

Testimony given on 6/13/2023 at approximately 5:54 pm

Environmental Protection Agency's virtual public hearing on the Agency's proposed Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants

Good evening. I'm Nancy Boxer (N-a-n-c-y B-o-x-e-r) with the Association for Climate Health. Thanks for letting me speak.

We applaud this new EPA proposal to reduce emissions from the electric utilities which give off a quarter of the climate-harming gases in our country. We encourage EPA to go even further and cover **all** fossil-fuel power plants.

Some may protest there will be job losses and price increases from this proposal. This may be true. Yet the result is American capitalism at its finest. Costs will rise most for the worst offenders against the environment. Coal plants will pay to mitigate their continuing assault on the atmosphere; other fossil fuel plants will too. Their owners will pass these costs on as utility commissions approve rate increases to cover them. Customers will be the ones to bear this, and the poor will be sheltered by whatever income-sparing protections their local governments offer. Wholesale users will resist higher costs and migrate to cleaner power sources. Gradually the dirtiest plants will be retired, obsolete, no longer wanted. As they should, with better, more environmentally efficient technologies taking their place.

Who is the loser? Not the electric companies, who get to pass on their costs. Not their shareholders, who continue to enjoy a steady return on their investment. Customers may feel a pinch but will continue to enjoy some of the most affordable energy in the world. Only the **providers** of the dirtiest fossil fuels, who can and should go the way of buggy whip manufacturers and purveyors of snake oil. Should we care? No, because these entities belong in the cemetery for dead technologies. We will **not** mourn the shutdowns of the last coal mines in this country, nor will we regret tapering off oil and gas which continue to send huge amounts of methane into the air. They must all go into the junkheaps of history, and be replaced by cleaner ways of doing the business of mankind.

My state of Pennsylvania is a major emitter of greenhouse gas, and yet Pennsylvanians also want to turn this around. We want our grandchildren to live in a world that still harbors glaciers and polar bears, not a desiccated desert where oceans eat away at our major cities and threaten to drown every island paradise. We are at risk of losing our crazy, amazing lives here on Planet Earth. Please, EPA, stay the course. Steer us away from the doom that is unfolding. Keep tightening those standards and move the electricity sector towards a cleaner, more responsible future for all. Thank you for listening.