remains exceedingly cheap I think weighs in the interest of moving away a diminishing interest from coal to gas and renewables.'" [Utility Dive, 8/22/18 (+)]

Op-Ed: Can Trump Bring About The Second Coming Of Coal? According to an op-ed by Ken Silversein in Forbes, "The green energy economy has hit a red light, or more precisely, the Great Red Wall erected by Donald Trump. Tonight the president will hold a rally in West Virginia touting his latest plan to resurrect the coal sector that has been vital to that state's economy — a plan that, by all accounts, would lead to greater emissions. Trump ran on a platform of reduced regulations and returning the country to 'greatness.' But does advocating for a dirtier fuel that is more expensive than some competing energies represent 'exceptionalism' or a form of regression that is reminiscent of a bygone era? 'Coal plant retirements are the result of electricity markets weeding out inefficient, expensive, and dirty resources and replacing them with cleaner, cheaper technologies that customers are demanding,' Jonathan Levenshus, Sierra Club's Senior Campaign Representative for Federal Strategy said. 'Bailing out the dying coal industry has already been rejected by FERC once, and this latest scam has been universally panned for good reason. It's the equivalent of trying to bringing back the whale oil industry to replace electric light bulbs.'" [Forbes, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump Power Plant Plan Will Significantly Increase CO2 Pollution. According to EcoWatch, "The new plan, as the Washington Post reported, would allow states to set their own coal emission standards or even opt-out altogether, and provides companies incentives to ensure coal plants operate longer. It's a clear contrast to the Obama plan, which was aimed at phasing out coal and transitioning to cleaner power sources to avoid dangerous climate change. The Trump rule 'is projected to release at least 12 times the amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere compared with the Obama rule over the next decade,' the Post reported. To illustrate how different the plans are, by 2030, the Trump proposal would cut carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels by 0.7 to 1.5 percent, or the equivalent of taking 2.7 million to 5.3 million cars off the road. In contrast, Obama's initiative had a goal of slashing CO2 emissions around 19 percent in the same time frame, or the equivalent of taking 75 million cars off the road." [EcoWatch, 8/20/18 (+)]

Trump Emissions Plan Aims To Boost Coal-Fired Power. According to Power Magazine, "The Trump administration has proposed an overhaul of U.S. power plant emissions rules, unveiling a plan that would allow individual states to determine how they will regulate pollutants. The proposal, called the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) plan and discussed during the keynote address at the MEGA Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland, on August 21, would essentially dissolve the Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP) that the current president said was part of the previous administration's 'war on coal.'" [Power Magazine, 8/21/18 (=)]

**EPA:** New Rule May Result In More Premature Deaths. According to Newser, "President Trump visits West Virginia Tuesday, and it's a safe bet he'll be trumpeting the proposal his administration just unveiled to ease up on coal plants. The Affordable Clean Energy Rule would roll back an Obama-era plan on emissions deemed too heavy-handed by the Trump administration, reports the Washington Post. Under the Trump plan, states—and not the federal EPA—would have the authority to regulate the

emission of CO2 and other greenhouse gases, per the AP. 'The ACE Rule would restore the rule of law and empower states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans,' says acting EPA chief Andrew Wheeler in a statement. The New York Times, meanwhile, digs into the fine print and finds one aspect of the new rule unlikely to be celebrated: a prediction of more premature deaths." [Newser, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump's New "Clean Power Plan" Might Be A Boon To Coal-Fired Power Plants. According to Ars Technica, "The Trump administration has argued that the EPA can't use the Clean Air Act to set emissions levels for the energy industry in general but instead could regulate emissions at each individual source of emissions. The argument has not yet been tested in court, although opposition to the rule proposed today may give the administration a chance to try it out. Obama's Clean Power Plan would have reduced carbon emissions dramatically, as much as 19 percent from projected levels by 2030. By contrast, the EPA says that the new rule would reduce carbon emissions from the power sector by just 1.5 percent (PDF). The EPA's own scientific analysis of its new rule reportedly admits that the Affordable Clean Energy Rule could lead to nearly 1,400 extra deaths per year compared to what would have occurred under the Clean Power Plan. Particulates from coal-fired power plants lead to a variety of bad health effects, from asthma to premature heart disease." [Ars Technica, 8/21/18 (+)]

### The Trump Administration Just Dropped Its Pro-Coal Alternative To Obama's Clean Power Plan.

According to Gizmodo, "On Tuesday, the Trump administration released a new rule proposal at the center of its environmental deregulatory frenzy. The long-anticipated rule would replace the Clean Power Plan, an Obama era initiative to rein in pollution from coal-fired power plant that was considered the former president's signature policy for combatting climate change. The proposal is dubbed the Orwellian 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule. The public will have 60 days to comment on its merits or lack thereof. Trump is expected to tout the proposal as a lifeline for coal at a West Virginia rally later on Tuesday (we'll probably also hear about CLEAN COAL!!!!), but it's unlikely to save a dying, economically unfeasible industry. Cheap natural gas has been largely responsible for shuttering hundreds of coal plants in the U.S. The falling price of renewables has only further loosened coal's grip on the power sector. The new plan will have a hard time working against these market forces, with even industry representatives telling the New York Times that 'the fuel mix for providing electricity is changing, with increased investments in natural gas and renewables.'" [Gizmodo, 8/21/18 (=)]

**EPA Moves To Replace Clean Power Plan With Modest Carbon Regulations.** According to Utility Dive, "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Tuesday unveiled its plan to replace the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan with a less stringent carbon emissions rule for the power sector. The EPA's proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule would require modest efficiency improvements at some coal plants and give states more latitude to set their own emissions standards, in contrast to the CPP, which pushed plant owners to invest in less-polluting sources. The plan is subject to a 60-day comment period and is likely to face legal challenges from environmental groups, clean energy organizations and liberal states. EPA says it hopes to finalize the rule in early next year." [Utility Dive, 8/21/18 (=)]

The US is Axing An Obama-Era Coal Pollution Rule That is Key To its Climate Change Effort. According to Quartz, "The Trump administration inked a plan to repeal and replace the centerpiece of former president Barack Obama's climate change initiatives on Monday night, in a major blow to the US's ability to meaningfully curtail its impact on advancing climate change. Andrew Wheeler, the acting administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, signed the 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule, which would ease pollution controls on coal-fired power plants. The Obama-era Clean Power Plan set a

course to cut carbon emissions 32% below 2005 levels by 2030. The Trump administration's replacement plan does not include any benchmark for carbon emissions, according to the New York Times." [Quartz, 8/20/18 (+)]

WSJ | EPA Approves Plan To Scrap Emissions Restrictions On Coal Power Plants. According to Market Watch, "The Trump administration moved to overturn Obama-era environmental rules on power-plant emissions, a long-telegraphed action designed to help coal-burning plants compete with natural gas and other cleaner alternatives as a national energy source. Andrew Wheeler, President Donald Trump's acting administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, on Monday signed a proposal to scrap environmental restrictions on power plants and leave much of the regulation of the industry to states. The move is the agency's first under Trump to detail how it will regulate the power-sector carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, and it sets up months of public and legal reviews, and potentially a yearslong court battle." [Market Watch, 8/20/18 (=)]

Trump's Reversal Of Clean Power Plan Won't Hurt Renewables, But It May Boost Coal. According to Green Tech Media, "The Trump administration on Tuesday introduced a plan for the nation's coal plants that loosens regulations set out by the previous administration. Under the Affordable Clean Energy rule, a rework of President Obama's signature Clean Power Plan (CPP), states will have autonomy to decide how to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants on a plant-by-plant basis rather than working to achieve overall emissions cuts. The plan also allows power plants to circumvent pollution reviews that accompany facility modifications that the industry says are expensive. While the CPP's design compelled clean energy development, Trump's plan could buoy aging coal infrastructure. Initial estimates suggest the new rule could increase carbon dioxide emissions by at least 12 times that of the existing CPP scenario, although official calculations from the Environmental Protection Agency are reportedly much smaller. Since the Obama administration introduced the CPP in 2015, it has faced significant challenges. Twenty-seven states sued over its implementation, and the Supreme Court eventually placed a stay on the rule." [Green Tech Media, 8/21/18 (+)]

