



Interfaith Power & Light

A Religious Response to Global Warming

Testimony to the Environmental Protection Agency

Hearing on Clean Power Plan Repeal

Docket EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

San Francisco, CA

My name is Rev. Susan Hendershot Guy and I stand before you today as an ordained clergyperson in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and as the President of Interfaith Power & Light. Our mission is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. I speak on behalf of the thousands of clergy and nearly 20,000 communities of faith from our network around the country opposing the repeal of the Clean Power Plan.

The finalization of the Clean Power Plan in 2015 was the first national step to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants and demonstrated the United States' climate leadership to the world.

Climate change is a threat multiplier for so many issues about which people of faith care deeply: issues like hunger; clean water; refugees and immigration; disaster relief efforts; and global conflict.

Climate change is an issue that disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable among us—the poor, the sick, the disenfranchised, our children and future generations—those whom Jesus implored his followers to care for. It is also deeply tied to issues of racism and environmental justice, as low-income communities and communities of color are more likely to be negatively impacted by the pollution from coal-fired power plants, which are traditionally sited in their neighborhoods.

It is a matter of justice when those who hold power trample on the needs of the powerless.

The prophet Micah asks the question: “What does the Lord require of you? To do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God can take many forms, even the form of standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants.

The people of faith that I represent here today from diverse religious traditions, share at least three things in common: a calling to care for Creation, a calling to care for our neighbors both

locally and globally, and an abiding hope that by acting together we can find solutions to climate change.

I urge you to withdraw the proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan. Do it for the poor, the sick, the disenfranchised. Do it for our children and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. May God grant you wisdom and purpose in living out your mission to protect public health and the environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Susan Hendershot Guy
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