**Sample Testimony for Chicago “Dirty Power Scam” Hearing (10/1)**

Testimony of

[NAME, CURRENT OCCUPATION]

on

October 1, 2018

for

“Dirty Power Scam” Hearing

Docket Identification No. [EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355]

at

Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building

77 West Jackson Boulevard

Chicago, Illinois 60604

Public Hearing Testimony

Hello, my name is [NAME], and I’m from [HOMETOWN] representing [GROUP/ORGANIZATION]. Thank you for this opportunity to offer comment. I am here today to speak out in opposition to Donald Trump and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler’s “Dirty Power Scam,” their scheme to gut the lifesaving Clean Power Plan.

I reject this proposal because [INSERT REASON]. By proposing to bury the Clean Power Plan, which set the first federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants – a major source of the pollution that exacerbates climate change – and encourages a transition to a clean energy economy, Trump and Wheeler are putting corporate polluters before the health and safety of [STATE DEMONYMS].

Gutting the Clean Power Plan with a “Dirty Power Scam” will cost lives and make our communities sick. The Trump administration’s own analysis found that the Clean Power Plan could prevent as many as 4,500 premature deaths each year by 2030 — more than even Obama’s EPA estimated — and previous estimates found it could provide up to $54 billion in health and climate benefits. Among those first to suffer adverse health impacts from this proposed rollback will be the over 26 million Americans who suffer from asthma, as well as vulnerable populations and communities of color who are impacted first and worst from air pollution and the effects of climate change. If we’ve learned anything from the extreme weather we’ve witnessed in recent years – from the wildfires raging out West to Hurricanes Florence, Harvey, and Maria – it’s that we need climate action now. But the Trump administration’s “Dirty Power Scam” would only pump more carbon pollution into our air, which could lead to more frequent and intense extreme weather events that would devastate the lives and livelihoods of impacted communities. [INSERT EXTREME WEATHER EXPEREINCE].

The reality is that [STATE DEMONYMS] want the Clean Power Plan to be made stronger, not gutted. Under the previous administration, EPA engaged in unprecedented public outreach to determine the best way to reduce carbon pollution from power plants. Americans have sent more than 8 million comments to EPA in support of standards limiting carbon pollution from new and existing power plants – the most ever received by an agency. The result of that unprecedented outreach is the Clean Power Plan.

Also, under the previous administration, EPA experts conducted extensive technical analysis. They found the Clean Power Plan encouraged investment in cleaner, safer energy sources like wind and solar. Clean energy is supported by the majority of Americans, creates jobs, and drives economic growth. But despite all the overwhelming evidence and broad public support for the Clean Power Plan, Trump and Wheeler are instead focused on accommodating a few big polluters.

Sadly, it’s not surprising that Trump and Wheeler are moving forward with their “Dirty Power Scam.” Andrew Wheeler is an industry insider who has lobbied for some of the world’s biggest polluters, and in his short time at EPA’s helm, he’s proven to be no different than his scandal-ridden predecessor, Scott Pruitt. Just like Pruitt, Wheeler has deep conflicts of interest with the very companies the EPA was created to oversee. As recently as 2017, Wheeler lobbied on behalf of coal giant Murray Energy, which sued to block the Clean Power Plan. The American people need to be assured that decisions made by Wheeler are based on sound science – not the result of closed-door lobbying by polluters and other special interests. So far, we’re not convinced.

[INSERT OTHER INFORMATION HERE: PERSONALY STORY, NATIONAL SECURITY, HEALTH, ETC. OR PERSONAL STORY]

My family and my fellow [STATE DEMONYMS] are counting on the EPA to protect us from dangerous pollution that makes our kids sick and our air more dangerous to breathe. We are counting on the health benefits and economic opportunities that the Clean Power Plan would provide for all Americans. That’s why I join others in my community and across [STATE] to support these lifesaving clean air protections and say no to Trump and Wheeler’s scheme to bury them.

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