Trump Administration Sets Out New Carbon Emissions Rules. According to Financial Times, "The Trump administration has set out new rules for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation as part of its strategy to support US coal mining, but officials suggested that the plan had only a limited ability to revive the industry. The Trump administration's plans, known as the Affordable Clean Energy rule, are expected to cut retail electricity prices by just 0.2-0.5 per cent by 2025, compared to the levels if the Obama administration's plans had gone into effect. US coal production is expected to be 4.5-5.8 per cent higher in 2025 than under the Obama-era plan. Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency said the US power industry was being shaped by the availability of cheap gas unlocked by the shale revolution and the growth of renewable energy. They do not expect those trends to change greatly under the new regulations. The new rule is being proposed as a replacement for President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was intended to cut greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation." [Financial Times, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump To Relax Rules For Coal-Fired Plants, Likely Leading To Surge In CO2 Emissions. According to Slate, "The change in rule that the administration will put forward 'is projected to release at least 12 times the amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere compared with the Obama rule over the next decade,' reports the Washington Post. The proposed rules would give more power to the states to set their own standards in what could very well amount to the Trump administration's broadest effort to help the coal sector as a whole. When combined with the proposal earlier this month to roll back carefficiency mandates, the two measures represent 'a significant retreat from the fight against climate

change by a president who's already vowed to pull the U.S. out of the Paris agreement,' notes Bloomberg. Joseph Goffman, executive director of Harvard Law School's Environmental Law Program tells the Washington Post that the way the White House doesn't seem to care about the higher emissions that would be produced as a result of the proposed rules illustrates just how low of a priority the issue is for the administration. 'These numbers tell the story, that they really remain committed not to do anything to address greenhouse gas emissions,' said Goffman." [Slate, 8/19/18 (+)]

#### **Conservative Outlets**

Cotton Applauds Trump Administration's Rollback Of Obama Climate Rule. According to The Washington Free Beacon, "Sen. Tom Cotton (R., Ark.) released a statement on Tuesday applauding President Donald Trump and his administration's roll back of an Obama administration climate rule. 'This is a step forward for Arkansas and all of rural America. The Obama administration's plan would have amounted to a huge energy tax that would have raised power bills for Arkansans and dealt a blow to manufacturers,' Cotton's statement reads. 'The Trump administration's proposal, by contrast, will give our state's authorities the flexibility they need to make the right decisions for Arkansas. This new rule will go a long way toward rebuilding trust between the EPA and rural America, and I'm pleased to see it move forward.' The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on Tuesday it would deregulate carbon emissions coming from coal power plants and allow states to set their own standards. This move is another rollback of the Obama administration's major environmental initiatives and could prevent future administrations from reimplementing the rule, CNN reports." [The Washington Free Beacon, 8/21/18 (-)]

Trump Can Still Meet Obama's Coal Pollution Target, Even After Gutting Signature Rule. According to Washington Examiner, "A key justification the Trump administration provided in moving Tuesday to gut President Barack Obama's signature climate change initiative targeting coal plants is the fact that the power market is already naturally becoming cleaner, making strict regulation unnecessary in its judgment. 'The world we are addressing today is different than the world when the Clean Power Plan was put in place originally,' Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator Bill Wehrum told reporters on Tuesday. 'There is very little difference between what we see happening in the future, verses emission reductions we would have seen under the Clean Power Plan.' President Barack Obama's 2015 Clean Power Plan, which was never implemented because of a Supreme Court stay, required states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030." [Washington Examiner, 8/22/18 (-)]

EPA Moves To Scrap Obama Mandates For Power Plant Emissions. According to The Daily Signal, "The Environmental Protection Agency accelerated the Trump administration's deregulatory agenda Tuesday by announcing a proposed rule to replace the Obama administration's 'Clean Power Plan' with guidelines that give states more flexibility to determine how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. The proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule rejects what acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler described in a conference call as the Clean Power Plan's 'top-down, one-size-fits-all' approach. Instead, President Donald Trump's administration embraces an alternative strategy, rooted in federalism, that allows states to reduce carbon emissions while providing their residents with reliable, affordable energy. 'The era of top-down, one-size-fits-all federal mandates is over,' Wheeler said. Obama's Clean Power Plan, finalized in August 2015, set out to curtail carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants for the purpose of combating climate change." [The Daily Signal, 8/21/18 (-)]

Op-Ed: Obama's Climate Legacy Is Toast. According to an op-ed by James Delingpole in Breitbart, "The Clean Power Plan – designed to be the centerpiece of his presidency-defining mission to combat climate change – has been watered down to the point of irrelevance by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Replacing it is the snappily-named Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule. ... As Daily Caller reports, the idea behind the Clean Power Plan was to implement Obama's carbon dioxide emission reduction commitments made when he signed the Paris Climate Accord. ... This will indeed by good for U.S. industry, especially in the coal states which would otherwise have been hit hard. Myron Ebell, Director for Energy and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, has welcomed EPA's replacement rule: 'The EPA's proposed replacement rule is a huge improvement over the so-called Clean Power Plan, which is almost certainly illegal and would be incredibly costly to consumers if implemented. The new rule provides minimal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants and will therefore result in only small increases in electric rates. It will also do no more harm to the coal industry, which still supplies 30% of America's electricity at the lowest costs.'" [Breitbart, 8/22/18 (-)]

EPA Proposes Light-Touch Replacement For Obama-Era Clean Power Plan. According to Breitbart, "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule on Tuesday to replace the burdensome Obama-era Clean Power Plan (CPP) to reduce greenhouse gas emission from coal-fired power plants. Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in a press release on Tuesday: The ACE Rule would restore the rule of law and empower states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans. Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance. In a statement Tuesday, Bill Wehrum, assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, said, 'EPA has an important role when it comes to addressing the CO2 from our nation's power plants.'" [Breitbart, 8/22/18 (-)]

Editorial: Don't Subsidize Coal; Just Stop Trying To Kill It Off. According to Washington Examiner, "When President Trump speaks Tuesday on energy policy, he is speaking on an industry utterly changed in the past 20 years. At the turn of the century, Americans fretted over how much we depended on foreign oil. We worried so much about running out of gas that import terminals were built so that foreign firms could ship liquefied natural gas for use in our pipelines. How things have changed. U.S. dependency on foreign oil isn't even an issue anymore, as the U.S. approaches its new role as a net exporter. And natural gas has proven to be so abundant, thanks to fracking, that prices have plummeted. Not only are those import terminals being refitted to serve as export terminals, but gas has also overtaken coal as the largest source of electrical generation in the U.S. This has mostly come about thanks to market forces. But there was an unfortunate interlude — the Obama administration's concerted effort to bankrupt ( as former President Barack Obama himself put it) coal generators. His overt effort to drive coal out of existence through regulation, heedless of its effect on local communities, left very bad feelings toward Obama and Democrats in some regions of the country and led directly to the election of Trump." [Washington Examiner, 8/21/18 (~)]

**Op-Ed: Celebrate The Clean Power Plan's Collapse.** According to an op-ed by Tom Rogan in Washington Examiner, "If you care about accountable government, policy transparency, and lower energy bills you should welcome President Trump's decision to kill the Clean Power Plan, or CPP. And while environmental concerns are very important — we must protect our air, animals, and water — the CPP was the wrong vehicle for that agenda. But why specifically was the CPP so bad? Well, first off, it made energy bills a lot higher for a lot more families. In 2017, the price-per-kilowatt-hour in CPP-supporting California was twice that of its next-door neighbor, Nevada! The moral importance of this concern cannot be overstated. Lower-income families dedicate a higher portion of their budget to electricity.

And if families are forced to pay more in energy bills, they obviously cannot use the lost money on other things. This belies the Natural Resources Defense Council's assertion that the CPP would actually 'save the average American family \$85 on its electricity bills in 2030.' The CPP's champions were wealthy liberals like Tom Steyer and its victims were the poorest Americans." [Washington Examiner, 8/21/18 (-)]

Trump EPA Overhauls Obama-Era Regulations For Coal-Fired Power Plants. According to Fox News, "The Trump administration announced new plans Tuesday to roll back and replace Obama-era regulations on emissions from coal-fired power plants – a move praised by the coal industry as a job saver but panned by critics as a green-light to polluters. The newly unveiled Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule, as it's called, would give states broad authority to determine how to restrict carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. It's meant as a replacement to the Obama-era Clean Power Plan that sought to speed up the closure of coal-burning power plants and cut back on greenhouse gases by cutting carbon dioxide emissions and encouraging utilities to invest in cleaner energy sources like wind and solar. 'The ACE Rule would restore the rule of law and empower states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans,' Environmental Protection Agency Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in a statement. 'Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance.' The effort is part of Trump's overall bid to roll back regulations and help the struggling coal sector in particular. He is likely to highlight the plan at a rally in Charleston, W.Va., Tuesday evening." [Fox News, 8/21/18 (=)]

'He Has Our Back': Coal Miner Praises Trump For Ending Obama's War On Coal. According to Fox News, "A West Virginia coal worker praised President Donald Trump Monday on 'Fox & Friends First' for a plan to ease Obama-era climate restrictions on coal-burning power plants. The proposed new rules, which the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release this week, would be the latest in a series of reversals of policies the Obama administration adopted to slow climate change. Bo Copley said that Trump is following through on his campaign promise to support the coal industry. 'It's great for us to be able to say we have someone who cares about the people in this state and cares about the people in our industry, that he's got our back,' said Copley, who made headlines in 2016 when he showed thencandidate Hillary Clinton a picture of his family and asked her about plans to cut coal mining jobs ... 'As I reached out to a lot of people this weekend, I had a lot of people say they would give anything to have the opportunity to thank him for our industry and thank him for people who just want to get up and go to work and provide their families.'" [Fox News, 8/20/18 (-)]

Editorial: Don't Subsidize Coal; Just Stop Trying To Kill It Off. According to Washington Examiner, "When President Trump speaks Tuesday on energy policy, he is speaking on an industry utterly changed in the past 20 years. At the turn of the century, Americans fretted over how much we depended on foreign oil. We worried so much about running out of gas that import terminals were built so that foreign firms could ship liquefied natural gas for use in our pipelines. How things have changed. U.S. dependency on foreign oil isn't even an issue anymore, as the U.S. approaches its new role as a net exporter. And natural gas has proven to be so abundant, thanks to fracking, that prices have plummeted. Not only are those import terminals being refitted to serve as export terminals, but gas has also overtaken coal as the largest source of electrical generation in the U.S. This has mostly come about thanks to market forces. But there was an unfortunate interlude — the Obama administration's concerted effort to bankrupt (as former President Barack Obama himself put it) coal generators. His overt effort to drive coal out of existence through regulation, heedless of its effect on local

communities, left very bad feelings toward Obama and Democrats in some regions of the country and led directly to the election of Trump." [Washington Examiner, 8/21/18 (~)]

Trump Rolls Back Obama's Anti-Coal Regs. According to The Patriot Post, "Today, the Environmental Protection Agency will follow through on one of President Donald Trump's major campaign promises in announcing plans for rolling back Barack Obama's coal-killing environmental regulations on power-plant emissions. According to The Wall Street Journal, 'The new plan ... recommends a menu of upgrades designed to let coal-fired plants produce energy with less fuel and seeks to eliminate triggers that mandate costly technological overhauls at coal plants. While the Clean Power Plan was designed to reduce greenhouse gases and fight the cause of climate change, the Trump administration cast the regulation as setting unfair rules that coal plants wouldn't be able to meet.' As EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler explained, 'The entire Obama administration plan was centered around doing away with coal.' Trump's administration is correct about Obama's power grab." [The Patriot Post, 8/21/18 (-)]

Op-Ed: President Trump Fights Back In The 'War On Coal.' According to an op-ed by Erich Reimer in Townhall, "On Tuesday evening President Trump visited for a major rally in West Virginia, America's 'coal country' - or what once was. Proclaiming 'clean coal' and giving a shout-out to Republican Senate nominee Patrick Morrisey, who is running a competitive race against Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), it is clear the president is continuing his focus on America's hinterlands and heartland which were so essential behind his election. President Trump has made one of his administration's major economic themes his solidarity with coal and its workers. From donning a miner's hat in his previous rally in West Virginia to his repeals and reform of Obama-era coal emissions regulations, he has stood steadfast with one of the true 'forgotten men and women' communities of our country. It was only a few years ago that not only were the plight of coal workers ignored as the energy industry rapidly began transforming away from increasingly uncompetitive coal power but in fact the Obama-era EPA, as well as other federal agencies and lawmakers, began trying to artificially stamp out the coal industry. This was done through draconian emissions regulations that essentially made it impossible for coal plants to possible turn sufficient profits to stay in business. Coal already was on the decline, but by speeding up its collapse through government intervention the result was far more turbulence and instability for displaced workers." [Townhall, 8/22/18 (-)]

### **State Outlets**

### **ARIZONA**

Trump Administration Expected To Reveal Changes On Coal-Fired Plants. According to KNAU, "GREENE: Well, we appreciate you taking the time. The changes that the Trump administration will be unveiling - I mean, we don't know all the details yet - but it sounds like it's going to shift things and give states more control over regulating power plants. Is there merit to that idea, that states are best equipped to regulate their energy portfolios? MCCABE: Well, you know, David, under the Clean Air Act, which we've had for 40 years now, there's always been a partnership between the federal and the state government in terms of controlling air pollution. And there are times when it makes sense for states to be in charge in really deciding where to make reductions. One of the challenges with this program, however, is that we're dealing with a global pollutant here, a pollutant that's affecting the entire country and, indeed, the entire world. And the way the Clean Air Act deals with situations like that is by giving EPA the authority to establish the overall environmental and public health targets and then gives states guidelines on how to implement that. The challenge here with the utility industry is that it's not like other industry that works plant by plant by plant. This is an integrated, interconnecting grid all across

the country. And power plants work together to produce energy for our country. And so a more national program where EPA sets clear targets for everybody to reach is what really makes sense here, and then the states work to implement those." [KNAU, 8/21/18 (+)]

CNN | Trump's Coal Emissions Rollbacks Will Be Bad For Country's Health, Experts Say. According to AZ Family, "The Environmental Protection Agency will allow states to set their own emission standards for coal-fueled power plants under the newly proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule. The plan, announced Tuesday, will 'establish guidelines for states' to use when setting limits for greenhouse gases, the agency said in a statement. Critics say the decision will result in the release of much more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. By the EPA's own estimate, according to its a 289-page risk analysis, the additional pollution will result in up to 1,400 more premature deaths a year as of 2030. By the same year, the Obama administration's Clean Air Plan, which the new rule will replace, would have avoided 3,600 premature deaths due to pollution from coal-fired power plants. The President who talked about ending 'the war on beautiful, clean coal' in this year's State of the Union address is replacing one of the Obama administration's signature climate change policies which the EPA referred to as 'overly prescriptive and burdensome.' The announcement comes on the heels of plans to weaken fuel economy targets and a revision of coal ash regulations." [AZ Family, 8/21/18 (+)]

