



City of Seattle

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

February 28, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear President Trump and EPA Administrator Pruitt,

I am writing to strongly oppose the EPA's proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan. Climate change is the challenge of our time, threatening health, food systems, property and livelihoods. It has been cited as a significant factor in deadly superstorms and wildfires, increased asthma rates disproportionately impacting low income communities and people of color, and destabilization in drought-stricken regions around the world. The EPA was required by the Supreme Court to act on the carbon emissions that cause climate change; doing so won't just protect our planet and communities, it will offer significant economic benefit as well.

Recent data released by Seattle Public Utilities shows the change in rainfall patterns across our city that are consistent with predictions related to climate change: a 30 percent increase in extreme rainstorms over the last 15 years are stressing the city's infrastructure. Additional impacts include more extreme and longer heat waves in the summer, air pollution from an increasing number of nearby wildfires and the threat of sea level rise in our low-lying areas. Seattle is not only considering the cost of cleaning up after a major storm, but the cost of building a city resilient to the new normal.

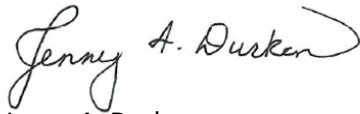
Seattle is paying the price of climate change by investing tens of millions of dollars in preparing our infrastructure for future conditions, as residents clean up and make repairs after floods, as childhood asthma rates increase, and as extreme heat events threaten the health of our elderly neighbors. The impacts are felt most where we already see disparate impacts, communities of color and low-income communities, who have fewer resources to prepare for and recover from extreme weather, are at greater risk of health impacts from heat and air pollution, and are more likely to be food insecure. In the place of federal action, Seattle is investing in solutions with the hope of mitigating the worst impacts.

But this isn't just a Seattle challenge, which is why the Paris Agreement and the Clean Power Plan are so critical. This is a global challenge that requires bold action and leadership from countries like the U.S. Dirty fossil fuel energy is our past, and this country, with its history and spirit of innovation, can lead on climate, and by leading create U.S. jobs, wealth, and security. However, by turning our backs on the world and ignoring the devastation of a changing climate, we are turning our backs on the opportunities

of a low-carbon economy and breaking our most important vow to our children, to leave them a better world than the one left to us.

The Clean Power Plan would save lives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, help transition our energy from dirty fossil fuels to clean and climate-friendly renewables, create jobs, and save billions of dollars in damages from the impacts of climate change. The interests of fossil fuel companies cannot come before our children's future and our health and wellbeing today. We can create a clean energy economy with jobs that will be sustainable for the long-term, or we can continue to prop up the dying fossil fuel industry while those jobs and wealth go elsewhere. The City of Seattle strongly opposes the repeal of the Clean Power Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenny" being more prominent and the last name "Durkan" following in a similar style.

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle