



November 7, 2013

EPA Public Listening Session on Carbon Pollution Standards and Guidelines – William Jefferson Clinton Building, Washington, D.C.

Good morning.

I am Ilyse Veron of the American Clean Skies Foundation.

ACSF is an independent nonprofit working for cleaner energy in the U.S. transportation and power sectors. We believe that renewables, natural gas and efficiency can all help to reduce harmful pollution and improve our country's energy security.

My Foundation colleagues have previously written and advised EPA to reduce hazardous air pollutant emissions from power plants.

Many states like Maryland and Pennsylvania have found ways to lower greenhouse gas emissions by incentivizing consumption efficiency and increasing generation with renewable power and natural gas.

After over 20 years of studying emissions and reporting that premature deaths will be avoided by controlling pollution, EPA should not delay action.

U.S. power plants are the largest single source of climate pollution in our nation and one of the largest in the world.

As a parent, a daughter and an aunt, I stand with a majority of Americans who support common sense limits to pollutants. I am

troubled by the toxic substances spewing from coal-fired power plants into our skies.

Mercury emitted from power plants reduces cognitive functioning of young children. Carbon pollution accelerates climate change, which poses great risk to our environment and our economy. Particulate matter from the plants causes respiratory and cardiovascular diseases as well as early deaths.

In many places the worsening air quality is already causing more asthma attacks as well as other chronic and acute health disorders involving the nervous system and kidneys. Afflictions like these are disturbing; asthma is now a leading cause of prolonged school absences nationwide.

Climate change is leading to increased transmission of infectious diseases from insects, food, and water; and higher morbidity from extreme weather including heat waves, floods, storm surges, and wildfires.

Simply put, all of this makes life so much worse. Sometimes it takes a child's innocent words to move us. Recently, my third grader wrote for a school report, "Being green means to be a better person, to protect the earth, and to stop making the sky gray with pollution."

It's time for the EPA to protect us better. In the morning when I wake up, I don't want to worry whether a day is Code Orange – with air too thick with pollutants for my children to play or aging relatives to venture outside.

The EPA should propose a strong pollution standard for existing power plants and enable the power sector to meet it with innovative clean energy solutions.

Thank you for listening.

For more information www.cleanskies.org