### **CALIFORNIA**

Jerry Brown Blasts 'Trump's Insanity' On Clean Power Plan. According to Merced Sun Star, "Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday issued a damning condemnation of President Donald Trump's plan to undo Obamaera regulations restricting greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants, calling the president's intention 'a declaration of war against America and all of humanity.' ... Brown said in a statement Tuesday that the president's plan 'will not stand. ... Truth and common sense will triumph over Trump's insanity.'" [Merced Sun Star, 8/21/18 (+)]

AP | Trump Set To Ease Obama Rules On Coal-Fired Power Plants. According to The Mercury News, "The Trump administration is set to roll back the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's efforts to slow global warming, the Clean Power Plan that restricts greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. A plan to be announced Tuesday would give states broad authority to determine how to restrict carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. The Environmental Protect Agency announced late Monday that acting administrator Andrew Wheeler planned to brief the news media by telephone Tuesday on what the administration is calling the 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule — greenhouse guidelines for states to set performance standards for existing coal-fired power plants. Start your day with the news you need from the Bay Area and beyond. Sign up for our Morning Report weekday newsletter. President Donald Trump is expected to promote the new plan at an appearance in West Virginia on Tuesday. The plan is also expected to let states relax pollution rules for power plants that need upgrades, according to a summary of the plan and several people familiar with the full proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the plan publicly." [The Mercury News, 8/20/18 (=)]

### **COLORADO**

**New EPA Plan For Coal Plants Would Increase Emissions; What's The Impact On Colorado Springs?**According to The Gazette, "Greenhouse gases and noxious emissions from coal plants would increase under newly proposed Trump administration guidelines, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said

Tuesday. But it's unclear how the proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule could affect Colorado Springs Utilities' coal-fired downtown Martin Drake Power Plant and Ray Nixon Power Plant near Fountain. 'We will conduct a detailed review of the proposal and provide comments to the EPA as necessary,' Utilities spokeswoman Amy Trinidad said. 'We take being a responsible environmental steward very seriously.' The rule also would allow states to relax emissions standards for coal plants. But the Colorado Department of Health and Environment doesn't appear eager to do so. 'Colorado has already made significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector and continues to look for ways to further reduce emissions,' said Colorado Department of Health and Environment spokesman Mark Salley. 'The proposal is 236 pages, I'm told, and it was signed by the EPA administrator yesterday, so we are currently reviewing the proposed rule.'" [The Gazette, 8/21/18 (+)]

AP | Hickenlooper, Other Officials Blast Trump Administration Coal Plan, Mull Lawsuits. According to The Denver Channel, "States with a history of fighting air pollution generated by coal-fired power plants on Tuesday criticized a move by President Donald Trump's administration to scale back federal restrictions on emissions, with some threatening court challenges. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan was among those who pledged to 'take legal action to ensure the federal government does its job' to protect the environment and people's health. She warned the Republican administration's move will have 'disastrous consequences.' New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood also vowed to sue the Environmental Protection Agency if the plan is approved. Both are Democrats. 'If the Trump administration's proposal to dismantle the Clean Power Plan is adopted, we will work with our state and local partners to file suit to block it — in order to protect New Yorkers, and all Americans, from the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change,' Underwood said." [The Denver Channel, 8/21/18 (=)]

### EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan Rollback Could Impact Colorado. How Much Remains Unclear.

According to The Denver Post, "As state and utility officials sorted through the Trump administration's proposed sweeping changes to the Obama-era plan to reduce carbon emissions, environmental groups warned that the proposal announced Tuesday could undermine the significant strides Colorado has made. A mining industry official, though, said the changes would provide certainty for the coal industry and consumers. In a highly anticipated move, the Environmental Protection Agency rolled out its proposed rule to reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions, which the agency said would replace the 'burdensome' regulations of the 2015 Clean Power Plan. The Obama administration's plan set the goal of cutting U.S. carbon dioxide emissions to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, targeting emissions from coal-fired power plants and giving states latitude in meeting specific targets." [The Denver Post, 8/21/18 (+)]

### CONNECTICUT

EPA Proposes Change On Coal Emission Standards; Malloy Warns Bad For Connecticut. According to Record Journal, "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday announced its intention to change course on restricting emissions from coal-fired power plants, giving states much broader authority to set restrictions. The rule would reverse an Obama Administration policy that set federal restrictions. EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the proposal 'would restore the rule of law and empower states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans.' The proposal drew warnings from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and officials in other states that this could lead to air quality problems for states that are downwind from such facilities. Malloy also said in a statement that the new policy will have negative effects on climate change. 'It's not a far-off

problem; it's here and we see the effects every day,' he said in a statement. 'Weather patterns are more powerful and unpredictable than ever. Western states are beset by devastating drought and unprecedented wildfires.'" [Record Journal, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### **DELAWARE**

Carney Releases Statement On Repeal Of Clean Power Plan. According to Middletown Transcript, "Gov. John Carney issued a statement Aug. 21 on the Donald Trump administration's repeal of the Clean Power Plan. The goal of the Clean Power Plan is to reduce carbon pollution from coal-, oil- and natural gas-burning power plants; and combat the threat of climate change. 'Delawareans up and down our state are already experiencing the effects of climate change and sea level rise. Delaware is the lowest-lying U.S. state, and 17,000 homes here are at permanent risk of inundation. Rising average temperatures and stronger storms pose risks to our \$8 billion agricultural industry and threaten our natural resources. And unchecked air pollution presents health risks for all Delawareans,' said Carney. 'The Clean Power Plan set national targets for carbon emission reductions, but provided flexibility for the states to determine how best to achieve these targets. We have worked hard in Delaware to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and partner with other states in addressing pollution that feeds rapid climate change. This proposed replacement of the Clean Power Plan will make our efforts to reduce carbon pollution more difficult and will remove a strong incentive for state and federal governments to work together to clean up our air,' said Carney." [Middletown Transcript, 8/21/18 (+)]

### **GEORGIA**

Op-Ed: Trump Climate Plan Would Give Georgia More Flexibility. According to an op-ed by Tamar Hallerman in Atlanta Journal Constitution, "A proposal unveiled by the Trump administration on Tuesday would grant states such as Georgia more authority to decide what sorts of steps it should take to limit global warming-causing greenhouse gas emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency announced plans to replace a core set of Obama-era climate regulations with a less burdensome alternative that would 'restore the rule of law' while providing 'modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans.' The Trump administration's new Affordable Clean Energy proposal would give states broad leeway to decide how much to regulate their coal-fired power plants. That's a sharp contrast with President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan from 2015, which mandated steep reductions in carbon emissions for individual states. ... Few details were immediately available about how the plan, if finalized, would specifically affect Georgia." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 8/22/18 (-)]

### **ILLINOIS**

At West Virginia Rally, Trump Ignores Brewing Legal Storm. According to Chicago Tribune, "President Donald Trump on Tuesday night addressed a crowd in Charleston, W.Va., in a state where he remains deeply popular, touching on his favorite themes while ignoring the legal troubles swirling around his presidency hours after his former campaign chairman and former personal lawyer were convicted of federal crimes. In a state that he won by more than 40 points in 2016, Trump appeared on stage to deafening applause. He then took aim at NFL players for kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality. He praised the state's 'courageous' coal miners. He hailed Republican Senate candidate Patrick Morrisey as someone who will 'fight for you like nobody's ever fought for the people of West Virginia.' ... In a separate move that could bolster Morrisey, the Trump administration unveiled its 'Affordable Clean Energy' rule boosting the coal industry — a major sector in West Virginia — that rolls

back Obama-era environmental standards setting carbon dioxide limits for each state." [Chicago Tribune, 8/22/18 (=)]

