

EPA HEARING TESTIMONY - FEBRUARY 6, 2014 - MARK MAGANA

Representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency:

Good morning. I am here today as a member of GreenLatinos representing the diverse Latino community in the United States, who vehemently supports EPA in regulating carbon pollution from new power plants with the strongest possible rules. Carbon pollution has disproportionate negative impacts on our Latino communities, and as the fastest-growing population in this country, Latino voices on this issue must be heard.

My name is Mark Magana and I am the Executive Director of the National Latino Coalition on Climate Change and GreenLatinos – a large coalition of national Latino organizations, grass-roots supporters, community leaders, and advocates from across the nation working to ensure that Latinos have an integral voice in the national dialogue on climate change and energy policy. We are raising awareness about global warming and the impact of climate change in Latino communities and building the capacity needed to support grassroots advocacy efforts through research, policy, and educational outreach.

NLCCC is pleased to be able to present our concerns at this public hearing on the proposed Carbon Pollution Standards to reducing carbon pollution from new power plants.

Our coalition partners are deeply concerned about the continued adverse impacts that harmful pollutants, particularly from coal-fired power plants, are causing on Hispanic and other communities of color. Nearly 40% of Latinos lived within 30 miles of a power plant, an area that is most susceptible to the negative effects of fine particle soot in the air. As a consequence, Latino communities are disproportionately impacted by the toxic pollutants that are discharged from power plants.

Air pollution from power plants represents an extreme health risk for the Latino community including breathing problems and low birth weight babies with stunted lung growth. The rate of Asthma in these communities is reaching epidemic proportions. The high poverty rate in the Latino community often restricts the housing options of the Latino community and they are often left

with no choice but to live in the low-rent less desirable communities that are near power-plants. More than 7 out of 10 Hispanics live in counties that violate federal air pollution standards for one or more pollutants.

It is because Latino and other traditionally under-represented communities are so disproportionately impacted by these harmful pollutants that NLCCC must urge the EPA to adopt the strictest possible carbon pollution standards for new power plants that will adequately protect our communities. In our coalition's view, We must close the Clean Air Act's 40 year loophole for power plants and make them comply with modern emission control standards. These rules are essential to protect the health of our members and necessary to guarantee the safety of the air of Hispanic communities nationwide.