

**Testimony of Fred Krupp, president of Environmental Defense Fund**  
Before the Environmental Protection Agency  
July 29, 2014

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify on the President's Clean Power Plan.

I am Fred Krupp, president of Environmental Defense Fund, a national organization that links science, economics, law and private-sector partnerships to solve our most serious environmental challenges.

Right now there are no limits on this pollution, and that is unacceptable.

On behalf of our 800,000 members and activists, I am here today to strongly support action to limit carbon pollution from power plants.

But, even more, I am here on behalf of the hundreds of millions of American who will benefit from the Clean Power Plan.

--For the millions of kids who will have fewer asthma attacks in the future – including the children of severely impacted communities, such as Latino children, who are 40% more likely to suffer from this condition.

--For the workers who will find jobs in new and growing industries, like wind and solar and energy efficiency.

--For the rate payers, who will see their electricity bills go down as we modernize the way we create and consume energy.

--For all of those who will be protected from the most damaging impacts of climate change.

And for our children and grandchildren, who will know that our generation cared enough to leave them a safer, healthier world.

I am particularly enthusiastic that the rule you are considering sets national standards, but leaves states the freedom to design the approach that best fits their circumstances.

It encourages investors, inventors, and entrepreneurs to find new ways to cut pollution.

And it gives industry flexibility to find the most efficient path to a clean future.

We believe the Clean Power Plan is an historic step forward for America and the world. We also know that these standards can and need to deliver deeper pollution reductions, more rapidly than proposed. There also needs to be a clear pathway to update the standards over time to account for advances in technology and improvements in the best systems for emission reductions.

We know that transition to clean energy is not only possible, it's affordable.

We are already half way to achieving the goal you have set for 2030.

And the cost of renewable energy has dropped dramatically in recent years.

For instance, the price of solar panels has been cut 75% since 2008, and the US added more solar capacity in the past 18 months than in the previous 30 years combined.

I believe that means we can set even more ambitious goals for clean energy. This rule helps put us on a path to more independence and customer choice on energy. We've heard from customers who have freed themselves from utility bills, because they are making their own clean energy. But we've seen efforts by some to undermine progress towards clean energy, pushing states to limit consumer access to clean energy sources like solar.

The interest groups who oppose this plan -- who profit from the way things are now -- have certainly done their best to scare the public.

They do it every time we try to make our air cleaner.

But in every case, their predictions have been flat wrong.

The costs have been far lower, and the benefits far greater, than they've claimed.

In fact, every time EPA has used the Clean Air Act to limit air pollution, it has ended up boosting our economy. Overall, the benefits have outweighed the costs by thirty to one.

And every past rule has saved lives – tens of thousands of them.

Hiding from challenges is not what Americans do. And it is certainly the wrong path for us and the generations to come.

The bottom line is that we cannot continue down the path of unlimited pollution. Indeed, science demands that this proposal be only the first step in addressing carbon pollution from the largest source in our country.

This new plan is moderate, flexible, and necessary.

I hope all of us – liberal and conservative, Democrat and Republican, businesspeople and environmentalists – can work together to enact a strong limit on carbon pollution and move our nation forward to a clean and prosperous future.

Thank you very much.