Trump Throws Coal Plants A Lifeline, But Illinois Among States Showing No Signs Of Turning Back. According to Chicago Tribune, "President Donald Trump's plan to gut climate pollution standards for power plants is a lifeline to the dwindling American coal industry, but Illinois and many other states already are shifting to cleaner sources of energy and show no signs of turning back. The question is whether the proposal Trump unveiled Tuesday to dramatically weaken limits on heat-trapping carbon dioxide will allow aging coal-fired power plants to keep running longer than expected, slowing the transition to wind, solar and other forms of clean energy that increasingly are less expensive than coal. Under the Trump rewrite of President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan, states would be permitted to adopt their own regulations and could exempt certain coal plants from doing anything at all to reduce pollution that is steadily changing the planet's climate. It is one of several attempts by the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress to protect the coal industry and roll back clean air and water regulations enacted during Obama's eight years in office. 'Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance,' said Andrew Wheeler, Trump's acting administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a former lobbyist for Murray Energy Corp., an Ohio-based coal company that has spearheaded many of the attacks on Obama-era environmental regulations." [Chicago Tribune, 8/21/18 (=)]

Editorial: Trump Puts The Coal Industry Ahead Of Your Health. According to Chicago Sun Times, "Dirtier air, hundreds more deaths, and a worsening of climate change. That's what's we as a nation can expect now that the Trump administration, ever dismissive of both scientific fact and environmental well-being, has proposed to scrap the Obama-era Clean Power Plan in favor of a free-for-all on restricting emissions from coal-burning power plants. So here's the scorecard: coal plants and greenhouse gas emissions, 1; your right to breathe clean air, 0. Read the fine print on this, as reported in the New York Times, and the scorecard is even more clear. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges the plan could well lead to 'between 470 and 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030.' Up to 1,400 premature deaths a year. That's an unacceptable price to pay in exchange for giving states free rein to regulate coal-fired plants on their own. Big-coal states like Wyoming and West Virginia now have an incentive to keep older, dirtier plants online, though common sense and public health dictate they should be shut down." [Chicago Sun Times, 8/22/18 (+)]

### **KENTUCKY**

Trump's Coal Plan Replaces 'Far-Left Ideology' And McConnell Loves It. According to Courier Journal, "An EPA proposal to ease regulations on coal-fired power plants would allow Kentucky to set some of its own standards for greenhouse gas emissions. The Affordable Clean Energy rule released Tuesday would replace an Obama-era proposal designed to shift the energy industry away from coal. Instead, the rule would leave much of the regulation up to states, which could choose from a list of 'candidate technologies' to upgrade plants. On Tuesday, state Energy and Environment Cabinet spokesman John Mura said it was still too early to say what strategies Kentucky might follow under the proposed rule, but that it would allow the commonwealth to 'responsibly use its energy assets in a way that would provide low-cost energy to consumers and industry.'" [Courier Journal, 8/22/18 (=)]

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MAINE

AP | EPA Readies Plan To Ease Rules On Coal-Fired Power Plants. According to Central Maine, "The Trump administration is set to roll back the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's efforts to slow global warming, the Clean Power Plan that restricts greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. A plan to be announced in coming days would give states broad authority to determine how to restrict carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, according to a summary of the plan and several people familiar with the full proposal who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the plan publicly. The plan by the Environmental Protection Agency also would let states relax pollution rules for power plants that need upgrades. That would reverse an Obama-era push to shift away from coal and toward less-polluting energy sources such as natural gas, wind and solar power. Combined with a planned rollback of carmileage standards, the plan represents a significant retreat from Obama-era efforts to fight climate change. President Trump has already vowed to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement as he pushes to revive the coal industry" [Central Maine, 8/21/18 (=)]

### **MARYLAND**

**Trump EPA Plan Would Give States More Authority On Coal Plant Emissions; Maryland Officials Wary.** According to Baltimore Sun, "President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday proposed a new set of rules that would give states greater control over limits on pollution from coal-fired power plants — and likely allow many of those plants to operate longer than they would have under a plan former President Barack Obama had set in motion. The Trump plan comes as Maryland officials are pressing the federal government to require coal plants in upwind states to do more to scrub their emissions of harmful pollutants." [Baltimore Sun, 8/21/18 (+)]

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

AP | Trump Administration Proposes Rule To Relax Carbon Limits On Power Plants. According to Boston Globe, "The Trump administration on Tuesday came out with new rules scaling back Obama-era constraints on coal-fired power plants, striking at one of the former administration's legacy programs to rein in climate-changing fossil-fuel emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency called the Obama-era regulations on coal power plants 'overly prescriptive and burdensome.'" [Boston Globe, 8/21/18 (=)]

Op-Ed: Coal Mining Is A Dying Industry. So Why Does It Play An Outsized Role In Our Energy Policy? According to an op-ed by Frederick Hewett in WBUR, "In the U.S. today, they're only one out of every 6,100 people. But that small constituency of 53,000 coal miners has a perplexingly disproportionate influence on the nation's energy policy. At a rally in West Virginia this week, President Trump unveiled his latest energy initiative, the ostensible purpose of which is to bolster the flagging American coal industry. The real objectives behind his action remain obscure. The new rules will replace the Clean Power Plan, the Obama-era regulation that, had it ever been implemented, would have further dimmed the already fading prospects for coal in this country. The Obama administration said unequivocally that burning coal to generate electricity puts more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than we can afford in the era of climate change. But Trump's rewrite of the Clean Power Plan is a toothless sham — an evisceration of the rules that gives states the right to set their emissions limits and does little or nothing to cut greenhouse gas output. (There are no coal plants left in Massachusetts, and just one in New

England — but the pollution caused by coal plants doesn't recognize state boundaries.)" [WBUR, 8/22/18 (+)]

#### **MICHIGAN**

Feds Change Coal-Plant Emissions Rules; Here's What It Means For MI. According to Public News Service, "The Trump administration announced on Tuesday that it's loosening rules on emissions from coal-fired power plants, rolling back the requirements of President Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan. The new rules largely would allow states to regulate emissions - and in Michigan, it's unclear whether utilities or the Department of Environmental Quality would seek less stringent air-pollution controls for the state's 15 coal-fired power plants. Pete Ternes, communications manager for external affairs at DTE Energy, said his company plans to close all of its coal plants by 2040 and is sticking with its plans to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions significantly. 'DTE Energy is still on track to reduce its carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050,' he said, 'and we're also setting a goal of reducing our methane emissions from our natural-gas utility operations by 80 percent by 2040.' Consumers Energy also has announced plans to shutter all of its coal-fired plants by 2040, a decision it has said is primarily driven by the cost of upkeep on aging plants and the rising affordability of natural gas and renewable energy." [Public News Service, 8/22/18 (+)]

**Trump Proposes Unwinding Coal-Plant Pollution Curbs.** According to Crain's Detroit Business, "Plan shifts most of regulatory burden to states DTE, Consumers CEOs won't change plans close more than 20 coal-fired plants over the next 12 years EPA predicts changes could bring 470-1,400 additional premature deaths" [Crain's Detroit Business, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### **MINNESOTA**

Trump Emissions Plan Could Dirty Minnesota's Air, But Energy Transition Continues. According to Minnesota Public Radio, "A new plan announced Tuesday by the Trump administration to turn the regulations of carbon emissions over to individual states won't likely affect the way Minnesota gets its power in the future. The new plan, called the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, would replace President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was the U.S. response to efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions as part of the 2015 climate agreement in Paris. Under the Clean Power Plan, Minnesota wasn't expected to see much impact because the state's utilities had already begun phasing out coal, mostly for economic reasons. But other states could have faced earlier retirements for coal-fired power plants under the Obama-era plan. While the new Trump plan announced Tuesday likely won't affect Minnesota's power plants, it could increase overall air pollution in the state if other states opt to burn more coal, said David Thornton, assistant commissioner with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. 'If it's a step anywhere, it's a step backwards,' Thornton said, adding that reducing carbon emissions also reduces other air pollutants that are harmful to people's health." [Minnesota Public Radio, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### **MISSOURI**

