**Overview:**

The Trump administration is committed to rolling back the Clean Power Plan, which would expose millions of Americans to more climate-changing carbon pollution and other dangerous pollutants emitted by existing power plants. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has started the process for repealing the Clean Power Plan, submitting his proposal to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which could take action as early as this month.

**Sample LTE opposing repeal of Clean Power Plan**

Subject: Delaying the Clean Power Plan worsens air quality and health

To OUTLET:

To the editor,

As nurses, we are keenly aware of the health impacts of air pollution. The Trump Administration’s efforts to revise or repeal the Clean Power Plan would put the health of Americans at risk. The Clean Power Plan would protect our health by limiting dangerous power plant pollution while encouraging the development of clean, renewable energy and the jobs that come with it.

The historic Clean Power Plan sets the first ever-national power plant carbon pollution standards and has a strong legal foundation under one of the nation’s most important and successful public health laws—the Clean Air Act. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to limit dangerous air pollutants from power plants, such as toxics, acid gases, heavy metals, and smog-forming and soot-forming emissions and setting standards for carbon pollution is no different. Attacking the Clean Power Plan by repealing or revising these standards is an effort to undermine the Clean Air Act. These standards are also a step forward in addressing climate change and set clear expectations for the next generation of power plants to ensure that they are the cleanest, most efficient, modern power plants.

Americans overwhelmingly support action to protect public health by reducing carbon pollution. Despite rollback efforts at the federal level, [STATE] should continue to take steps to reduce dangerous carbon pollution and accelerate the transition to cleaner, safer energy that will create new jobs for [STATE RESIDENTS]. Our health and safety depends on it.

NAME,

OCCUPATION

CITY, STATE

**Sample OpEd opposing repeal of Clean Power Plan**

The Clean Air Act is one of the nation’s most important public health laws, with a long history of success. With overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress granted EPA the authority to reduce air pollution to protect public health decades ago. In setting standards for hazardous air pollutants including particle matter, lead, and ground-level ozone, air pollutants have been reduced by more than 60%, with lead pollution reduced by more than 90%. The Supreme Court has affirmed multiple times that this authority extends to carbon pollution. However, the Clean Power Plan is being threatened, with efforts to repeal the standard set to reduce health protections under the Clean Air Act. EPA needs to implement strong limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants to fulfill the mission of the Clean Air Act – protecting the public from air pollution that endangers health.

Air pollution is linked to a wide range of health consequences including cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes. The Clean Air Act guarantees all Americans, especially the most vulnerable, air that is safe and healthy to breathe. As a nurse caring for patients with chronic lung disease, I am all too familiar with the health implications of air pollution. Exposure to air pollutants can cause serious and life-threatening consequences for someone suffering from asthma or other lung diseases. While there have been tremendous and successful efforts to reduce air pollution, more progress is needed to fulfill the promise of clean air. Limiting carbon pollution is another way to improve health by strengthening clean air protections.

As a nurse, I strongly support efforts of the EPA to regulate dangerous air pollutants under the legal authority of the Clean Air Act and full implementation of the Clean Power Plan. Throughout its four-decade history protecting the public from air pollution, the Clean Air Act has enjoyed strong bipartisan support. The original Clean Air Act and its subsequent amendments received overwhelming votes in Congress.

This landmark public health law directed the Environmental Protection Agency to protect health and the environment from air pollution. The result is saved lives and improved quality of life for millions of Americans. But the job is not finished. Communities across the nation still suffer from poor air quality. Low-income families face the impacts of toxic air pollution every day. From smog causing asthma attacks to toxic mercury harming children's neurological development; far too many people face a constant threat from the air they breathe and the impacts of climate change.

Efforts enacted now to reduce greenhouse gases (e.g. carbon dioxide) from all sources in the U.S. would prevent more than 16,000 premature deaths by 2030. The lives saved are a result of reductions in smog- and soot-forming pollution that would occur as carbon is reduced, because actions to clean up carbon would have the additional benefit of cleaning up other pollutants, too.

Americans support strong limits on pollution from power plants. According to a bipartisan survey conducted for the American Lung Association, voters strongly support EPA’s efforts to update clean air protections. An astounding 72 percent of voters surveyed specifically want EPA to set limits on power plant carbon pollution. According to the same poll, nearly three quarters (73 percent) of voters say that we do not have to choose between air quality and a strong economy – we can achieve both. And a 2-to-1 majority (60 to 31 percent) believes that strengthening safeguards against pollution will create, not destroy, jobs by encouraging innovation.

The EPA is a public health agency and any action that is taken by EPA officials should be in the interest of public health. Repealing the Clean Power Plan is in direct opposition to the mission of the agency. If our country does nothing to limit carbon pollution, especially from power plants, we will be faced with drastic consequences of climate change and health-related risks and rollback in progress made under the Clean Air Act. EPA needs to fulfill the promise of clean, healthy air for all Americans to breathe. Support for full implementation of the Clean Power Plan is needed to progress towards a healthier future for all Americans.