



Scott Pruitt, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator, announced yesterday that he intends to sign a rule as early as today repealing the Clean Power Plan. The Clean Power Plan was based on the Clean Air Act of 1970, which required the EPA to take steps to reduce harmful air pollution. The 2015 set of standards was the first major effort by the United States government to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, which account for nearly 40 percent of the country's carbon pollution. The Clean Power Plan was projected to reduce national electricity sector emissions by 32% below 2005 levels by 2030 and provide billions of dollars in net benefits annually.

"The Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice is deeply saddened and disappointed by the intended repeal of the Clean Power Plan. Knowing the multiple benefits of reduced carbon pollution—health, societal, economic, and environmental—we cannot afford to let certain domestic interests affect what we know and believe to be true: that climate change is real and increasingly dangerous.

"The United States has been a leader in environmental policies that move our country and the rest of the world forward. The repeal of the Clean Power Plan represents a major step backwards—one that is deeply harmful to creation and disproportionately unjust to vulnerable people groups. As Christians, we have a mandate from our Creator to steward the earth well and care for creation. We are also called to love and care for our neighbors as ourselves. Allowing carbon emissions that have been proven harmful to pollute the atmosphere without limit is morally wrong and rationally illogical.

"As part of the body of Christ, we will continue to call for wise stewardship of our earth and work toward justice for all."

—Rev. Reginald Smith, Director of the Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America