**AP | U.S. Plan For Coal Power Deregulation Could Cause More Deaths.** According to St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "The Trump administration moved to dismantle another major piece of President Barack Obama's environmental legacy on Tuesday, proposing to dramatically scale back restrictions on climate-changing emissions from coal-fired power plants even as it acknowledged that could lead to more premature deaths and serious illnesses. The proposal may have particularly high stakes in Missouri,

where 81 percent of the state's electricity was generated from coal in 2017, and in St. Louis, where the nation's two largest coal companies — Peabody and Arch Coal — are headquartered." [St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8/22/18 (=)]

### **NEW JERSEY**

Trump's Latest Plan Could Bring Dirtier Air Into New Jersey. According to NJ.com, "Dirtier air could soon be drifting into New Jersey from the Midwest, due to to the Trump administration's latest environmental decision, according to environmentalists. On Tuesday morning, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its plan to replace Obama-era power plant regulations. The new policy proposal is being called the Affordable Clean Energy Rule. It affords individual states more power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. 'Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance,' EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler said in a press release announcing the new rule." [NJ.com, 8/21/18 (+)]

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Washington Post | Trump Moves To Relax Carbon Limits On Power Plants. According to Albuquerque Journal, "The Trump administration on Tuesday proposed relaxing pollution standards for power plants nationwide, a move that could slow the decline of U.S. carbon emissions and lead to hundreds more premature deaths, and thousands of asthma attacks and missed school days. The Environmental Protection Agency's Affordable Clean Energy rule, which President Donald Trump planned to tout at a roundtable meeting in Charleston, W.Va., on Tuesday evening, represents the administration's most ambitious proposal to bolster the nation's coal industry. Although it probably would have a modest impact on curbing carbon dioxide emissions in the power sector, it could potentially increase human health risks from other pollutants. The measure, which would replace an Obama-era rule that set strict carbon dioxide limits for each state and encouraged the shuttering of coal plants, is likely to widen the environmental policy divide between red and blue states." [Albuquerque Journal, 8/22/18 (=)]

### **NEW YORK**

Trump's August Assault On Climate Policy. According to The New Yorker, "This summer has brought record-breaking heat around the world, and no slowdown in the Trump Administration's systematic undoing of climate regulations. On August 2nd, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration jointly proposed freezing the fuel-economy standards for cars and light trucks that were adopted under President Obama. On Tuesday, the E.P.A. unveiled the Affordable Clean Energy (A.C.E.) rule, a proposal to neuter Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was designed to decrease carbon emissions from coal-powered electric plants. Together, these policies are as abominable as they are unsurprising: they represent the fossil-fuel industry's warmest fantasies, and a fulfillment, more or less, of various Trump promises." [The New Yorker, 8/21/18 (+)]

**New York Officials Pan Trump Coal Plan.** According to Times Union, "New York officials and environmental groups pushed back Tuesday on the Trump administration's plans to let states decide how to control pollution and climate-changing greenhouse gases from coal-fired power plants, saying it would worsen air quality in the state and fuel ongoing climate change globally. Weather patterns in New York generally blow from west to east, carrying emissions that can cause smog and acid rain. Several

upwind states to the west have been burning more coal for power since President Donald Trump took office last year. On Tuesday. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its replacement to the 2015 Clean Power Plan by the former administration of President Barack Obama that would have set federal limits on greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired plants." [Times Union, 8/21/18 (=)]

Trump Administration Says Trump Coal Plan Will Kill 1,400 Americans A Year. According to Daily Intelligencer, "Coal is a dirty fuel. Not only does it contain far more carbon than other energy sources, it also contains other kinds of pollutants. The non-carbon pollution effects are a crucial cause of coal's decline. It's why Chinese cities, so choked with pollution that you can barely breath outside, are phasing out coal. The Obama administration helped drive coal plants out of business by regulating those pollution sources more strictly. Trump's energy plan, unveiled last night, is to deregulate coal in hopes of staving off its demise. Trump justifies the policy on the grounds that coal miners are wonderful people, windmills kill (and are somehow killed by) birds, and climate science is a hoax. Melt the glaciers to own the liberals. But there's an important side effect to his pro-coal policy: keeping more coal-fired plants around means keeping more of the other kinds of pollution around in addition to carbon dioxide. The New York Times peered into the internal documents written by Trump's own Environmental Protection Agency, and it finds the additional pollution will kill a projected 1,400 Americans a year." [Daily Intelligencer, 8/21/18 (+)]

**EPA Moves To Dramatically Cut Regulation Of Coal Power.** According to WHEC, "The Trump administration moved to dismantle another major piece of President Barack Obama's environmental legacy on Tuesday, proposing to dramatically scale back restrictions on climate-changing emissions from coal-fired power plants even as it acknowledged that could lead to more premature deaths and serious illnesses." [WHEC, 8/21/18 (=)]

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Shaheen, Hassan Attack Trump Climate Plan As Health Threat. According to WRAL, "New Hampshire's Democratic Congressional delegation criticized the Trump administration efforts to scale back restrictions on climate-changing emissions from coal-fired power plants, calling it a threat to the health and safety of the state's residents. The Trump plan broadly gives states much more discretion in regulating coal power plants. The Environmental Protection Agency said the move is an effort to empower states and promote economic growth. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan and Reps. Carol Shea-Porter and Annie Kuster said climate change poses a threat to everything from the maple syrup industry to coastal residents in New Hampshire. They said efforts to dismantle one of President Barack Obama's environmental achievements demonstrates the administration is siding with the fossil fuel industry over American lives and would undermine efforts to combat climate change."

[WRAL, 8/21/18 (=)]

New Coal Rules Garner Response From Trump And North Carolina Officials. According to WLOS, "President Donald Trump spoke before a crowd in West Virginia on Tuesday evening. The rally followed new federal rollbacks on Obama-era coal pollution rules. Trump visited Charleston, West Virginia, for the first time since being elected president. His job title may be different, but not his position on coal. He spoke after officials with the Environmental Protection Agency — or EPA — announced a rollback giving states the power to regulate coal plants and taking that power out of the hands of the federal government. 'It might help create more jobs for the coal people,' Bill Fuqua, a North Carolina resident, said." [WLOS, 8/21/18 (=)]

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AP | Trump Plan Rolls Back Obama's Coal Emissions Standards. According to WRAL, "The Trump administration is set to roll back the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's efforts to slow global warming, the Clean Power Plan that restricts greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. A plan to be announced in coming days would give states broad authority to determine how to restrict carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. The Environmental Protect Agency announced late Monday that acting administrator Andrew Wheeler planned to brief the news media by telephone Tuesday on greenhouse guidelines for states to set performance standards for existing coal-fired power plants." [WRAL, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

**AP | North Dakota Political Leaders Applaud Revised Power Plan.** According to The Bismarck Tribune, "The Trump administration moved to dismantle another major piece of President Barack Obama's environmental legacy on Tuesday, proposing to dramatically scale back restrictions on climate-changing emissions from coal-fired power plants even as it acknowledged that could lead to more premature deaths and serious illnesses. The Trump plan broadly increases the authority given states to decide how and how much to regulate coal power plants. The Environmental Protection Agency said the move 'empowers states, promotes energy independence and facilitates economic growth and job creation.' North Dakota's elected officials reacted to the administration's revised power plan on Tuesday." [The Bismarck Tribune, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### OHIO

