

SAMPLE TESTIMONY TEMPLATE

[You can use this for oral and written testimonies]

To: Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)
Mailcode 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20460

From: [NAME/ORGANIZATION]
[CONTACT INFORMATION]

Re: Docket ID No. OAR-2013-0602

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed Clean Power Plan. My name is [NAME] and I live in [HOMETOWN, COMMUNITY]. In my community, [give some details. For example, there are # power plants in our state...; I have a power plant in my community.....]. I am here today to share briefly our concerns with the Clean Power Plan, and offer specific recommendations on how the Environmental Protection Agency can better address the concerns of overburdened communities.

Without a doubt, climate change is one of the biggest public health threats of the century. One of the main reasons we are seeing more extreme weather, and more people suffering with asthma and other respiratory diseases is because carbon dioxide and other pollutants released from power plants and other facilities continue to put low income, communities of color at risk. Regulating carbon dioxide is a good first step. But there are other factors you must take into consideration. [FEEL FREE TO MENTION ONE OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING – ADD IN A LOCAL ANGLE OR EXAMPLE WHERE YOU CAN. SOMETHING THAT HAS WORKED, THAT COULD BE REPLICATED, ETC.]

- First, we recommend that the EPA conduct a thorough environmental justice analysis of this proposed plan, and make it a required part of the State Implementation Plan that an ej analysis is conducted at the state level. The current section in the Plan that addresses ej is insufficient.
- Secondly, the Plan is very slanted towards cap and trade as being the most viable option to meet carbon emissions. Other options should be presented, such as carbon pricing. If cap and trade is given as an option, there MUST be controls integrated into the process to make sure that reductions are actually happening in the communities being impacted. Offsets and allowing the most polluting companies to ‘buy their way out’ of compliance is not acceptable.
- Third, energy solutions must benefit the community. Opportunities for clean energy jobs, education and affordable alternative energy solutions must be available for residents living in impacted communities.
- Fourth, the State Implementation Process must include environmental justice leaders and advocates at the table. We suggest that this outreach be a significant part of the SIP process.

In conclusion, this year marked the 20th anniversary of Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice, the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and the EPA designated the month of February as Environmental Justice Month. I urge you to stand firm on your commitment to environmental justice and make the Clean Power Plan something that bring justice to all.