

Testimony of Fern Uennatornwarangoon, EDF Air Quality Program Manager
Clean Power Plan Listening Session in San Francisco – February 28, 2018

Good morning. My name is Fern Uennatornwarangoon and I am an Air Quality Program Manager speaking on behalf of Environmental Defense Fund and our two million members nationwide. I'm also here as a resident of Oakland.

The Clean Power Plan will not only reduce climate change pollution, but will also help protect our health. This is important for all of us but it is particularly important for vulnerable communities.

In my role at EDF, I work closely with community groups in West Oakland – a low-income and largely community of color in Oakland City. Among local sources of air pollution, West Oakland residents count a Dynergy power plant as their neighbor. For decades, the West Oakland community has experienced – and continues to experience – poor health outcomes associated with air pollution. Death rates due to chronic respiratory diseases is almost twice higher in West Oakland compared to the rest of Alameda County. West Oakland also sees an almost two times higher rate of child asthma emergency visits compared to the county.

According to the original health benefit assessment, the Clean Power Plan could prevent 90,000 asthma attacks per year. And a more recent analysis by the Trump administration found that the plan could prevent as many as 4,500 premature deaths a year. Repealing the Clean Power Plan would mean more sick kids, higher healthcare costs and higher death rates in already heavily burdened communities like West Oakland. It would worsen the environmental injustice in these communities.

With that in mind, I urge the EPA to listen to the voices of millions of Americans who have commented in support the Clean Power Plan, as well as those speaking today, to uphold the lifesaving clean air protections afforded by the plan.