**EPA Moves To Dramatically Cut Regulation Of Coal Power.** According to The Columbus Dispatch, "'We've seen the initial overview by U.S. EPA on the proposed Affordable Clean Energy rule and need to know more. It is a complex rule package,' said James Lee, a spokesman for the Ohio EPA. 'Once we have had an opportunity to look through the entire rule package, we will be better able to talk about how it will affect Ohio.' But Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, didn't hesitate to make her feelings known on the proposal. 'This decision is not just a slight change of course from past actions to clean up our air — it is an abrupt turn heading the wrong direction,' she said in a released statement. 'If this plan goes into place, our families will be less safe and America will be further behind the rest of the world. This move will cause long-reaching problems for each breath we take.' Models for Trump's plan show 300 to 1,500 premature deaths would be avoided a year by 2030. The Obama plan says 1,500 to 3,600 premature deaths would be avoided. The Trump plan also projects tens of thousands of additional major asthma attacks and hundreds more heart attacks compared with the Obama plan, which has been hung up in the courts. One model in the analysis predicts 21,000 school-absence days per year." [The Columbus Dispatch, 8/21/18 (+)]

### **OKLAHOMA**

**EPA Proposes Roll Back Of Obama Clean Power Rules, But Oklahoma Official Says State Already Would Meet The Stricter Requirements.** According to Tulsa World, "Oklahoma's top energy and environment official said the state already would satisfy stricter Obama-era clean power requirements in response to the EPA unveiling a different set of rules Tuesday that roll back those regulations. Oklahoma utilities also don't foresee a significant effect from the new proposal, citing compliance with other environmental restrictions and market conditions that are driving energy generation toward cleaner or renewable

options rather than coal. 'We would have met the requirements of the previous Clean Power Plan,' said Michael Teague, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment. 'I haven't been able to digest all of the new plan, but my assumption is we'll be able to meet all of the new regulations as well.' The Environmental Protection Agency proposes rescinding the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan in favor of rules that the EPA says will empower states, promote energy independence and facilitate economic growth." [Tulsa World, 8/21/18 (=)]

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Trump Administration Releases Modest Rule For Coal Plants. According to Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "The Trump administration's new proposal for addressing greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants will allow states to choose from a menu of options for making plants marginally more efficient. Pennsylvania regulators and other officials say they liked the old plan just fine. The rule released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday does away with the Obama-era Clean Power Plan's broad ambitions for limiting power sector carbon dioxide emissions in favor of modest improvements that coal plants can adopt on-site. Once, and if, the new Affordable Clean Energy rule is finalized, regulators in Pennsylvania and other states will have three years to come up with a plan to comply with it. 'We are disappointed in the Trump administration's decision to withdraw the Clean Power Plan, which would have been a responsible, cost-effective means of addressing global climate change,' said Neil Shaderm, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection." [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 8/22/18 (=)]

How The Trump Administration's EPA Proposed Rule Could Help The Coal Industry. According to Pittsburgh Business Times, "The CEO of a Canonsburg-based mining company on Tuesday hailed the Trump administration's relaxing of environmental regulations that he said would have punished coalburning power plants and, ultimately, consumers. The Environmental Protection Agency earlier in the day rolled out the Affordable Clean Energy Rule, which would remove the coal-fired generation industry from the Obama administration's controversial Clean Power Plan (CPP), which set targets for emissions and would have led to the closing of more power plants. The Trump administration reduced those targets, making it easier for plants and also bringing back to the states the power to set limits. 'I do believe this is good for the overall power generation mix in the United States and ultimately good for consumers in that it will lower the price of electricity and increase electrical grid reliability,' Corsa Coal CEO George Dethlefsen told the Pittsburgh Business Times. 'There was no cost-benefit analysis run on the Obama-era emissions regulations when they were enacted.'" [Pittsburgh Business Times, 8/21/18 (=)]

**Op-Ed:** A Better Way To Ensure Clean, Reliable Energy. According to an op-ed by Andrew Wheeler in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "Aside from legal concerns, the CPP's punitive demands on energy providers would have unnecessarily raised electricity prices, decreased the competitiveness of America's manufacturers, cost Americans jobs and undermined the nation's energy security. For example, an economic analysis by the National Economic Research Associates found that the CPP could have caused double-digit electricity price increases in 40 states. Unfortunately, low- and middle-income Americans, many of them minorities and senior citizens, would have borne the brunt of that burden. According to a 2015 analysis of energy prices, middle-income Americans spend nearly 20 percent of their after-tax income on residential and transportation energy; low-income Americans spend more than 20 percent. The Trump administration's plan respects the law, promotes energy independence and supports economic growth and job creation. EPA's Affordable Clean Energy rule (ACE), would restore the states'

proper role under the Clean Air Act and our system of federalism. Our plan would allow states to establish standards of performance that meet EPA emissions guidelines. Unlike the CPP, the ACE rule would not interfere with states as they construct diverse, reliable energy portfolios that can provide affordable energy to fuel economic growth." [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 8/21/18 (-)]

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Experts: Coal's Decline Imminent, With Or Without Trump's Regulatory Changes. According to Charleston Gazette-Mail, "'All it does is to delay the closure or conversion of some existing coal plants,' said Michael Gerrard, who teaches environmental law and energy regulation at Columbia Law School. 'If they had to comply with the Clean Power Plan as released by the Obama administration, many utilities would be required to go to more use of natural gas and renewables, so this will delay that impact.' Despite Trump's repeated promise to fight the 'war on coal,' it is not regulations, but cheaper natural gas, that has hurt the industry, experts say. 'Killing the Clean Power Plan will not bring coal back, because the Clean Power Plan did not kill coal. It's still economics,' West Virginia University law professor James Van Nostrand said. A report published last week by WVU's College of Business and Economics predicts a short-term dip, and long-term decline in coal production. According to the forecast, overall state output is expected to decline about 3 percent each year for the next two years, and see more dramatic declines in output by the end of the 2030s. 'Southern West Virginia's production should be buoyed by what is expected to be fairly stable levels of export demand, but output is likely to trend lower during the outlook as a growing portion of the region's reserves become unprofitable to recover,' the report said." [Charleston Gazette-Mail, 8/20/18 (=)]

Op-Ed: WV Workers Deserve Clean Power, Jobs It Can Bring. According to an op-ed by Rhea Suh in Charleston Gazette-Mail, "When he visits Charleston on Tuesday, President Donald Trump would do well to bring some fresh ideas for helping the people of West Virginia cope with kitchen-table issues like jobs, health care and education. Instead, he'll trot out his failed promise to revive the troubled coal industry — and make our children pay the price. The people of West Virginia deserve better. Trump took office vowing to bring coal jobs back to West Virginia by slashing protections for Appalachian waters and forests and turning his back on the fight against climate change. Since then, unemployment across the Mountain State state has risen to 5.4 percent, up from 5.3 percent in January 2017. Mining, logging and construction jobs have fallen 4.1 percent statewide over just the past 12 months. Now, in an effort to bolster the fortunes of state Republicans in advance of November elections, Trump is using Charleston to announce his retreat from one of the most important measures we've taken, as a nation, to fight the growing dangers of climate change." [Charleston Gazette-Mail, 8/20/18 (+)]

#### TENNESSEE

TVA Says It's 'Well Positioned' To Adapt To New EPA Affordable Clean Energy Rule. According to WBIR, "The Tennessee Valley Authority says that as a federal utility, it will comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's new Affordable Clean Energy Rule, but that it won't be heavily affected by the new measure. The Affordable Clean Energy Rule was announced by the EPA on Monday as a replacement to the Obama administration's 2015 Clean Power Plan. The CPP set strict greenhouse gas emissions limits on companies in the power industry with the hopes of reducing U.S. emissions by approximately one third from 2005 levels by the year 2030. Now, the new rule gives states more authority to decide on emissions standards with the help of federal guidelines and relaxes CPP standards, according to a

written statement from the EPA. It also provides a list of 'candidate' technologies utilities can use to achieve emission reductions." [WBIR, 8/22/18 (=)]

#### **TEXAS**

Bloomberg | Trump's EPA Says More Americans Will Die Under Its Power-Plant Rollback. According to Houston Chronicle, "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says its proposal to relax greenhouse gas limits on power plants will cause as many as 1,630 additional premature deaths annually by 2030 from heart and lung disease -- an estimate independent experts say may be low. The projection is contained in a 289-page technical document accompanying the agency's proposal to replace the Obama-era Clean Power Plan that was released Tuesday. The new rule would give states more leeway to set limits on greenhouse gas emissions from their power sectors -- even though, by the agency's own admission, that will result in higher levels of particulate matter and ozone being emitted by coal plants than would have occurred under President Barack Obama's plan. That pollution is linked with respiratory infections, asthma and impaired lung function." [Houston Chronicle, 8/21/18 (=)]

Clean Power Plan Rollback Wouldn't Change Much About Texas' Power Mix, Experts Say. According to Houston Public Media, "Clean Power Plan rollback wouldn't change much about Texas' power mix, experts say. Texas Republicans are cheering the Trump Administration's proposal to roll back the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. Texas had sued over the plan to curb carbon emissions, calling it 'federal overreach.' Republican Senator John Cornyn of Texas praised Tuesday's release of the proposed 'Affordable Clean Energy Rule.' 'I'm glad to see President Trump remains committed to eliminating job-killing Obama regulations that for years were a wet blanket on the Texas economy,' Cornyn said in a statement. Still, when it comes to where Texas gets its power, some experts say the new policy, if enacted, wouldn't change that much. The new plan gives states more leeway on regulating coal plant emissions, which could mean some Texas coal plants already headed toward retirement stay open longer. But coal is decreasingly important in Texas. 'And that's because we have a competitive electricity market,' said Victor Flatt, head of the University of Houston's Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Center. 'Wind and natural gas are so inexpensive here.'" [Houston Public Media, 8/22/18 (=)]

### **VIRGINIA**

Editorial: More Hostility Toward Cleaner Air. According to The Virginian-Pilot, "The Trump administration's plan to change the way states must deal with carbon-dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants is its latest attempt to stop this country's efforts to combat climate change. This move is just as shortsighted as the administration's recently announced rollback of fuel-efficiency and emissions targets for automobiles set during the Obama administration, a move that Virginia and other states are planning to fight in court if necessary. Transportation is the United States' single largest producer of the carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change. After setting out to undo reasonable progress the Obama administration made toward curbing vehicle emissions, the current administration has turned its sights on recent progress toward reducing emissions from our No. 2 greenhouse gas polluter, the power industry. This is all part of a pattern. One of President Donald Trump's first major actions was to pull the United States — the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world — out of the Paris climate agreement. That pact was negotiated in 2015 in an effort to mount a global approach to the serious worldwide problem of climate change." [The Virginian-Pilot, 8/22/18 (+)]

**CAC Update: Dirty Power Scam Response** 

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#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Trump Touts Coal, Stumps For AG During Visit To West Virginia. According to The Intelligencer, "President Donald Trump said he is all in for West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey's campaign to unseat U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin in the November general election. He is also all in on coal, after his administration announced doing away with the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. Trump traveled Tuesday evening to the Charleston Civic Center under a cloud of breaking news regarding convictions and plea deals involving his former associates. This was Trump's sixth visit to West Virginia and his second visit to Charleston since the 2016 presidential campaign. The rally, planned by Trump's 2020 re-election campaign, brought in thousands of supporters from the state and the region. Trump is traveling across the country to rally support around candidates that can keep congressional control in Republican hands. Trump made it clear that he needed Morrisey to keep moving his agenda forward in Congress." [The Intelligencer, 8/22/18 (=)]

Ahead Of Trump Rally In Charleston, EPA Rolls Out New Emissions Rules. According to Charleston Gazette-Mail, "Ahead of a rally in Charleston, President Donald Trump's Environmental Protection Agency detailed its plan to deal with emissions coming from coal-fired power plants Tuesday morning. The Trump administration's replacement for the Clean Power Plan, called the Affordable Clean Energy, or ACE, rule would let states set standards for performance on existing coal-fired power plants. The rule was announced Tuesday morning by Andrew Wheeler, the EPA's acting administrator, and Bill Wehrum, assistant administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation. In a press call Tuesday morning, Wheeler and Wehrum said the rule would 'empower' states to make their own rules on how much coal-fired power plants can emit carbon dioxide." [Charleston Gazette-Mail, 8/21/18 (=)]

**EPA Unveils Affordable Clean Energy Proposal; Coal Applauds.** According to West Virginia Metro News, "Ahead of President Donald Trump's return visit to West Virginia Tuesday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a new rule to relax carbon emissions limits on power plants. The agency announced its the Affordable Clean Energy proposal on Tuesday, the morning ahead of Trump's visit to Charleston. 'Today's proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance,' stated Andrew Wheeler, the EPA's acting administrator. The rule would replace the 2015 Clean Power Plan, which was stayed by the U.S. Supreme Court and has never gone into effect. The fights that have taken place over the Clean Air Act may be mirrored by legal battles over the new Affordable Clean Energy proposal." [West Virginia Metro News, 8/21/18 (=)]

WV Officeholders Support Plan To Loosen Rules On Coal-Fired Power Plants. According to The Herald-Dispatch, "West Virginia politicians sounded off on the Trump administration's decision Tuesday to roll back Obama-era EPA regulations established by the 2015 Clean Power Plan, criticizing the Clean Power Plan and showing support for the EPA's Affordable Clean Energy replacement. U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., supported the decision and said the takedown of the Clean Power Plan is the end of the 'war on coal,' calling the Clean Power Plan a 'complete overreach by the federal government.' 'Not only was the one-size-fits-all approach disastrous for West Virginia's coal industry, but there was also absolutely no consideration for the economic effects the plan would have on an energy-rich state like ours,' Capito said. 'I'm encouraged the EPA's newly proposed Affordable Clean Energy plan allows state input and clearly signals the 'war on coal' is over.' U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said he supported the new energy policy, stating he hopes it will help jobs in the state's energy industry. 'I have spoken out against the Clean Power Plan since day one, and I am pleased that we are closer to ending this failed policy that hurt West Virginia,' Manchin said. 'I'm proud that the U.S. Senate and the House passed my

resolution to roll back President Obama's dangerous regulation. I am hopeful that this new approach from the Trump administration will help stabilize energy jobs.'" [The Herald-Dispatch, 8/22/18 (=)]

New EPA Rule Would Give A Lifeline To Coal, Could Lead To Premature Deaths. According to WSAZ, "A new proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday has led to quite a divide. While some cheer, others are incensed. The EPA under the Trump administration is proposing to give the coal industry a lifeline, rolling back the 2015 Clean Power Plan (CPP) put into place by President Barack Obama's administration. The new rule is called the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule and it appears to divide the two sides as much as the CPP before it. California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) tweeted ACE is 'a declaration of war against America and all of humanity.' It gives states much more authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, for example, allowing coal power plants to replace older equipment and extend the plant's life." [WSAZ, 8/21/18 (=)]

#### **WISCONSIN**

Trump EPA Plan Would Prolong Power Plants, But Wisconsin Utilities Are Moving Away From Coal./
According to Journal Sentinel, "Aging coal-fired power plants could get a new lease on life under an industry-friendly proposal by the Trump administration that would replace the Clean Power Plan, Barack Obama's signature strategy to confront climate change. Unveiled Tuesday, the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule would give states like Wisconsin broad latitude to in how they would regulate power plants' greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warmingas well as other pollutants, such as smog, soot and mercury. But in Wisconsin, the state's two largest utilities said they are moving ahead with plans to burn less coal and more natural gas and renewable energy — regardless of the plan by President Donald Trump. Natural gas produces about half of the carbon emissions as coal. States have three years to file plans with federal regulators to limit greenhouse gas emissions. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources — whose top officials opposed the Obama plan, saying it was too expensive — said it will evaluate the details of Tuesday's announcement. Andrew Wheeler, the acting administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, told reporters that Obama's Clean Power Plan exceeded the EPA's legal authority." [Journal Sentinel, 8/21/18 (=)]